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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 25, 2021 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

## GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Go Light Your World* (Chris Rice) Gord and Chris Morrison  
Welcome and Announcements  
Call to Worship (responsive adapted from Isaiah 30:18)  
Let us know and believe that the Lord waits to be gracious to us,  
**for God will forgive us and show us the way of mercy.**  
For the Lord is a God of justice;  
**and blessed are those who turn to God in hope.**

Prayer of Approach (together):

**God of grace, at the worst of times we struggle and turn to you for help and you lead us to better days. In the best of times, we often turn from you and follow our desires and wants into trouble and strife. Forgive us, we pray, for our selfishness and show us once more the way to live and serve through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Children's story and Lord's prayer.

Meditative Music *Break Now the Bread of Life*

## GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 32 (p. 759 VU)

Blessed are those whose offences are forgiven,  
whose sin has been put away,

**Blessed are those whom God imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit. R**

When I kept silence, my body wasted away,  
while I groaned all the day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my strength dried up as in a summer drought.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,

my guilt I did not hide.

**I said: "I will confess my sins to God",  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you in time of trouble;  
**when great floodwater rises,  
it shall not come near them.**

You are a hiding place for me,  
you will preserve me from trouble;

**you will surround me with shouts of deliverance. R**

I will teach you,  
and guide you in the way you should go.

**I will keep you under my eye and instruct you.**

Be not like a horse or mule, without understanding,

**whose course must be checked with bit and bridle.**

Many pains are in store for the wicked,

**but whoever trusts in God,**

**is surrounded by steadfast love. R**

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 11:1-15

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:14-21

Gospel Lesson: John 6:1-14

Anthem *The Canticle of the Turning* Gordon and Christine Morrison

Sermon: "Falling to Grace"

## GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Meditative Music *Amazing Grace*

Prayer of the People

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

Sheila Davison

**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](http://www.stjamesuc.com) ) and through social media ( [www.facebook.com/stjamesAntigonish](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesAntigonish) )

**Thanks to Sheila Davison, and Gordon and Christine Morrison** for sharing their gifts of music with us this day.

**The Church office is closed** until September 7<sup>th</sup>. The voice mail, email and mail slot are checked regularly over the summer.

28 July is **World Hepatitis Day**. This year's theme is "Hepatitis can't wait!". Viral hepatitis is one of the world's leading causes of death, killing as many as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. 30 July is the **International Day of Friendship**. What words would you use to describe your BFF? How have you managed to adapt your friendships during the pandemic? Why are friends so important in our lives?

**Truth & Reconciliation – Call #93 Newcomers to Canada** – We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the national Aboriginal organizations, to revise the information kit for newcomers to Canada and its citizenship test to reflect a more inclusive history of the diverse Aboriginal peoples of Canada, including information about the Treaties and the history of residential schools. To read all the calls and the complete Truth and Reconciliation Report please go to

<http://www.trc.ca/>

**Virtual guided tours of places of worship.** These virtual tours will run from July to October and are organized by county. Each county has been assigned a week when the photographs and information about their participating churches will be posted online on the Trust's Facebook page (@HeritageTrustNovaScotia). This Facebook page can be accessed from Heritage Trust of NS's website at <https://www.htns.ca/>.

July 25: St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church, Bayfield

July 26: St Anne's Catholic Church, Welnek/Summerside (577 Summerside Rd)

July 27: St Andrew's Catholic Church, St Andrews (3858 Hwy 316)

July 28: L'Église Ste. Croix/Holy Cross Catholic Church, Pomquet (1148 Pomquet Monks Head Rd, Antigonish)

July 29: St James United Church, Antigonish (197 Main St)

July 30: St Ninian's Cathedral, Antigonish (121 St Ninian St)

July 31: St Paul's Anglican Church, Antigonish (96 Church St)

### **Scripture Readings for Next Sunday**

2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a • Ephesians 4:1-16 • John 6:24-35