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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 14, 2024- Second Sunday After Epiphany

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (79 VU Arise Your Light Has Come vs 1)

*Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.*

Call to Worship (responsive — Isaiah 60:1-3)

Arise, shine, for your light has come,

and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,

and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,

and the glory of God will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Prayer of Approach (together)

Merciful God, as we come into your presence,

we make no boasts, we claim no corner on truth,

we make no criticisms of others, we claim no spiritual or moral

advantage. Instead, we open ourselves to your grace, asking for

wisdom, guidance, and new life through Jesus Christ, our friend

and our redeemer, Amen.

Hymn: 562 VU *Jesus Calls Us*

Children's Story and Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 157 MV *Hush, Hush*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 139 (861 VU)

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Ken Penner

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Linda MacDougall Penner

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Anthem

Sermon: "Come and See"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 567 VU *Will You Come and Follow Me*

Minute for Mission

Paul van de Wiel

Offertory Sentence and Prayer

Offertory response (541 VU Praise God from Whom All Blessings)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures high and low

give thanks to God in love made known

Creator, Word, and Spirit One

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 509 VU *Here I Am Lord*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction: (79 VU Arise Your Light Has Come vs 4)

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!

Rise up like eagles on the wing;

God's power will make us strong.

Postlude

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.

Coffee Hosts this morning are Judi McCarron and Ida Sarty

Greeting this morning is Beryl Duggan and Joan Poole

Scriptures for Next Sunday

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 • 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 • Mark 1:14-20

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, January 16

- 10:00 am Hot Meal Program
- 3:00 pm Meditation Group in Meeting Room. For more information, call Fran @ 902- 863-3546
- 7:00 pm Council via Zoom

Thursday, January 18

- 10:00 am Hot Meal Program
- 6:00 pm Senior Choir. New Members welcome!
- 7:00 pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service at St. James United Church. Everyone is welcome and invited.

Visiting at St. Martha's. Just a reminder that because of policies in place at the hospital that patients or their families have to request visits from clergy. If you are in hospital and would like a visit from Rev. Peter please call 902-863-2859 or tell one of the staff at St. Martha's.

Peace is still possible in the Middle East. Back in November, well known Christian Palestinian human rights lawyer and pacifist, Jonathan Kuttub lectured in Canada. You can see this lecture at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDeJCHgucEY>. He makes a great case for why peace IS still possible. His portion is approximately 45 minutes, but the entire video is worth a look!

St James' Prayer Circle is a small group of folks who believe in the power of prayer. We are happy to pray for individuals and situations upon request. If you'd like to join us or if you would like to bring forward a prayer request, please speak to Michèle Ashby after church or call her at 232-3473. All matters are kept strictly confidential.

Did you know? St. James accepts electronic fund transfers (e-transfers) for your offering. How do you do it? Simply log into your bank/credit union and add "eft@stjamesuc.com" as a contact and then transfer your donation (we are set up for auto deposit so no need for questions or passwords). You can use e-transfers for a one time gift or set it up for regular donations. Best of all your gift helps us continue the work and ministry which happen at St. James!