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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 29, 2020 - First Sunday of Advent

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Call to Worship (responsive from Romans 8:24–25)

By hope we were saved.

Now hope that is seen is not hope.

For who hopes for what is seen?

But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Prayer of Approach (together)

God of salvation, speak to us this day of your promises.

Tell us of your love, your forgiveness,

and the new beginning which you are bringing about.

Allow your words to rest in our hearts

and show us the way through these difficult days.

For we gather as your people in Jesus' name, Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle (responsive)

The unease and anxiety in the world cast a shadow within our lives.

We remember that the light shines in the darkness

and the darkness has not overcome it.

We light this candle to remind us that Jesus is our hope and salvation.

Light of the world, shine in our lives and fill us

with your renewing hope this day and always, Amen.

Children's Story and The Lord's Prayer

Meditative Music

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Anthem *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Sermon "Allowing Hope to Shine"

Ron Johnson

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.

Thanks to the members of the worship committee who decorated our sanctuary as we begin the advent season. May each of the decorations enrich our worship and help us discover again the meaning of this season.

There is limited seating available for the in-person worship because of the social distancing requirements. If you are planning to attend for the first time since reopening please call the office 902-863-2001 and let us know that you plan to attend on Sunday morning .

Congratulations and best wishes to those who are receiving degrees and diplomas at the St FX Fall Convocation this coming Saturday, December 5th. May God bless you on all your future plans.

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.

Christmas Eve services at St. James will look a bit different than previous years because of the Covid restrictions. Plans are underway for a taped service which can viewed at anytime, in person worship that evening, and a livestream of that service for people to join in from home. Please watch the bulletin in the weeks to come for more information.

The next celebration of Holy Communion at St. James will be Sunday, December 27th.

The Meditation Group has paused their gatherings on Tuesday for the month of December.

Your Social Justice Committee asks you to note that 29 November is the United Nation's International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This day provides an opportunity for the international community to focus its attention on the fact that the question of Palestine remains unresolved and that the Palestinian people have yet to attain their inalienable rights, namely, the right to self-determination without external interference, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return to their homes and property, from which they have been displaced.

Truth & Reconciliation – Call #59 Church Apologies and Reconciliation – We call upon church parties to the settlement agreement to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary.

Think of someone you haven't seen in a long time and give a call. It will make your day and theirs, too.

-A thought from Outreach and Communication Committee

Scripture Readings for Next Sunday

Isaiah 40:1-11 • 2 Peter 3:8-15a • Mark 1:1-8