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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)*

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January 21, 2024- Third 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)

We gather here from different backgrounds and cultures,

**with various needs and expectations,**

with differing struggles and successes,

**with unique spiritual experiences and insights.**

Yet we all come assured that God welcomes us and surrounds us with  
grace and love.

Prayer of Approach (together)

**God of heaven and earth, we wish to worship you as we love you —  
with all of our heart, all of our soul, all of our strength, and all of our  
mind. Therefore, help us to leave behind anything that would  
distract us, anything that would harden our hearts,  
anything that would stand between us and you,  
our Creator, our Savior, and our Lord, Amen.**

Hymn: 574 VU *Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love*

Children's Story and Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 365 VU *Jesus Loves Me*

## GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 62 (779 VU)

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Anthem: *Lord, Lead Me, Lord* (Gilbert M. Martin)

Sermon: "Follow Me"

Paul Davie

John Hamilton

Choir

## GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 563 VU *Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

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: 424 VU *May the God of Hope Go With Us*

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

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**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 Dianne Polson and Sheryl Chapman

**Greeting this morning** is Karen Mahoney

If you would like to **sponsor the bulletin** in celebration or memory of a loved one or a special day, please call Barb at 863-2001.

## Scriptures for Next Sunday

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 • 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 • Mark 1:21-28

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

### Tuesday, January 23

- 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 Worship Committee via Zoom

### Thursday, January 25

- 10:00 am Hot Meal Program
- 7:00 pm Senior Choir. New Members welcome!

## UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

### Sunday, January 28

- 11:30 am UCW General Meeting in the Meeting Room

**Peace is still possible** in the Middle East. Back in November, well known Christian Palestinian human rights lawyer and pacifist, Jonathan Kuttab 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!

**Missed a Sunday** at St. James and want to see the service? Our worship is available online and available through our website at [www.stjamesuc.com](http://www.stjamesuc.com). The most recent service is in the center of the page, the last month's services are on the left, and just below last month's services is a link to our youtube page where all the older services are archived.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Wind from the Sea: Wild Church** "We come to root ourselves in the earth of which we are a part: to grow, to become, to bless and be blessed" Bethany Garden, 1 pm Saturday Jan 27th

**Antigonish Lions Pancake and Sausage Breakfast** will be on Sunday January 28 from 9-12. Donations at the door will assist with the installation of a chair lift.