



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 26, 2021 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *There is a Balm in Gilead* Ron Johnson

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (responsive from Psalm 19:7-8).

The word 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

Come, let us listen, let us learn, and let us rejoice as God's people.

Prayer of Approach (together)

God of love and grace,

within our hearts there are prayers

we are praying with all our soul;

within our minds there are prayers

we are struggling to pray;

and within our lives there are prayers

we are still learning to pray.

This day we come asking for you to hear all of our prayers

as you show us the way of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Children's Story and Lord's prayer.

Meditative Music *The Church is Wherever*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 124 (p. 848 VU)

If God had not been at our side,

now let Israel say:

If God had not been at our side

when mortals rose up against us,

**then they would have swallowed us alive,
when their fury was roused against us.**

Then the flood would have swept us away,
and the torrent would have covered us.

**Then the raging waters
would have gone right over our heads. R**

But praised be God:

who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.

**We have escaped like a bird
from the hunter's snare;
the snare is broken and we are free. R**

First Reading: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Second Reading: James 5:13-20

Gospel Lesson: Mark 9:38-50

Anthem *How Great Thou Art*

Ron Johnson

Sermon: "The Body of Christ"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Meditative Music *Draw the Circle Wide*

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)

The church office is will be closed on Thursday, September 30, 2021 in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day. May we learn from the past and seek to build better relationships with our first nations neighbours as treaty people living in Mi'kma'ki , the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

Your Social Justice Committee hopes you will join us in marking Sept. 30th, **Orange Shirt Day**. More than ever this year, we need to acknowledge that *every child matters!* On Thursday this week, please wear orange and encourage others to do the same. Let us honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada

and learn more about the history of those institutions.

Next Sunday, October 4th we will celebrate Holy Communion at St. James. If you would like elements to celebrate via the online service please contact Patsy in the church office.

Thanksgiving is coming up and the worship committee are looking for help in decorating the windows as we have in other years. If you are interested please contact the church office or sign up after church.

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

Job 1:1, 2:1-10 • Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 • Mark 10:2-16