



Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy), Carolyn Curry (Organist)
May MacKenzie (CE Dir) Chad Brazier (Custodian)
Patsy Farrell (Secretary) office@stjamesuc.com
197 Main St, P.O. Box 1178, Antigonish, NS B2G 2L6
(902) 863-2001 www.stjamesuc.com

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)*

February 26, 2023 - First Sunday of Lent
Celebration of Holy Communion
Black History Month

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (400 VU Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying)

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!***

Call to Worship (responsive)

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

People of God, on this wilderness journey, what will you eat?

The word of the Lord is our daily bread.

People of God, in this time of temptation, how will you live?

Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.

People of God, at this kingdom crossroad, whom will you serve?

We will worship and serve the Lord our God alone.

Come, let us worship the Lord our God. ***Amen.***

Prayer of Approach (together)

Gracious and loving God of wilderness, as we devote these forty days to you. Shape us by your Holy Spirit into the image of Christ our Lord. May we be ready, by your grace, to confront the power of death with the promise of eternal life. Joined together in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all majesty and honor are yours almighty God forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: 651 VU *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Profession of Faith: Matthew Schumacher

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 32 (759 of VU)

First Reading: Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7

Epistle: Romans 5: 12-19

Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 4: 1-11

Anthem "Speak To My Heart" (J. Eric Brown)

Choir

Sermon: "Prepare for the Journey".

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 135 VU *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Minute for Mission

Shaun Scott

Offertory Response (55 VU *In the Bleak Midwinter* vs 4)

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part, yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

Hymn: 664 VU *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (124 MV *Glory to God in the Highest*)

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.

Let us go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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.

Thank you to Rev. Doug Stewart who is leading our service of worship this morning.

The Prayers and Christian sympathies of the congregation are extended to the family of Jean Barkhouse following her death last week. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers in the coming weeks.

Rev. Peter is on sabbatical from December 26, 2022- March 27, 2023. During that time Rev. Doug Stewart (revdoug@stjamesuc.com) will be pastoral charge supervisor and Rev. Meredith Marple will be available for pastoral care and emergencies (revmeredth@stjamesuc.com or 902-863-0452).

The Annual Reports are available in the Narthex and also available through the website or by calling the church office for a print copy.

Canada Helps - Looking for a copy of a tax receipt for a donation you made to St. James through Canada Helps in 2022? We don't issue those from the church office but if you go to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/tax-receipts/> they will email you a duplicate (all you need is the email address you used when you donated).

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, February 26

11:30 am Congregational Meeting. Lunch will be provided by Council.

Monday, February 27

2:00 pm Prayer Shawl Meeting in the parlour.

Tuesday, February 28

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

Thursday, March 2

11:00 am The Community Hot Meal in the Hall.
7:00pm Choir Practice in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, March 5

11:30 am UCW will meet following the morning worship in the Meeting Room.

THE COMMUNION LITURGY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right that we should praise you,
gracious God, for you created all things.

You formed us in your own image;
male and female you created us.

When we turned away from you in sin,
you did not cease to care for us,
but opened a path of salvation for all people.

You made a covenant with Israel,
and through your servants Abraham and Sarah
gave the promise of a blessing to all nations.

Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom;
through your prophets you renewed your promise of salvation.

Therefore, with them, and with all your saints
who have served you in every age,
we give you thanks and raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

(Musical setting on page 942-943 VU)

**Holy, Holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,**

Holy, Holy, holy Lord

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, source of life and goodness,
all creation rightly gives you praise.

In the fullness of time,
you sent your child Jesus Christ,
to share and die as one of us,
to reconcile us to you,
the Mother and Father of us all.

He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners;
He opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the good News of your
kingdom to the poor and those in need.

In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he was betrayed our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to his disciples.

And said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and after giving thanks,
gave it to them, and said, "Drink this. All of you:

this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Gracious God, by the death of your child
you have destroyed the power of death,
and by raising him to life you have given us life for evermore.
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection,
and looking for his coming again in glory,

we offer you, O God, this bread and this cup.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts,

that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body, one holy people,
a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ.

In the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours,

God most holy, now and forever.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, February 26 from 9-12 Antigonish Lions Club Pancake and Sausage Breakfast, Lions' Den, Highland Drive Ext. Donations at the door for community needs.

Focus on Brazil, sponsored by The World Christian Centre for Meditation. Worried about the rainforest? St. James Meditation Group invites individuals from faith and social justice groups for a global online viewing, gathering in person, Tuesday, February 28, 4:30-7:00 pm, St. Paul's Anglican Church. A free vegan Chili supper will be provided. Questions: call 902-863-3546.

Community Fridge and Pantry: This is a reminder that any non-perishable food that is placed in the donation boxes in the narthex will be gratefully received by the Antigonish Community Pantry. Thank you for remembering that there are many in need in our community.

Please join the **Antigonish Choral Ensemble and Antigonish Performing Arts** as we welcome award-winning professional choir, The Elmer Iseler Singers, to Antigonish on March 13th at 8:00 pm (Doors open no earlier than 7:30 pm) St. Ninian's Cathedral, Antigonish Admission \$20/General Admission; \$15/Seniors; and \$5/Students Advance tickets available from ACE members for \$20.

In an effort to make our church as welcoming as possible to those people who may join us, please help in making our sanctuary scent free by avoiding perfumes and scented products when getting ready for church.