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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 23, 2022 - Third Sunday after the Epiphany

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Invention #1 in C Major* *St. James Bell Duo*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (responsive adapted from Isaiah 48:18-19)

God says to us "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing! Do you not perceive it?"

Let us open our eyes and our hearts as we gather for worship,
and be part of this new thing that God is doing.

Prayer of Approach (responsive)

God of new beginnings, the world around us is cold and the mood which surrounds us is fearful. Speak to us again of the new life which you bring forth, draw us into the warmth of your grace, and show us once more the power of your love, for we gather together as your people in Jesus' name, Amen.

Children's Story and Lord's Prayer.

Hymn: *Tell Me The Stories of Jesus*

Martha Palmer

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 19 (p. 740 VU)

The heavens declare the glory of God;

and the vault of the sky reveals God's handiwork.

**One day speaks to another,
and night shares its knowledge with night,**

and this without speech or language;
their voices are not heard.

**But their sound goes out to all the lands,
their words to the ends of the earth. R**

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun

which comes out like a bridegroom from under the canopy,
like an athlete eager to run the race.

**Its rising is at one end of the sky,
it runs its course to the other,
and there is nothing that is hidden from its heat. R**

God's law is perfect, refreshing the soul;

**God's instruction is sure,
giving wisdom to the simple;**

God's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart;

**God's commandment is pure
giving light to the eyes;**

God's fear is clean, enduring forever;

**God's judgements are true,
every one of them righteous;**

more desirable than gold, even much fine gold;

**sweeter also than honey,
pure honey from the comb. R**

By them is your servant warned;

for in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can discern unwitting sins?

O cleanse me from my secret faults.

Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,
lest they get the better of me.

Then shall I be clean and innocent of great offense. R

All **Let words of my mouth
and the thoughts of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O God,
my strength and my redeemer.**

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Anthem *I Feel The Winds of God*

Martha Palmer

Sermon "The Beginning of the Good News"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: *Amazing Grace*

Martha Palmer

Prayers of the People
Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude *Be Thou My Vision*

Martha Palmer

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 met on Tuesday, January 18 and decided to continue to pause the in-person worship services until at least the end of January. 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.

Your Social Justice Committee reminds you that 27 January is **International Holocaust Remembrance Day**. "The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is a time to mourn those who disappeared and to reflect upon the choice of the individuals and governments that allowed this genocide to unfold. It is also a call for vigilance and for action, to address the root causes of hatred and prevent future atrocities from happening." – Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO

Next Sunday's Scripture

Jeremiah 1:4-10 • 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 • Luke 4:21-30