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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)

September 11, 2022 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit (409 VU Morning has Broken v1)

Morning has broken, like the first morning

Blackbird has spoken like the first bird,

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them springing, fresh from the Word!

Call to Worship (responsive)

We come knowing all too well our sins and shortcomings.

Jesus knows us and welcomes each and every one of us.

We come with our fears and our worries.

Jesus understands trouble and offers us grace and peace.

We come to this place believing that God offers us new life.

Jesus calls us to experience God's grace and love.

Prayer of Approach (together)

Eternal God, you love us. You love us despite our faults, our flaws, and our sins. You reach to us in Jesus to show us your love. For through Jesus you call us to be your people, to know your grace, and to be your hands and feet in the world. This morning, we pray, open our minds to imagine the world you call us to build; open our mouths to share the gospel with others; and open our hearts that we might experience again your love for us this day, Amen.

Hymn: 42 MV *Praise God for this Holy Ground*

Children's Story and the Lord's Prayer.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 14 (p. 735 VU)

First Reading: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

Anthem *Les Baricades Misterieuses* (Couperin)

Sermon "Lost Sheep, Lost Coins, and God"

Amy Hendricks

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 126 MV *Are You A Shepherd?*

Minute for Mission

Offertory (227 VU For the Fruits of All Creation- v3)

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 145 MV *Draw the Circle Wide*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (409 VU Morning has Broken v3)

*Ours is the Sunlight, ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play.*

*Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day!*

Postlude

A warm welcome to everyone who is joining us for worship. May this be a time for us to draw closer to each other and God. 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.

Congratulations and best wishes to *Megan (Adams)* and *Curtis Deon* who were married yesterday at St. James. May God bless them as they begin this new part of their life together.

St James' Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up is finally happening! It is scheduled for 09:00, Saturday, 17 Sept. Anyone 16 years and older is invited to join us. We will meet at the parking lot (diagonally across from the main StFX sign), near our area, Hwy 7 and 104 – Exit 32. All equipment supplied. All you need is comfortable clothing - work gloves and waterproof footwear. Note ticks are active – plan to stay covered up! This should only take about two hours, beautifies our community and

improves the environment. Treats and swag provided! Please talk to Michèle Ashby after the service or call her at 232-3473, if you are able to assist and have not already indicated your interest. Thanks!

Our own St James is one of the featured photos in the 2023 United Church paper calendar. Remember those? If you are interested in purchasing one for the keepsake, the UCW sells them at \$10 each. Please notify christine@betterbodiesbymassage.ca (902-714-9463) or chapman.sheryl@gmail.com by September 12th.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, September 13

- 11:00 The Community Hot Meal resumes in the Hall.
- 1:00 Hot Meals Teams meet in the hall for fall planning.
- 3:00 Meditation Group resumes in the Meeting Room
- 7:00 UCW will meet in the Meeting Room. Please bring a fun item for the Auction.
- 7:00 Worship Committee via Zoom.

Wednesday, September 14

- 11:00 United Church worship at the Maples.
- 4:00 Finance and Stewardship in the Hall

Saturday, September 17

- 9:00 Highway Clean up (see announcement above)

Please celebrate the **International Day of Democracy** on 15 September. While democracies share common features, there is no single model and democracy does not belong to any country or region. Democracy is a universal value based on the freely-expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems, and their full participation in all aspects of life. We are so fortunate in Canada to have the opportunity and freedom to exercise our democratic rights!

Stewardship Thought for September 11, 2022

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Next Sunday's Scripture

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 • 1 Timothy 2:1-7 • Luke 16:1-13