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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)*

October 10, 2021 - Thanksgiving Sunday

### GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *The Great Divide* Christine and Gordon Morrison

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (responsive adapted from Psalm 100)

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**Worship the Lord with gladness; come with joyful songs.**

Shout with thanksgiving and praise.

**For the Lord is good and the love of the Lord endures forever;**

And God's faithfulness continues down through the generations.

Prayer of Approach (together):

**God, you richly bless us.**

**The land and sea provide for our needs**

**and creation shows us the bounty of your grace.**

**The cycles of creation remind us of your promise**

**to be faithful to us through all the stages of our lives.**

**The gift you make to us in Jesus allows us to face**

**an uncertain future surrounded by the hope of your love.**

**For these reasons and so many more**

**we gather to thank and praise you this day, Amen.**

Hymn: 218 VU We Praise You, O God

Children's Story and Lord's prayer.

### GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 126 (p. 850)

First Reading: Joel 2:21-27

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6:25-33

Anthem *The Rivers of Change*

Christine and Gordon Morrison

Sermon: "Giving Thanks"

### GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Meditative Music *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (responsive)

Gracious and Loving God, for friends who listen,  
for opponents who challenge, for companions who love,

**We thank you, O God.**

For the gift of laughter,

for the warmth of embrace, for the release of tears,

**We thank you, O God.**

For dawning and dusk,

for the cycle of the seasons, for lobsters and blueberries,

**We thank you, O God.**

For seedtime and harvest,

for nourishing food and pure water, for the luxury of taste and smell,

**We thank you, O God.**

For the inspiration of music,

for the beauty of the arts, for the fulfillment of human creation,

**We thank you, O God.**

For the miracle of conception and birth,

for the ongoing miracles of daily life, for the promise of the life to come,

**We thank you, O God, Amen.**

Hymn: 236 VU Now Thank We All Our God

Commissioning and Benediction

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) )

**Thanks to Christine and Gordon Morrison** for sharing their gift of music today.

**Proof of Vaccine requirement** at St. James. We have received some clarification from NS Public Health regarding the proof of vaccine requirement for our activities this fall. All activities other than our regular Sunday morning service will require proof of vaccine. This includes weddings, funerals, and meetings of our groups and committees.

**Visiting at St. Martha's.** Just a reminder that because of the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions in place at the hospital that Rev. Peter cannot visit unless he receives a request from someone in the hospital or their family. If you are in the hospital and would like a visit please let one of the staff there know or call 902-863-2859 to leave a message for Rev. Peter/

**October is Mi'kmaq history month** in Nova Scotia. 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.

**The latest issue of Connections** is now available. Thanks to Brenda Rose, Ruth Young, and all who submitted articles. The online version is found at [www.stjamesuc.com](http://www.stjamesuc.com)

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your Social Justice Committee reminds you that today is **World Mental Health Day**. The theme for this year is “Mental Health in an Unequal World”. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on people’s mental health. Groups, including health and other frontline workers, students, people living alone, and those with pre-existing mental health conditions, have been particularly affected. Services for mental, neurological and substance use disorders have been significantly disrupted. Mental health care for all: let's make it a reality – let’s work on stigma reduction and recognition of symptoms! 16 October is **World Food Day**. “Our Actions are our Future!” The food we choose and the way we consume it affect our health and that of our planet. It has an impact on the way agri-food systems work. So we all need to be part of the change. Remember that 3 billion people, (almost 40% of the world’s population), cannot afford a healthy diet!

**RELS397.20 Christian-Muslim Encounters:** A 1400-Year Conversation Winter 2022 The Syriac, Coptic, and Arabic-speaking Christians of the Middle East were the first Christians to encounter Islam in its nascent form. This Christian engagement with Islam shaped the lines of theological disputation from the 7th century onwards. What were these conversations like? What can today’s Christians and Muslims learn from these early encounters? The course begins with a brief introduction to Christian and Islamic theology, which already hints at these conversations. This leads to an examination of a section of the Qur’an

that highlights some of the key issues of theological disagreement (and agreement) and that sets the stage for the next 1400 years. We then look at some of the earliest theological writings in the history of Christian-Muslim encounters before moving on to reflections on modern and contemporary methods and debates from a variety of perspectives, from attempts to find unity to conversion-oriented outreach. The course uses a variety of types of sources, from original primary source dialogues and debates in translation from Arabic, Syriac, and Coptic, to secondary source commentaries on them, to contemporary novels and films. The course is taught by Dr. Linda Darwish, Department of Religious Studies, StFX University. It will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:45, Jan.-April 2022. You are warmly invited register for credit or audit. Seniors 65+ can register for free!

**Invitation to another interesting/informative webinar** featuring experts from around the world to help you better understand the Israel/Palestine conflict. Arrest, detention and interrogation of Palestinian teenagers living in the West Bank A special webinar organized by "Stand Up for Palestinian Children’s Rights", a broad based cross-Canada planning committee, in collaboration with the Ottawa Forum on Israel/Palestine (OFIP).

Imagine heavily armed soldiers breaking into your home at 2 am, dragging your teenager out of bed and taking him off to be interrogated! Hundreds of Palestinian children are arrested in this way every year by the Israeli military. Many on "suspicion" of stone throwing which can bring a sentence of up to 10 years in jail. Their parents can also be arrested. In custody the children may be subjected to physical and/or psychological torture to reveal the names of their friends. The conviction rate of the children is 99%.

Canadians Kathy Bergen and Dorcas Gordon will interview two on the spot observers - one Palestinian and one Israeli - from Jerusalem about this horrifying situation:

- Salwa Dubais from Military Court Watch will tell us about the impact on Palestinian families and the difficulties teens face after their imprisonment.
- Dani Shenhar from HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual (an Israeli human rights organization assisting Palestinians of the occupied territories whose rights are violated due to Israel's policies)

will explain the difference in laws governing Palestinian and Israeli youth.

What can Canadians do? In 2020 the Canadian government admitted it is aware of what is happening. Yet no obvious action has been taken. Might the appointment of a Canadian special envoy help to change this? To learn more and join the conversation, you are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Oct 13, 2021 12:00 PM (noon) Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Arrest and detention of Palestinian children By registration only.

To register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_1rswWd7cTBCu1IuLUuC96A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1rswWd7cTBCu1IuLUuC96A)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

### **Scripture Readings for Next Sunday**

Joel 2:21-27 • 1 Timothy 2:1-7 • Matthew 6:25-33