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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)*

January 16, 2022 - Second Sunday after the Epiphany

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (responsive adapted from Isaiah 60:1-2)

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness has covered the earth,

and shadows of worry and weariness have filled our lives;

but the Lord has come to shine in our lives,

and the glory of God will light our way.

Prayer of Approach (responsive)

God of grace, breathe your Spirit into us this day.

Open our hearts that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit.

Open our lips that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life.

Open our eyes that we may see Christ in friend and stranger.

Breath your Spirit into us this day, we pray, so that we might live as your people in the world, Amen.

Children's Story and Lord's Prayer.

Hymn: 585 VU Jesus Bids Us Shine

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 36 (p. 762 VU)

Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

**Your righteousness is like the mountains, O God,
your judgements are like the great deep;
all living things you save. R**

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights. R**

For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light.

**Continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright in heart. R**

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

Anthem

Sermon "Life in the Spirit"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 87 VU I Am the Light of the World

Prayers of the People

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

A warm welcome to everyone who is joining us for worship. We recognize that we gather in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and we seek to be good neighbours to the First Nations. May this be a time for you to draw closer to God. The service is posted each week on our website (www.stjamesuc.com).

This week we continue worshipping online as a congregation. The Church Council meets on Tuesday and will discuss a possible date to resume in person worship to accompany the online worship. As we move through this latest Covid wave please remember those most affected in your prayers and share the light of Christ through your caring and patience with those around you.

St James United's Social Justice calendars are ready for pick up in the narthex and [linked online](#). The calendar reminds us of important dates throughout the year that need to be thoughtfully considered, reflected upon and prayed about. Please consider these issues and the people who are impacted by them.

Today is **World Religion Day**, which aims to promote the unity of religious peoples so that we can overcome historical differences. For centuries, different religions and faiths fought each other, and ignored their common values. We ought to work toward a peaceful understanding between faiths – treating each other with respect and understanding, so that we can create a better world for everyone. The six major religions of the world are Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism. Nearly 75% of the world practices one of these six. This day encourages recognition of our similarities, and the role religion has played in uniting people across the planet. And 18 > 25 January is the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: *We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him.*** (Mt 2:2) The theme for 2022 was chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches. More than ever, in these difficult times, we need a light that shines in the darkness and that light, Christians proclaim, has been manifested in Jesus Christ. Christian Prayer of Unity: *O Thou kind Lord! Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony. O God!*

Next Sunday's Scripture

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 • 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a • Luke 4:14-21