



Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy), Hee-Jung Choi (Organist)
Christine Morrison, Peter Rawding (Choir Directors)
May MacKenzie (CE Dir) Chad Brazier (Custodian)
Patsy Farrell (Secretary) office@stjamesuc.com
197 Main St Antigonish, NS B2G 2L6
(902) 863-2001 www.stjamesuc.com

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)

December 20, 2020 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Prince of Denmark's March* (Jeremiah Clarke)

Andy Hirt (Trumpet) Amy Hendricks (Piano)

Call to Worship (responsive Isaiah 9:6)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Prayer of Approach (together)

God of grace, you come among us not because we are worthy, or ready, or even deserving but simply because you love us completely. Surround us with that love this day so we can experience again the truth of your promise to us through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle (responsive)

We live in a time when people feel isolated and alone,
unsure and forgotten.

**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 the love of God made flesh.

**Love of God born among us, find us in our fears and worries and
bring us the truth and blessing of your presence, Amen.**

Children's Story and The Lord's Prayer

Meditative Music *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Anthem *Away in a Manger* (arr, Mark Hayes)

Andy Hirt

Sermon "The Question at Christmas"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Meditative Music *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Prayers of the People

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude *Trumpet Tune in D Major* (Henry Purcell)

Andy Hirt

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.

*The bulletin this Sunday is dedicated to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Douglas Adams from his family.*

The Church Office will close on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at noon until Tuesday January 5, 2021 at 10:00 am. Emails, voice messages, and the mail slot will be checked throughout that time.

Christmas Eve services at St. James will look a bit different this year. There will be an online service available through the website and facebook on Christmas Eve and an in person service at 7pm at St. James which will be live streamed on our Facebook page. Seating for the in person service is by reservation only with assigned seating. Reservations will be taken until Tuesday, December 22nd at noon through the church office (902-863-2001). Please consider which worship service is best for you and your family to attend.

Next Sunday morning, December 27th we will celebrate Holy Communion. Anyone wishing to pick up the elements for celebrating at home is welcome to call the office and make arrangements. The service will be available at 10:30 am via livestream and will be taped as usual.

The end of the calendar year is quickly coming. Wednesday, Dec 30th will be the final date for donations to be received and credited for the 2020 income tax year at St. James. Donations can be dropped off

anytime up to and including that day through our secure mail slot. Online donations can be made anytime at <http://www.stjamesuc.com>

Waste Reduction Tips for the Holidays - brought to you by your Social Justice Committee. We wish you and your “bubble” all a safe and happy Christmas! Can we help Mother Earth celebrate by reducing our waste at this time of year? For sure! Consider donations to charities rather than more useless "stuff" if your gift recipient already has everything they need. Bottom line - if you wouldn't use it, don't buy it. For those you still want to gift, think about what you're getting them. Consider home made gifts if you're handy or crafty. Baking counts! Phone calls are extra appreciated at this time of year - especially for those who would normally have visitors but are COVID restricted. Try the Japanese method of cloth gift-wrapping; use recyclable bags instead of wrapping paper; use newsprint or normal paper instead of shiny wrapping paper - which is not recyclable. Avoid gifts that have too much packaging or non-recyclable packaging. Reduce energy waste - put timers on lights; carpool on shopping trips; upgrade windows and insulation to reduce heating output; use timed thermostats and energy efficient light bulbs - indoors and out. Enjoy this wonderful time of the year!

Truth & Reconciliation- Call #62 Education for Reconciliation – We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to i) make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples’ historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students, ii) provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms, iii) Provide the necessary funding to Aboriginal schools to utilize Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods in classrooms, and iv) establish senior-level positions in government at the assistant deputy minister level or higher dedicated to Aboriginal content in education.

Scripture Readings for Next Sunday

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 • Galatians 4:4-7 • Luke 2:22-40