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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 29, 2021 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Tell It To My Heart* Charles Lowe
Welcome and Announcements
Call to Worship (responsive adapted from Psalm 146)
Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope rests in the maker of heaven and earth,
**For God made the sky and the land, the sea, and all that is in them
and keeps faith forever;**
For God is the one who brings justice to the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry and sets the prisoners free;
**So let us open our hearts and come before God
with thanksgiving and praise!**

Prayer of Approach (together):
**God of grace, we come before you looking
to know your will and follow your way.
For all around us there is uncertainty and fear
but with you there is love and hope.
Hear our prayers and bless us with your Holy Spirit,
for we have come as your people in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Children's story and Lord's prayer.
Meditative Music *Though I May Speak*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 125 (p. 849 VU)
Those who trust in God are like Mount Zion
which cannot be moved but abides forever
**As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so, God, you surround your people now and forever. R**

The scepter of the wicked shall not rest on the land assigned to the just
lest the just should put out their hand to do evil.
**Do good, O God, to those who are good,
to those who are upright in heart.**
As for those who turn aside into crooked ways,
our God shall lead them away with evil-doers;
but peace shall be upon Israel. R

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a
Second Reading: James 2:14-17
Gospel Lesson: Mark 7:24-37
Anthem *Saviour's Highway* Charles Lowe
Sermon: "A Larger Faith"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Meditative Music *In Christ There Is No East Or West*
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 Charles Lowe for sharing his gift of music with us this day.

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

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

Today is the International Day of Charity. The theme this year is "Global Solidarity to Eradicate Poverty". Solidarity is needed now more

than ever, making this theme a great jump-off concept for every household. How can you start a community charity drive? It's easier than you think! Some fun, socially distanced fundraisers to consider: outdoor karaoke or dance-a-thon at a park, community swimming pool "cannonball" challenge, hot dog eating contest – or a healthier alternative ... 8 Sep is **International Literacy Day**. This year's theme is "Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide". The pandemic forced shift to distance learning has highlighted the persistent digital divide in terms of connectivity, infrastructure, and the means to engage with technology, as well as disparities in other services such as access to electricity – which has limited learning options. And Sep 10th is **World Suicide Prevention Day**. In recognition of this day, the *Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention* will host a virtual online event featuring presentations and a Q&A session on Friday, 10 Sep, at 2:00 PM EST on this year's theme of "Creating Hope Through Action".

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

Isaiah 50:4-9a • James 3:1-12 • Mark 8:27-38