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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)*

October 29, 2023- Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Come Children Join to Sing*

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (42 MV Praise God for this Holy Ground)

***Praise God for this Holy Ground,
place and people, sight and sound.***

***Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God's goodness is eternal!***

Call to Worship (responsive)

We are not here not because of our goodness

but because of Christ's love and grace,

We are not here to enlighten ourselves,

but to allow the Holy Spirit to open our minds,

We have not come to be entertained

but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

Prayer of Approach (responsive from Anselm, 1033-1109)

O Lord, our God, grant us grace

to desire you with the whole heart;

so that in desiring, we may seek and find you;

and in so finding you we may love you;

and in loving you we may love those whom you love,

in the way of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Hymn: 409 VU *Morning has Broken*

Children's Story and Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 365 VU *Jesus Loves Me*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 1 (p.724 VU)

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Marlene Groenenberg

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Sarah Armstrong

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

Anthem: *Let Us Love One Another (Arnold B Sherman)* Carolyn Curry

Sermon: "Being a Saint"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 372 VU *Though I May Speak*

Litany of Thanks (see back of bulletin)

Offertory Response (538 VU For the Gift of Creation)

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,

and the gift of your Spirit by which we live,

we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.

May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 333 VU *Love Divine*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (Praise God for this Holy Ground)

Though praise ends, praise is begun,

where God's will is gladly done.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

God's goodness is eternal!

Postlude *Poem (Zdenko Fibich)*

A warm welcome to everyone who is joining us for worship. May this time help you draw to closer to God and your neighbour. 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.

Greeting at the door this Sunday is Liz Millett and Mike Cook

If you would like to **sponsor the bulletin** in celebration or memory of a loved one or a special day, please call the office and let the Barb know.

Scriptures for Next Sunday

Micah 4:1-5 • James 3:17-18 • John 15:9-17

Litany of Thanks

As we gather on this Sunday before All Saints Day and think of all the people who shared their faith with us we come before God in thanks.

Eternal God, with the words of scriptures around us in art and song we remember Sunday school teachers and preachers who made the stories of the Jesus and the Bible come alive for us.

We remember and give thanks!

With music echoing in our ears we remember choir members, soloists, organists, and all the musicians who sang and played your praises

We remember and give thanks!

With prayers resting in our hearts we remember those who taught us our first prayers and those who have prayed for us in our times of need.

We remember and give thanks!

With your people surrounding us in worship we remember family members and friends, neighbours and strangers who sat with us on Sundays and lived out their faith all week long for the world to see.

We remember and give thanks!

With an eye to the past as we look to the future we remember church families – this one and others we have loved- where mercy and grace were seen in actions taken to help those in need.

We remember and give thanks!

We remember and we give thanks for all the saints who have blessed our lives and we ask for your Holy Spirit to use us to bless others for we are your people now and always in Jesus' name, **Amen.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, October 31

10:00 am Hot Meal Program
3:00 pm Meditation Group in Meeting Room. For more information, call Fran @ 902- 863-3546

Thursday, November 2

11:00 am Hot Meal Program
7:00 pm Senior Choir. New Members welcome!

The prayers and Christian sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of Edna Marie Silver who died earlier month. There will be a private family service in the spring. Please keep Kim, Cory, Natasha and all Edna's family and friends in your prayers.

The prayers and Christians sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of Roland Saxon who died earlier this week. Arrangements are still being made. Please keep the family in your prayers during this time.

The Outreach and Communication Committee is very grateful for the interest in the Info Fair. The tables were set and the energy was up. The hubbub we were looking for was seen. Ask the Davisons how many favourite hymns were listed. We know the planning and the participation relied on the commitment of so many.

The 2024 United Church Calendars are ready to be ordered. Orders are being taken and should be placed by November 1. Please contact Barb in the office if you would like to order one, or Sheryl Chapman 902 863-6409.

The latest issue of Connections the congregational newsletter for St. James, is available in the Narthex and online at www.stjamesuc.com. Thanks to the contributors and to Chad and Sarah for editing this edition.

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

United Church Women "UCW" will be meeting **Sunday, November 12th** after church and that all are welcome. Andrew Murray will be discussing his work on the murals at the back of the sanctuary.

The Social Justice Committee would like to highlight some events or moments in November. We hope the list below can serve as a focus for prayer or reflection.

November

11 – Remembrance Day
16 – Int'l Day of Tolerance
20 – Universal Children's Day
25 – Int'l Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
29 – Int'l Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

It is often said that poverty is a government policy issue. Assorted programs at all levels of government are what keep many people from being able to "get ahead". Think about what the government was able to do during COVID by implementing CERB. In a rich country like Canada why are so many people struggling financially? Your Social Justice Committee asks you to please write to our politicians at all levels to ask them to consider implementing a Guaranteed Livable Wage and other similar measures to lift everyone out of poverty.

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

Lions Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Sunday October 29 from 9-12 at the Lions Den on 13 Highland Dr Ext. donations at door will aid families in need at Christmas.

Royal Canadian Legion, Br 59 (Arras), invites the public to a Service of Remembrance on Sunday November 5, 2023 at St James United Church. This community service begins at 10:30 am and is hosted by the congregation of St James United Church, 197 Main Street, Antigonish.