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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)*

August 22, 2021 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (responsive)

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

God calls us to service,

**rather than honour.**

God calls us to love the unknown,

**rather than the familiar.**

We come to this time of worship,

**trusting in the grace of Jesus Christ.**

He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Come, let us worship the Lord our God.

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

Prayer of Approach (together):

**Holy and eternal God, you alone are worthy of honour and praise.**

**Open our eyes to see the world as you see it. Give us the wisdom to witness your presence in all people. Transform us in love, grow us in our faith, call us to love with a full heart and share your promise with all people. Open us to the work of the Holy Spirit, that we may hear and faithfully respond to your holy will. Lord, hear our prayer for we ask it in the holy name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

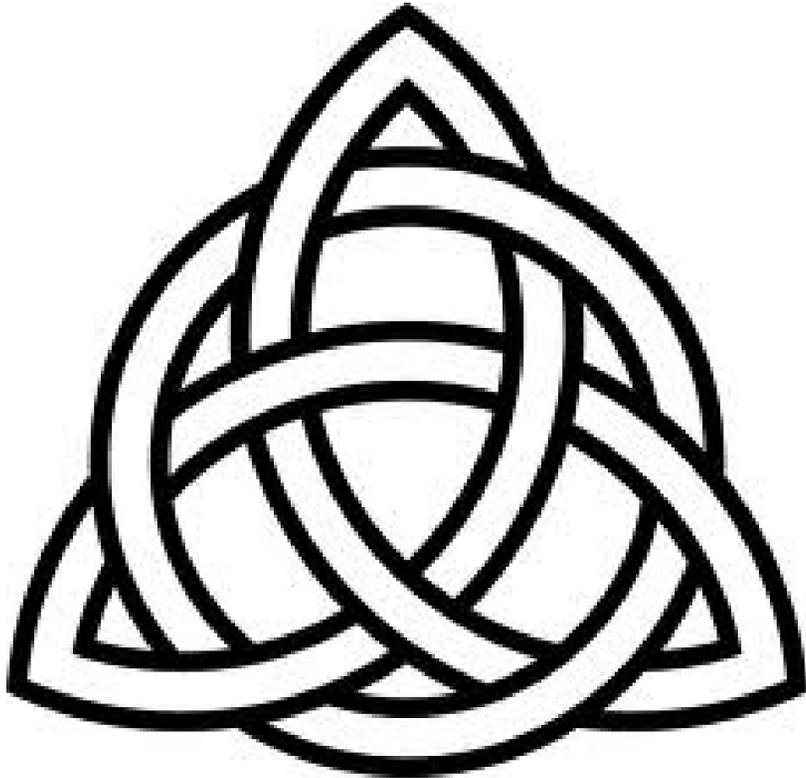
Children's story and Lord's prayer.

Meditative Music

## GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 84 (p. 800 VU)

How lovely is your dwelling place, God of hosts!



**St. James United Church**  
**August 22, 2021**

My soul longs, even faints for the courts of God;  
**my heart and my flesh cry for joy to the living God. R**  
Even the sparrow finds a house,  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,  
**at your altars, God of hosts, my sovereign, my God. R**  
Happy are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise.

**Happy are those whose strength is in you,  
who have set their heart on pilgrimage.**

Going through the valley of Baca  
they find a spring from which also to drink;  
**the early rain also covers it with pools of water.**

They go from strength to strength,  
**to appear before God in Zion. R**

O God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob.  
**Behold, O God, our shield, look on the face of your anointed.**  
Truly a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

For you, God, are a sun and shield, you will give grace and honour.  
No good thing will you withhold from those who live the upright life.  
**O God of hosts, happy are those who put their trust in you. R**

Holy Gospel: St. Luke 15: 1 - 10  
Sermon: "Not one will be lost".

### **GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND**

Meditative Music  
Prayer of the People  
Commissioning and Benediction  
Let us go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Postlude

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**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) )

**This morning we welcome** the Rev. Doug Stewart to lead our service of worship. The Rev. Peter Smith is on holidays from August 7<sup>th</sup> until

September 2<sup>nd</sup>. If there is a pastoral emergency during that time please contact the Rev. Doug Stewart at at (902) 735-2102 or through the St. Martha's Hospital Switchboard during the day (902) 867-4500.

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

**Thanks to Joan Marple and Gordon and Christine Morrison** for sharing their gifts of music with us this day.

The 19<sup>th</sup> this week was **World Humanitarian Day**. Accidents and violence are risks for humanitarian aid workers and cause more deaths than disease or natural causes. The bulk of deaths due to intentional violence (57%) occurred among workers for UN programs. In 2019 there were a total of 276 "incidents" involving 481 aid workers, of whom 125 died. Many humanitarian workers are killed while engaged in medical responses, bringing critical health services, such as vaccinations, to vulnerable children

**Truth & Reconciliation** – Call #75 Missing Children and Burial Information – We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current landowners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. To read all the calls and the complete Truth and Reconciliation Report please go to <http://www.trc.ca/>

**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**

Psalm 45 • St. Matthew 16: 13 - 20