



Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy), Carolyn Curry (Organist)  
 May MacKenzie (CE Dir), Chad Brazier (Custodian)  
 Barb Shea (Secretary) [office@stjamesuc.com](mailto:office@stjamesuc.com)  
 197 Main St, P.O. Box 1178, Antigonish, NS B2G 2L6  
 (902) 863-2001 [www.stjamesuc.com](http://www.stjamesuc.com)

**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 31, 2024- Easter Sunday

### GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Easter Selections* Brass United  
 Introit: *Morning Has Broken* (Arr Mortimer) Brass United  
 Gospel Lesson: Mark 16:1-8  
 Easter response: (32 MV Hallelujah!)  
*Halle, hallelujah, halle, hellelu, halle, hal-le-le-lu-jah. Hallelujah!*  
***Halle, hallelujah, halle, hellelu, halle, hal-le-le-lu-jah. Hallelujah!***

Welcome and Announcements  
 Call to Worship (responsive)  
 Hope is alive... **a new age is dawning**  
 Joy is alive... **redemption is here**  
 Love is alive... **death can not harm us**  
 We are alive... **for Christ has risen! Alleluia!**

Prayer of Approach (together)  
**Eternal God, we come this morning  
 with thanksgiving on our lips and in our hearts,  
 for this day we rejoice that despair has given way to hope;  
 that defeat has given way to victory;  
 and that death has given way to life.  
 For this day the tomb is empty,  
 Christ's life has become our life;  
 and creation has been renewed, Amen.**

Hymn: 155 VU *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*  
 Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 175 VU *This is the Day that God has Made*

### GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 118:1-24 (p. 837 VU Parts 2 and 3)  
 First Lesson: Isaiah 25:6-9 Doug Hunter  
 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15 :1-11 Sally van de Wiel  
 Anthem *Alleluia, Praise His Name* (Ruth Elaine Schram) Choir  
 Sermon "Rolling the Stone Away"

### GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 179 VU *Hallelujah, Hallelujah*  
 Offering *Easter Wings* (Herbert/Armbrust) Brass United  
 Offertory Response (544 VU In Gratitude and Humble Trust)  
***In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today  
 to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.  
 O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.***

Easter Prayer (see back of bulletin)  
 Hymn: 173 VU *Thine is the Glory*  
 Commissioning and Benediction  
 Choral Benediction: (974 VU Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!)  
***Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!***  
***Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!***

Postlude *He Lives* (Ackley) Brass United

**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.

**Thanks to everyone** who shared their gifts of music this Holy Week and Easter. Special thanks to Brass United who are playing this day:  
 Brent MacQuarrie Trumpet Darien Dewolf Horn  
 Aaron Bannerman Trumpet David Prince Tuba  
 Fred Davison Trombone

**Greeting at the door** are the Penners- Ken, Linda, Matthew and Alex  
**Coffee Hosts** are Tim Hinds and Michèle Ashby

### Scriptures for Next Sunday

Acts 4:32-35 • 1 John 1:1-2:2 • John 20:19-31

Easter Prayer (responsive)

O Christ, by your resurrection  
you broke the power of sin and death  
and begin a new creation.

**Keep us victorious over sin.**

By your resurrection  
you shattered the power of the grave,  
and brought us from death to life.

**Guide us in the way of eternal life.**

By your resurrection  
you confounded your guards and executioners,  
and filled the disciples with joy.

**Give us joy in your service.**

By your resurrection  
you proclaimed good news to the women and apostles,  
and brought the hope of God to the whole world.

**Direct our lives as your new creation.**

By your resurrection  
you invite us to new life in this world

**Bless us with your presence and your grace  
for we are yours now and always, Amen.**

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

**Tuesday, April 2**

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

**Thursday, April 4**

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

**The Easter selections in the prelude this morning are:** *Christus Resurgens* (Izawa), *Easter Medley* (Frackenhohl) *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth* (Handel/Gale)

**The Spring issue of Connections** is available at the door. Thanks to all the contributors who submitted stories and photos. As you pick one up please consider taking an extra copy to pass along to a neighbour or friend who may not be here this morning

**Are you interested in Confirmation? Joining the church?** We have some people interested in confirmation this year and hope to start classes after church mid-April. If you are interested or want more information please speak to Rev. Peter.

**Youth@Region** May 10-12, 2024 ~ Dalhousie Agricultural Campus (Truro, NS) What is YOUTH@REGION? Y@R is a place of community and a place of faith where United Church youth, between grade 6 and grade 12, meet from across Nova Scotia and Bermuda. It takes place during the Annual Meeting of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council (BNS), which is a gathering of representatives who make decisions and set policies for the United Church of Canada. The group creates an inclusive, diverse and safe community for youth in the name of Christ. Youth@Region provides a place for youth to explore their faith and to learn more about the United Church of Canada while sharing in music, worship and fun in a spirit-filled community. Are you interested in attending this year? Speak to Rev. Peter or May Mackenzie.

**We're having our pictures taken!** This spring the congregation is having Universal Portrait Studies come in late April to take pictures in our congregation and create a photo directory. Have you already made

your appointment? If not you can sign up after church next Sunday or by calling the office at 902-863-2001.

Your Social justice Committee notes that 4 April is both the **International Day for Mine Awareness & Action** and **National Refugee Rights Day**. The former aims to provide a world free of landmines and explosive remnants of war, and to help individuals and communities survive in a safe environment where the needs of the victims are taken care of. The latter's theme is "Compassion", and the hope is to create a world where everyone can be more connected by being compassionate toward others. In 2022 NS led Atlantic Canada by accepting 1,370 refugees. Could we do better?

**The Antigonish Community Fridge & Pantry** would like to thank the congregation of St. James United Church for their continuing support. Income, housing, and food insecurity is very real in our area, and every donation of food or household products goes to an individual or a family that desperately needs your help. This organization would not be able to do the work it does if it weren't for your kindness.

## UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

**Sunday, April 7**

11:30 am There will be a meeting of the Social Justice Committee after the service This will be to discuss our mandate and plan for our annual Earth Day Celebration. The meeting is open to all current members and anyone else interested in social justice issues. Please feel free to join us!

11:30 am We're having our pictures taken for a new photo directory! If you haven't already signed up please come to coffee hour and learn more!

11:40 am The Youth Choir, under the direction of Carolyn Curry, will participate in service on Sunday, May 5. Practices will be held on Sundays from 11:40 AM to 12:30 PM from April 7th to 28th. All community youth age 9 and up are welcome to attend. Please see Claire MacDonell or Carolyn for more information.

**Wednesday, April 10**

10:00 am United Church worship at the Maples  
11:00 am United Church worship at the RK MacDonald Nursing Home

