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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 7, 2024- Baptism of Jesus Sunday

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Down by Jordan* (words by Carolyn Gillette)

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)

Come, all who are weary;

come, all who yearn for forgiveness.

As the waters of the Jordan washed over Jesus,
so the Holy Spirit washes over you and me.

Our gracious God beckons and blesses us.

Let us rejoice in the new life Christ brings.

Prayer of Approach (together)

**Eternal God, radiant with grace,
thaw our fears and snow-bound spirits;
make us shine with your Word, our hope;
shine with your gospel, our life;
shine with your peace, our joy;
through Christ, who is our Light, Amen.**

Hymn: 87 VU *I Am the Light of the World*

Children's Story and Lord's Prayer

Sacrament of Baptism

Hymn: 583 VU *Jesus Came a Child Like Me*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 29 (p. 756)

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Sherry Bowman

Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

Joe Apaloo

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Anthem *A Light is Gleaming* (Linnea Good)

Choir

Sermon: "Water and the Spirit"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 644 VU *I Was There to Hear your Borne Cry*

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: 92 VU *In the Darkness Shines the Splendour*

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 *When Heaven's Bright with Mystery*

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.

This morning we welcome to the church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism, *Paige Anne Doyle* child of Heather (Isenor) and Steven Doyle. Standing with Paige as godparents are Leah and Patrick Duggan.

Coffee Hosts this morning are Linda and Ken Penner

Greeting this morning is Barb Shea

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, January 9

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

Wednesday, January 10

10:00 am Worship at the Maples

Thursday, January 11

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

Annual Reports for 2023 are due into the church office *Friday, January 12th*. The tentative date for the Congregational Meeting is Sunday, February 25th.

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, January 16

7:00 pm Church Council meets via Zoom

Thursday, January 18

7:00 pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service at St. James United Church. Everyone is welcome and invited.

2024 Social Justice calendars are now available in the narthex for those who would like to be aware of important upcoming dates in 2024 that require our reflection, prayer, and possibly, action.

Scriptures for Next Sunday

1 Samuel 3:1-10 • 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 • John 1:43-51