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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)*

November 27, 2022 - First Sunday of Advent

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (O Come, O Come Emmanuel Vs 1)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Call to Worship (responsive from Luke 1:78-79)

By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness

and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Prayer of Approach (together)

Eternal and loving God,

In a tired and violent world, you are hope.

In a hectic and busy world, you are peace.

In a cold and dark world, you are comfort and you are light.

This Advent, ready our hearts to experience again

the new life which is ours through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Hymn: 2 VU *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Lighting of the Advent Candle (together)

**Jesus Christ, Hope of the World, shine in our lives and our world
with your promise of a new tomorrow, Amen.**

*Jesus came bringing us hope, Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope, hallelujah forevermore!*

Children's Story and the Lord's Prayer.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 122 (p. 845 VU)

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24:26-44

Anthem *Emmanuel Is Coming!* (Price/Besig)

Choir

Sermon "Christmas is Coming"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 7 VU *Hope is a Star*

Moment for Stewardship

Offertory Response (As With Gladness 81 VU)

*As they offered gifts most rare at that manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.*

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 64 VU *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (Glory to God in 124 MV)

Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.

Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.

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.

Just a reminder that the musicians of the church consider their offering of music and song to be part of the worship service. If you feel moved by what they do offer a silent prayer of thanks to God and let them know personally after service.

Scripture for Next Sunday

Isaiah 11:1-10 • Ps72:1-7, 18-19 • Romans 15:4-13 • Matthew 3:1-12

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, November 27

11:30 am This is the last Sunday to pick up Christmas goodies in the hall at the tables set up by the UCW. Just a reminder that there is no Holly Tea and Sale this year.

Tuesday, November 29

11:00am The Community Hot Meal in the Hall.
3:00pm Meditation Group in the Meeting Room.

Thursday, December 1

6:30pm Choir Practice in the Sanctuary

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, December 4

11:30 am We welcome Rev. Tasha Brubaker and friends from St. Paul the Apostle Anglican Church for a joint service of worship.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm Christmas Eve at St. David's
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service at St. James
9:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion at St. James

Sunday, December 25

10:30 am Christmas Day service at St. James

Looking for our online service? Want to read our congregational newsletter? Please visit our website at <http://www.stjamesuc.com>

If you would like to **sponsor the bulletin** in celebration or memory of a loved one or a special day, please contact the church office 902-863-2001 or office@stjamesuc.com

Stewardship Thought for this Sunday (November 27, 2022)

“Happiness is not made by what we own. It is what we share.”

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks – philosopher, theologian, author

Your Social Justice Committee asks you to reflect on the 29th that this is the **International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**. This day is observed to raise awareness of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the horrors still occurring. The UN started this day to inform people about the issue and to stand with Palestinians during this difficult time, with the hope that one day this conflict can be put to an end with a peaceful resolution. This **World AIDS Day**, 1 December, UNAIDS is urging each of us to address the inequalities which are holding back progress in ending AIDS. The "Equalize" slogan is a call to action, a prompt for all of us to work for the proven practical actions needed to address inequalities and help end AIDS. These include: increase availability, quality and suitability of services, for HIV treatment, testing and prevention, so that everyone is well-served. The **2nd is the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. Think slavery is a thing of the past? Think again!** More than 40 million people worldwide are victims of modern slavery, such as forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking. And in this busy week, the 3rd is the **International Day of People with Disabilities. Disability awareness is the practice of knowing, acknowledging, and accepting individuals' experiences as they relate to disability. Being aware of and moving beyond your own level of comfort is key to a greater understanding. Remember there are many hidden disabilities in addition to visible disabilities.**

Just a reminder that because of the restrictions in place at St. Martha's Hospital, Rev. Peter cannot visit unless you ask him to visit either through the nurses or by contacting Rev. Peter or the church directly.

Gifts with Vision Our Congregation has multiple copies of *Gifts with Vision: A Gift-Giving Catalogue from the United Church of Canada* for all of us to use and share. The United Church developed the gift catalogue in response to member requests to be able to give gifts to support that support the church's Mission and Service partners. Gifts are available in a range of dollar amounts and include projects here in Canada and around the world many different areas of need (hunger, shelter, education, health, safety, mobility, and more). An online copy of the gift catalogue can be found at www.giftswithvision.ca

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, November 27 from 9-12 Antigonish Lions Club Pancake and Sausage Breakfast, Lions' Den, Highland Drive Ext.

Wednesday, November 30 at the People's Place Library from 4:30 to 6:00 you are enthusiastically invited to the launch of Sara avMaat's new comic book. Hope Unleashed is a comic book about moving from climate anxiety to climate action. The story begins with Maude the dog and her concern for her person, Patrick, who is paralyzed by climate anxiety. We follow Maude and Patrick as they learn about some of the people and organizations in Nova Scotia working to make a difference. We empathize with Patrick when he reaches the point where "it still feels like all too much", but knows he's ready to make a start. Available at the launch, The Curious Cat Bookstore, Happenstance, Antigonish 5 to \$1 or from the author at savmaat@yahoo.ca for \$7 plus shipping.

JOIN US by Serving Others on Christmas Day! Please join us this year, as St. James United Church hosts the annual Community Christmas Dinner, on Sunday, December 25th – 2pm at the St. James United Church Hall in Antigonish. VOLUNTEERS are greatly needed to help with set up, food preparation and serving, greeting and clean up. We also require food donations including turkeys, vegetables, condiments and desserts as well as monetary donations to cover expenses. It is indeed due to your kindness and generosity that this event has been such a great success over the years.

Will you help and serve during this wonderful time of building community? To be involved please call Daniel Vanderlans at 902-957-8255 or email: danconnected@hotmail.com
Let's bless & serve others this Christmas through our Community Christmas Dinner 2022.