



ST. JAMES UNITED
CHURCH

Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy) Sheila Davison (Organist)
Christine Morrison, Peter Rawding (Choir Directors)
Ida Sarty (ChrEd Director) Chad Brazier (Custodian)
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Our Mission as a congregation: *Love the Lord Your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy and love your neighbour as yourself. (Mark 12:19-21 MSG)*

January 15, 2017- Second Sunday After Epiphany

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Sonata No. 1 in E Flat Major.* (W. A. Mozart)

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (84 VU O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word vs1)

***O radiant Christ, incarnate Word, eternal love revealed in time:
come, make your home within our hearts,
that we may dwell in light sublime.***

Call to Worship (responsive)

We come before the Lord this morning

not as those who have arrived,

but as pilgrims on a journey.

We come not as those who have a monopoly on the truth,

but as those who still have unanswered questions.

We come not as those who have achieved,

but as those who have accepted with gratitude God's grace.

Prayer of Approach (together)

Loving God, in our world of conflicting theories,

audacious pronouncements, and political posturing,

we come with open minds and receptive spirits

to hear the truth of your good news.

Help us to draw closer to you and to each other

in faith, in hope, and in love,

for we have gathered as your people in Jesus' name, Amen.

Hymn: 415 VU God, We Praise You For the Morning

Prayer of Confession (together from 2 Timothy 1:6, 8, 13, 14)

Merciful God, if we have failed to kindle your gifts within us,

Pardon and strengthen us, O Lord.

If we have been ashamed to share our faith with others,

Pardon and strengthen us, O Lord.

If we have not held to your truth and your way,

Pardon and strengthen us, O Lord.

If we have not loved with the passion and strength of Christ's love for us,

Pardon and strengthen us, O Lord, Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hymn: 126 MV Are You A Shepherd?

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Prayer for Illumination

Responsive Reading: Psalm 37 (p. 762 VU)

Old Testament: Isaiah 49:1-6

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Gospel: John 1:29-42

Anthem *Come, O Jesus, Holy One*

(Robert G. Newton)

Sermon: "A Baptismal Faith"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 510 VU We Have This Ministry

Offertory *Winter from 'The Four Seasons'*

(Antonio Vivaldi)

Offertory Response (In Gratitude and Humble Trust 544 VU)

In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today

to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,

teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 330 VU Jesus Shall Reign

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (84 VU O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word vs4)

O Light of Nations, fill the earth; our faith and hope and love renew.

Come, lead the peoples to your peace, as stars once led the way to you.

Postlude *Salvation Now Is Come To Us*

(Anonymous)

A warm welcome to all who have gathered with us for worship this morning. May this time be one of fellowship with God and neighbour. If you are visiting please sign our guest book.

Greeters at the door this Sunday are Marilyn Swim and Harlan MacLeod

Annual Reports for the Congregational Annual Meeting are due in to the church office by Monday, January 16. Church Council meets on January 17 to consider them and the tentative date for the AGM is on February 27.

Babies and toddlers who don't want to stay in the service for worship are welcome to make use of the nursery located in the multipurpose room. The nursery has toys and a speaker for parents to hear the service.

Community Christmas Dinner Thank you to everyone who contributed in some way to make the Community Christmas dinner a success. Once again, the response from the community was overwhelming. Because of the support we receive, this event continues to thrive. Over 100 people attended this year's dinner. For those who were there, we were able to provide a delicious meal and place to celebrate the season in the spirit of love and kindness. Thank you to the volunteers who came in on the 23rd and got the hall and kitchen set up. To those who were there on Christmas Day, who provided food, their time and energy, musical talents, monetary donations - whatever you gave - please know how much it is appreciated. Every contribution added to the positive feelings that each person experienced. All the best for the New Year.

Next Week's Scriptures (January 22, 2017)

Isaiah 9:1-4 • 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 • Matthew 4:12-23

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, January 15

11:30 am Worship Committee gathers in the meeting room
11:30 am Christian Faith and Development gathers in the upstairs classroom.

Tuesday, January 17

7:30 am Yoga with Stacy Steeves in the Hall
10:00 am Bible Study in the Parlour
11:00 am Hot Meal in the church hall

11:30 am Kitchen committee meeting in the parlour
3:00 pm Meditation Group in the Meeting Room.
7:00 pm Council Meets in the Parlour

Wednesday, January 18

2:00 pm Seniors fellowship Group will meet in the hall. The guest speaker will be Peter Jowett who will give a slide show of his recent trip.

Thursday, January 19

11:00 pm Hot Meal in the Church Hall.
6:30 pm Senior Choir (Welcoming new members)
7:30 pm Women Chorus (Welcoming new members)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday January 15th at 5:30, Cultural Connections Antigonish is happy to host another potluck this time partnering with the StFX Dept of Internationalization. Come help welcome the new international students who are just arriving this month. Bring a dish to share. Children welcome.

Monday January 16th at 2 pm The Antigonish Parkinsons Support Group will meet in the Community Room at Peoples Place Library. If you know of someone recently diagnosed with Parkinson's, please inform them if this group. Contact info: 902 863 3546

Thursday, January 19 at 7:00pm The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ecumenical Service will be held at Bethany Chapel. The theme for this year on the occasion of the 500th Anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation is "Reconciliation." The Rev. Peter Smith will be preaching. Everyone is welcome and invited.

Sunday January 29, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00P.M. Antigonish Lions Club Sausage & Pancake Breakfast. Lions Den Highland Dr. Extension
Donations at the door. Monies go to Antigonish Food bank

Saturday, Feb 4, 2017 from 8:30am-10:30am. The Antigonish Women's Prayer Breakfast is being held Guest speaker is Dr. Angie Kolen, StFX Professor Human Kinetics. Topic: How faith informs my life... Tickets are \$15.00. Student tickets are \$7.50. Tickets available at St. Ninian parish office (902-863-2338)

THOUGHTS ABOUT EPIPHANY

The season of Epiphany begins with the celebration of the Wise Men finding Jesus and presenting their gifts and continues in the church as a celebration of the light of God shining in our lives and world in the person of Jesus Christ.

There is no figure more common in scripture, and none more beautiful, than that by which Christ is likened unto light. Incomprehensible in its nature, itself the first visible, and that by which all things are seen, light represents to us Christ. Whose generation none can declare, but Who must shine upon us ere we can know aught aright, whether of things Divine or human.

Herman Melville

Gratitude bestows reverence, allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience life and the world.

John Milton

Love is the epiphany of God in our poverty.

Thomas Merton

The whole life of Christ was a continual Passion; others die martyrs but Christ was born a martyr. He found a Golgotha even in Bethlehem, where he was born; for to his tenderness then the straws were almost as sharp as the thorns after, and the manger as uneasy at first as his cross at last. His birth and his death were but one continual act, and his Christmas day and his Good Friday are but the evening and morning of one and the same day. And as even his birth is his death, so every action and passage that manifests Christ to us is his birth, for Epiphany is manifestation.

John Donne