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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)*

November 15, 2020 - Twenty- Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Call to Worship (responsive adapted from Micah 6:8)
God has told us what is required.

God has shown us how to live.

We are to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.

Prayer of Approach (responsive)

God of grace, you fill our hands with blessings.

You give us abilities, skills, and potential

and you fill each new day with opportunities.

Thank you for all your blessings

and show us how live wisely and faithfully

for are your people through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Children's Story and Lord's Prayer

Meditative Music

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading Psalm 123 (p. 847 VU)

To you I lift up my eyes

to you who are enthroned in the heavens.

As the eyes of the servants look to their master's hands,
as the eyes of a maid to the hands of her mistress,
so our eyes look to you, O God,

as we wait till you show us your favour. R

We have had more than enough of contempt.

**Too long have we suffered at the scorn of the wealthy,
and the contempt of the arrogant. R**

First Lesson: Judges 4:1-7

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 25: 14 - 30

Anthem

Sermon "Good and Faithful or Wicked and Lazy?"

Claire Singer

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Meditative Music

Prayers of the People

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

A warm welcome to everyone who is joining us for worship. May this be a time for you to draw closer to God. The services online will be posted each week on our website and through social media.

Because of the social distancing requirements our available seating in the sanctuary for in person worship is limited so please contact the church office earlier in the week at 902-863-2001 if you plan to attend.

The Men's Club wish to thank the members of the congregation and community for their positive response to our sale of the Lobster Packs. However as of Thursday we still have 24 2 lb. packs available. I am suggesting that some of you may know friends or neighbors who might be interested in purchasing one or more packs. If so, have them call Bob Murray at 863-3179 to arrange to have them picked up.

Connections - It's time for the St. James United family to think about the Christmas edition of Connections. So much has changed, yet our spirit and connectedness to the church remains strong. If you are uncertain about whether or not your idea would be appropriate for the newsletter, why not give me (Brenda Rose) a call at 867-1587 or drop me an email at brendaannerose@gmail.com I'd love to hear from you.

As we navigate through this unusual year, we have seen many changes in the way St James delivers and funds its Ministry. Moving to online services, restrictions in the number of people who can attend in person on Sunday, the loss of our Stump Frolic and rental income, as well as the cost of Covid 19 compliance have all impacted the finances at St James. At the end of September, we find ourselves in a deficit situation of more than \$28,000 and with the unknowns that face us over the next couple of

months, the Finance and Stewardship Committee is quite concerned about a shortfall at the end of 2020. To help ensure the programs and ministry at St. James will continue without disruption we ask that you consider making a special donation. Envelopes are available in the pew and may be used for this special offering appeal. While we welcome your response to this appeal at any time, donations made before November 30th will help us better plan for the new year.

Thank you and God Bless.

Your Finance and Stewardship Committee

Your Social Justice Committee invites you to note that today has been designated “Children’s Sunday” by the United Nations. The United Church of Canada highlights the need to protect the human rights of Palestinian children, and suggests that we join with other churches and justice seeking organizations in lobbying the federal government “to ensure the human rights of Palestinian children are protected by instructing a Special Envoy to promote, monitor and report on the human rights situation of Palestinian children living in the occupied Palestinian Territory and Gaza.” This action supports the Recommendations of the MP group that visited Palestine and Israel in 2018 and the Parliamentary petition #2667 sponsored by MP Paul Manly. Please consider signing the petition if you haven't already.

Truth & Reconciliation – Call #57 Professional Development and Training for Public Servants – We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

It doesn't have to be complicated...just a thought, prayer or card going out to someone you know who is sick or dealing with some kind of loss or sorrow.- A thought from Outreach and Communication Committee

Scripture Readings for Next Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 • Ephesians 1:15-23 • Matthew 25:31-46