

Ephesians 1:3-12

1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,  
1:4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.  
1:5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will,  
1:6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.  
1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace  
1:8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight  
1:9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,  
1:10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.  
1:11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,  
1:12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

Today is **World Population Day**. Our world's current population is 7.9 billion. This year's theme is "Rights and Choices are the Answer". Whether baby boom or bust, the solution to shifting fertility rates lies in prioritizing the reproductive health and rights of all people. Awareness about the effects of overpopulation on development and nature is emphasized. The increasing population also sheds light on health problems faced by women during pregnancy and childbirth, making the need for family planning, gender equality, and maternal health more important than ever.

**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](mailto:office@stjamesuc.com)

### Scripture Readings for Next Sunday

2 Samuel 7:1-14a • Ephesians 2:11-22 • Mark 6:30-34, 53-56



## Beannachd Dia dhuit

(Blessings of God be with you.)



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](mailto:office@stjamesuc.com)  
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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)

July 11, 2021 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Highland Heritage Sunday

### GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Highland Cathedral* Scott Williams piper

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (responsive)

Come to us this day, O God,

**Come to us and fill our world with light.**

Speak to us this day, O God,

**Speak to us and fill our ears with truth.**

Dwell with us this day, O God,

**Dwell with us and make our hearts your home.**

Prayer of Approach (together)

**O Christ, kindle in our hearts**

**a flame of love to our neighbour,**

**to our foes, to our friends, to our kindred all.**

**For we long to walk with you this**

**day as your friends and your followers, Amen.**

Children's story and Lord's prayer.

Meditative Music *Sing Your Praise to God Eternal*

### GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 47 (p. 771 VU)

Clap your hands, all you peoples, cry out to God with shouts of joy!

**For the Most High is to be feared,**

**reigning in might, over all the earth. R**

God has subdued the peoples around us, set nations at our feet,  
**and has chosen for us a heritage, the pride of Jacob, beloved of God.**

God has gone up with shouts of triumph,  
**has gone up with a fanfare of trumpets.**

For God reigns over all the earth!

**Sing praises with your utmost skill. R**

God reigns over all the nations, and sits in holiness enthroned.

**The nobles of the nations assemble  
with the people of the Everlasting God.**

For earth's defenders belong to God,

**to God the highly exalted. R**

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-12

Carol Anne MacKenzie

Gospel Lesson: Mark 2:23-3:6

Harley MacCaull

Anthem: *Hector The Hero*

Scott Williams

Sermon: "A Reason to Rejoice"

### GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Meditative Music *O God, You Gave Your Servant John*

Prayer of the People

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

**Beannachd Dia dhuit (Blessings of God be with you.)** 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. The services online are posted each week on our website ( [www.stjamesuc.com](http://www.stjamesuc.com) ) and through social media ( [www.facebook.com/stjamesAntigonish](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesAntigonish) )

**A warm welcome to the members** of the Highland Society who are joining in our service of worship this morning during Highland Heritage Week in Antigonish. May God bless all our efforts to remember and celebrate our history.

**Truth & Reconciliation – Call #91 Sports and Reconciliation –** We call upon the officials and host countries of international sporting events such as the Olympics, Pan Am, and Commonwealth games to ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected, and local Indigenous communities are engaged in all aspects of planning and participating in such events. To read all the calls and the complete Truth and Reconciliation Report please go to <http://www.trc.ca/>