



Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy), Hee-Jung Choi (Organist)
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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 19, 2021 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *All of God's Children Are Singing Tonight* (Eric Wild)
Gordon and Christine Morrison and Michèle Ashby

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (responsive adapted from Psalm 1)

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that evildoers tread.

Let us place our delight in the word of the LORD,
and let that word be our focus day and night.

For then we become like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit and whose leaves do not wither.

For when we act and live in faith the LORD watches over us
and builds the kingdom of heaven through us.

Prayer of Approach (together):

Eternal God, as we gather for worship
calm our fears that we might know your peace.

As we listen to your Word
let your Holy Spirit open our minds to greater understanding.

As we pray for ourselves and for others
let our hands and our feet bring your answer to the world.

For we are your people in Jesus' name, Amen.

Children's Story and Lord's prayer.

Meditative Music *Jesus Loves Me*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 54 (p. 778 VU)

Save me, O God, by the power of your name,
and vindicate me by your might.

Hear my prayer, O God,
and listen to the words of my mouth.

For insolent people have risen against me,
ruthless ones are seeking my life;
they give no thought to God. R

But see, God is my helper;

it is God who upholds my life;

You will repay my enemies for their evil,

in your faithfulness, put an end to them.

The offering of a willing heart I will give you,
and praise your name, O God, in your faithfulness.

For you have delivered me from every trouble,
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies. R

First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20

Second Reading: James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a

Gospel Lesson: Mark 9:30-37

Anthem *As the Deer* (Martin Nystrom)

Gordon and Christine Morrison and Michèle Ashby

Sermon: "Children, Being Great, and Following Jesus"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Meditative Music *Will You Come and Follow Me*

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 Gordon Morrison, Chris Morrison, and Michèle Ashby
for sharing their gifts of music this morning.

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.

Your Social Justice Committee asks you to observe Sep 21st, the **International Day of Prayer for Peace**. The UN's General Assembly has declared this a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. In 2021, as we heal from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are inspired to think creatively and collectively about how to help everyone recover better, how to build resilience, and how to transform our world into one that is more equal, just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable and healthier.

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

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

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 • James 5:13-20 • Mark 9:38-50