



**St. James United Church
African Heritage Sunday
February 14, 2021**



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)*

February 14, 2021 - Transfiguration Sunday
African Heritage Sunday

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *People Need The Lord* (Steve Green)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (adapted from Galatians 3:26,28-29 responsive)

In Christ we are all children of God through faith..

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female; for all of us are one in Christ Jesus.
And since we belong to Christ, we are all God's people,
and heirs to the promise of salvation.

Prayer of Approach: (together)

God who is and was and ever shall be, you call us to be your people.
Through Jesus you join us together to be a holy people, blessed and
chosen by your love. Open our hearts to accept that promise, open
our minds to understand our calling, and open our eyes to see the
others you call to join with us in Jesus' name, Amen

Children's story and the Lord's prayer.

Meditative Music *I've Got Peace Like A River*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 50 (p. 775 VU)

God the Almighty, has spoken,

and has summoned the world from the rising of the sun to its setting.

God shines out from Zion, a city perfect in beauty.

Our God appears, and will not keep silence. R

Before you, God runs a consuming fire,

and a mighty tempest rages about you.

You call on the heavens above, and on the earth below,

to witness the judgement of your people.

Gather my people before me,
the people who made covenant with me by sacrifice.

The heavens proclaim your justice, for you yourself are judge. R.

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Anthem *Steal Away/Swing Low Sweet Chariot*

Ron Johnson

Sermon: "Transfigured"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Meditative Music *In Christ There Is No East Or West*

Pastoral Prayer 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 are posted each week on our website (www.stjamesuc.com) and through social media (www.facebook.com/stjamesAntigonish)

The prayers and Christian sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of Jessie Barkhouse who died last week. Please keep her children and extended family in your prayers during this difficult time.

The church office is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10 until noon. The emails, voice messages, and mail slot are checked daily.

A note about our special music today: "Steal Away" is an African American spiritual and a byproduct of the underground railway, the catchall term used to describe the means slaves used to escape to the northern United States or to Canada to live in freedom. It's words and those to other underground railway songs had a double meaning-"Steal Away to Jesus" on the surface meant dying and going to heaven but also symbolized escaping to freedom. The melody has a stately melancholy in its slow pacing and glorious resignation. It is somewhat dirge like in its sweet gloom and innocent solemnity. Although the melody here is quite different from the more famous "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" it is similar in both atmosphere and spirit.

We will celebrate Holy Communion next Sunday. If you would like to pick up elements for home please contact the church office.

The Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on February 28, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom. The link will be sent out via our mailing lists and is available by contacting the church office.

How can you help support the life and work at St. James? You can mail a donation to St. James United Church, P. O. Box 1178, 197 Main Street, Antigonish NS B2G 2L6, drop it off in the mail slot, click on the "Donate" button on the website, or you can give monthly via PAR. For more information send an email to office@stjamesuc.com

20 February is a special day – The World Day of Social Justice! Social justice tackles issues such as poverty, unfair exclusion, gender equality, unemployment, human rights, the environment and social protections that result in economic harm or social ostracism. Historically and in theory, the idea of social justice is that all people should have equal access to wealth, health, well-being, justice, privileges and opportunity regardless of their legal, political, economic or other circumstances. Challenge for the Week: what can you do to promote social justice? "If people have moral courage to stand up to the smallest injustice – their own and other's – it's kind of like practice for when the big ones come around." – Colleen Kelly

Truth & Reconciliation – Call #70 Museums and Archives – We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Association of Archivists to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of archival policies and best practices to: i) determine the level of compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Joint-Orientlicher Principles, as related to Aboriginal peoples' inalienable right to know the truth about what happened and why, with regard to human rights violations committed against them in the residential schools, and ii) produce a report with recommendations for full implementation of these international mechanisms as a reconciliation framework for Canadian archives.

Scripture Readings for Next Sunday

Genesis 9:8-17 • 1 Peter 3:18-22 • Mark 1:9-15