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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)*

March 3, 2024- Third Sunday of Lent

### GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (97 MV Listen, God is Calling)

*(Listen) Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,  
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy*

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Call to Worship (responsive from Isaiah 51:4)

God says "Listen to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation;"

**We gather with to listen together.**

God promises that "a law shall go forth from me"

**We gather to learn the way of God.**

God gives us through the law "my justice for a light to the peoples."

**We gather to listen, to learn, and to be the light of God in the world.**

Prayer of Approach (together)

**God of grace, soften our hearts and open our ears  
that we might heed your call and commandments.**

**Stir us to vision and action, that we may extend your love  
wherever there is need for hope or healing.**

**For we have gathered as your people in Jesus' name, Amen.**

Hymn: 244 VU *Sing Your Praise To God Eternal*

Children's Story and Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 371 VU *Open My Eyes*

### GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 19 (p. 740 VU)

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Gospel: John 2:13-22

Anthem: *My Savior and my God* (Jay Althouse)

Sermon: "Spring Cleaning"

Dale Archibald

Shaun Scott

Choir

### GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 112 VU *O God How We Have Wandered*

Offertory Sentence and Prayer

Offertory Response (104 MV Know that God is Good)

***Know that God is good, know that God is good,***

***know that God is good, God is good, God is good.***

***C'est vrai: Dieu est bon! C'est vrai: Dieu est bon!***

***C'est vrai: Dieu est bon! Dieu est bon! Dieu est bon!***

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 640 VU *Though Ancient Walls*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (213 MV Take Up his Song of Peace)

***Take up his song of love and go into the world.***

***Take up his song of love in every moment.***

***In every moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;  
lay them down, in love, lay them down, and take up his song.***

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

**Greeting at the door** is Barb Shea

**Coffee Hosts** are Joyce Hilling and Dianne Theurekauf

### Scriptures for Next Sunday

Numbers 21:4-9 • Ephesians 2:1-10 • John 3:14-21

## **Support Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel**

After more than 100 days of conflict, a permanent ceasefire is essential to allow for the flow and safe delivery of critical humanitarian relief into Gaza. Mission and Service partners are responding to those impacted by the conflict in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. They are prepared to rapidly expand their activity and provide aid into Gaza when a safe humanitarian corridor is opened. There is an urgent need for food, non-food items such as medicines, psychosocial support, and shelter.

The United Church is working with Mission and Service partners ACT Alliance and Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR). As a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, we are also working with Foodgrains Bank partners on the ground to offer lifesaving support to Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and Gaza.

### **What can you do?**

***Pray-*** Pray for peace with justice for the people of Palestine and Israel. As people of faith, we bring the grief, compassion and concerns of a hurting world to God.

***Donate-*** Donate to the United Church (Emergency Appeal- Middle East) at [united-church.ca](https://united-church.ca), the Canadians Foodgrainsbank at [foodgrainsbank.ca](https://foodgrainsbank.ca) or one of the other humanitarian agencies working in the area.

***Advocate-*** Write your MP about the issue. The United Church of Canada urges Canada to demonstrate its respect for the January 26, 2024 ruling of the International Court of Justice, and do everything in its power to prevent acts of genocide and avoid complicity in any such acts, by:  
-using every means at its disposal to urge Israel to comply with the ICJ's provisional measures; and,  
-end any Canadian complicity in acts of genocide in Gaza by halting all arms trade with Israel.

For a suggested letter and more information  
on how to donate as well as prayer resources please go to  
<https://united-church.ca/>  
and click on "Support Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel"

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

**Tuesday, March 5**

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

**Thursday, March 7**

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

**The Tax Receipts for 2023 donations** which weren't picked up have been mailed out. If you don't have yours and it doesn't arrive in the next week or so please call the church office 902-863-2001.

**Connections Newsletter is now inviting submissions** for the Spring 2023 edition. Personal reflections, poems, pictures and other expressions of the life and work of St James and its members are welcome, as well as book reviews and celebratory notices. Submissions can be emailed to [stjamesconnections@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesconnections@gmail.com) or dropped off at the office by noon on *Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup>*. For inspiration, check out back issues at: [www.stjamesuc.com/connections-newsletter](http://www.stjamesuc.com/connections-newsletter)

## UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

**Sunday, March 10.**

11:30 am There is a UCW meeting immediately after service in the meeting room.

**Tuesday, March 12**

4:00 pm Finance and Stewardship in the Meeting Room  
7:00 pm Worship Committee via Zoom

**Wednesday, March 13**

10:00 am United Church worship at the Maples

**Sunday, March 17**

11:30 am Outreach and Communication gathers in the Meeting Room

**Tuesday April 16- Saturday April 20**

We're having our pictures taken! This spring the congregation is having Universal Portrait Studies come to take pictures in our congregation. If you have your picture taken by them you'll get a complimentary photo directory of our church family. More details to follow.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage: A Via Dolorosa of Solidarity**

This Lent, Christians (and all who want to take part) in over 80 cities in 12 countries will be walking in prayerful solidarity with the people of Gaza. Each step is an act of prayer for the lives lost (both Palestinian and Israeli) and for the path to peace to be chosen. Antigonish will be taking part in this global movement.

Over two days (Saturdays, March 2 and 9 starting at 10 am), we will walk 36 kilometres, which is the distance from Gaza City to Rafah. Starting and ending at the Antigonish Mall. If you would like to walk all or part of this, and want more information, please go to Antigonish4Gaza's facebook page or send an email to [savmaat@yahoo.ca](mailto:savmaat@yahoo.ca). If you would like to volunteer as a support car driver or co-pilot, to lead one of the walks, help with event promotion, or in other ways, please send an email to Natasha at [btgarrison@hotmail.com](mailto:btgarrison@hotmail.com). For more information about the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage, please visit their webpage: <https://www.gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com/>

**March 8th is International Women's Day.** Canada's theme for 2024 is "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress". A call to action and a reminder that gender equality is one of the most effective ways to build healthier, more prosperous, and more inclusive communities. Some events sponsored by the Antigonish Women's Centre include: Monday, March 4th – Info Table at StFX; Thursday, March 7th – Free Taco Lunch from 1100 > 1400 at the People's Place Library and Friday, March 8th – Open House at the Women's Centre from 1100 > 1400 (coffee, tea & snacks). It's time to act – because women's success is everyone's success.

