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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 3, 2021 - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Are You A Shepherd?* Christine Morrison

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (responsive adapted from Psalm 8)

We marvel at the work of God's hands, the heavens and the earth;
who are we that God is so mindful of us?

For God crowns us with honor and gives all creation to our care.

With joy let us come and receive the gifts of God for our lives.

Prayer of Approach (together):

God of this day and every day, as we come to the table make us one people by breaking down the barriers between us, softening our hearts, and reminding us again that nothing can stop your love from entering our lives. For we know that you love us, you care for us, and have moved heaven and earth for us, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Children's Story and Lord's prayer.

Meditative Music *We Are One, As We Come*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

First Reading: Job 1:1, 2:1-10

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Gospel Lesson: Mark 10:13-16

Anthem *Deep In Our Hearts*

Christine Morrison

Sermon: "Receiving the Kingdom of God"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Meditative Music *I Come With Joy A Child of God*

The New Creed (together)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others
by the Spirit. We trust in God.**

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

Meditative Music *Here, O My Lord*

Prayer for the Celebration of Holy Communion

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give God thanks and praise.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

You call to us, Eternal God. From our homes, our lives, our families, you call us to be your people. You call us to be rich through your grace. You call us to be bold in our witness.

**You call us to be living examples of the words
of Jesus Christ and to walk together in faith.**

You give us food, Lord of all creation. From the earth you call forth plants and animals to feed us. Each day we sustain ourselves on the bounty of your gift.

We hunger for more than food to nourish our bodies.

You give us the bread of life, Jesus Christ. On the cross Jesus was broken so that our sins might be broken by your love.

**The bread of life is our promise of new life here
and eternal life in heaven.**

The bread from this table gives us the spiritual strength to face an uncertain world in the certainty of your grace.

You give us drink, Lord of the rivers and vine.

From the earth you give us the waters and fruits of the land to quench our

thirst. Each day we sustain ourselves on the bounty of your gift.

We long for more than earthly drink to satisfy our thirst.

You give us the cup of salvation, Jesus Christ. On the cross the blood of Jesus was shed, sealing the new promise made for us.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The cup from his table gives us a physical sign of the bond which exists with you and between each one of us because of your love.

**As imperfect people, we come to share
in the perfection of your kingdom.**

As unsure people, we come to be a part of the certainty of your purpose.

**We come to this table at your invitation,
to eat and drink the bounty you have placed before us
and to remember what you have done through Jesus Christ.**

Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup. Grant us the presence of the living Christ that we might taste again the spiritual food and drink for our lives. For we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever... **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion (together)

Gracious God, we have tasted your goodness this day.

**Send us forth filled with the Holy Spirit
to live and serve as people of the Resurrection.**

**Allow us to be both witnesses and agents of your grace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen**

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 Christine Morrison for sharing her gift of music today.

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are welcome to join Bridging the Gap, a discussion on October 6 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM via Zoom. We will talk about community health priorities with other individuals across the Eastern Zone.

Community Health Boards (CHBs) advise Nova Scotia Health on local perspectives, trends, issues, and priorities. They share information and feedback between the community and Nova Scotia Health. Local community health priorities guide their work, and you have an opportunity to contribute your perspective to this discussion.

The event will be facilitated by Gerard Murphy of Barefoot Facilitation and will involve small group discussion in breakout rooms. We will talk about CHB work and the topics of affordable housing, food security, and transportation, as well as barriers to access. This is also a great opportunity to learn about how to join a Community Health Board and share your perspective and knowledge from living in your community.

All individuals, community groups, and perspectives are welcome! If you are affected by the identified community health issues and/or work with people who are, please register and share with your contacts.

You can register for the event by emailing Marylynn Vickers at the following email: easternCHBs@nshealth.ca

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

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