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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)

September 12, 2021 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (responsive adapted from Psalm 19:7-10)

Let us open our hearts so the Holy Spirit can speak to us this day. For as the psalmist sings- "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
 The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;
 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb."

Prayer of Approach (together):

Gracious and eternal Lord,
you call us to come together as your people and
know your forgiveness and mercy, your grace and your love.
As we gather for worship, open our ears to hear your word,
our minds to know your truth, and our lives to receive
the gift of salvation which you offer us in Jesus Christ, Amen.

Children's Story and Lord's prayer.

Meditative Music *Jesus Bids Us Shine*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 116:1-9 (p. 836 VU)

I love you, God, because you heard my voice when I made supplication,
because you turned your ear to me, when I called upon your name.
 The cords of death entangled me,
 and the pangs of the grave laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called upon the name of God:

"O God, I pray, save my life" R

How can I repay you, God, for all the good things you have done for me?

I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of God.

I will pay my vows in the presence of all God's people. R

Precious in the sight of God, is the death of the saints.

O God, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your maidservant.

You have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

and will call upon the name of God.

I will pay my vows to God in the presence of all God's people,

in the courts of the house of God, in your midst, O Jerusalem. R

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Second Reading: James 3:1-12

Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:27-38

Anthem

Garret van de Wiel

Sermon: "Our Hope and Our Salvation"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Meditative Music *Will Your Anchor Hold*

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)

Thanks to Garret van de Wiel who is sharing his gift of music with us this morning.

Your Social Justice Committee invites you to note that the 15th is the **International Day of Democracy**. Democracy is a universal value based on the freely-expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems, and their full participation in all aspects of life. We have much to appreciate about our

system of government in Canada. How can we celebrate it? Get out and vote on the 20th!

The church office is open Monday to Friday 9 am until 1 pm. Patsy can also be reached by email office@stjamesuc.com and telephone 902-863-2001. There is also a mail slot in the office door which can be used after hours.

The next issue of Connections, our congregational newsletter, now accepting submissions. Is there something from this summer you would like to share? Something you read or saw which inspired or intrigued you? Or did a conversation this summer remind you of something interesting or funny which happened at St. James? Please send your submissions to the church office or directly to Brenda Rose at brendaannerose@gmail.com

Truth & Reconciliation- Call #74 Truth & Reconciliation – We call upon the federal government to work with the churches and Aboriginal community leaders to inform the families of children who died at residential schools of the child's burial location, and to respond to families' wishes for appropriate commemoration ceremonies and markers, and reburial in home communities where requested. 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

Scripture Readings for Next Sunday

Jeremiah 11:18-20 • James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a • Mark 9:30-37