



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

April 14, 2024- Third Sunday of Easter

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Das alte Jahr vergangen ist* (Walther)

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (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!

Call to Worship (responsive)

We are witnesses,

to the love God has poured into us.

We are witnesses of God's love,

sharing it with each person we meet.

We are witnesses to everyone we encounter,

for we are all part of God's family.

Prayer of Approach (together)

God, alive and among us this day,

to you no door is closed,

to you no heart is locked;

draw us beyond our doubts and fears,

till we see the risen Christ

and say in our hearts, "We believe." Amen.

Hymn: 169 VU *Good Christian's All Rejoice and Sing*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 356 VU *Seek Ye First*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 149 (p. 873 VU)

First Lesson: Acts 3:12-19

Catriona Parsons

Epistle: 1 John 3:1-7

Wallace Polson

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

Anthem *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You* (Jay Althouse)

Sermon "Letting Go of Fear"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 186 VU *Now the Green Blade Rises*

Minute for Mission

Shaun Scott

Offering

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.

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 165 VU *Come, You Faithful Raise the Strain*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction: (974 VU Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!)

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Postlude *In dulci jubilo* (Bach)

A warm welcome to everyone 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.

Our prayers are with the fishing fleet who will soon be heading out for this season. May it be a safe season for all who head out onto the waters to provide for their families and our communities. The Blessing of the Boats is next Sunday (April 21) starting at 12 noon at Cribbon's Point.

Greeting at the door is Wallace Polson

Coffee Hosts are Debbie MacDougall and Jessie Detweiller



Partners in Palestine and Israel cry out for an end to the decades-long occupation of Palestine and blockade of Gaza. We seek to be in solidarity. It is now more than six months since the terrorist attack by Hamas on Israel on October 7, 2023. In the bombardment by Israel, millions of Gazans are starving, displaced, killed and imprisoned, crowded into a small area, and currently under threat of further warfare.

The Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage held during Lent continues. It has been expanded into April and May among churches in Canada, including an ecumenical pilgrimage and prayer vigil on May 22 in Ottawa. The road to justice can be lonely, but it doesn't have to be.

Join with others in Canada and globally, in prayerful solidarity.

-Join a pilgrimage in your area.

-Host a local pilgrimage.

One kilometre at a time. All of us together.

Karos is committing to this pilgrimage, and we're asking for your support with your feet or wheels, your voices, and some of your time. Please watch for more resources coming your way, but also plan to spend some time to pray and advocate for Palestine. Move in solidarity with the people of Palestine and Israel and with partners in Palestine and Israel. Please go to the KAIROS Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage page (link is below) to record your kilometres. Other actions can also be found on this page, including holding a prayer vigil at your MP's office, joining a week of action May 15–22, and wearing white and taking a photo to share with KAIROS and on social media.

<https://www.kairoscanada.org/gaza-ceasefire-pilgrimage>

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, April 14

- 11:30 am Confirmation Classes in the Parlour.
- 11:30 am Sign up for the Photo directory during coffee hour!
- 11:40 am The Youth Choir practices 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 or Carolyn for more information.

Tuesday, April 16

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

Thursday, April 18

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

Please support the Food Pantry! Our Advent Food Drive was a big success. Can we duplicate the achievement during the Easter Season? The need is still urgent. For the 4th Sunday of the Easter Season could you bring in some soup or beans? It would be greatly appreciated!

We're having our pictures taken! The congregation is having Universal Portrait Studies come next week to take pictures and create a photo directory. Have you already made your appointment? If not you can sign up after church this Sunday or by calling the office at 902-863-2001.

The Spring issue of Connections is available at the door and online. 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.

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Saturday, June 1, 2024. Save the Date! Plans are already underway for the Stump Frolic. The event will happen rain or shine and lots of activities and fun will happen that day!

With the upcoming high school graduation season approaching we would like to honour those who will earn their high school diplomas this year. If you know anyone from this year's graduating class connected to St. James, please forward their names to the church by *June 17 th*. Recognition of the graduates will be held on June 23th.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAQTNKEK POWWOW 2024 - APRIL 13th/14th. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend the Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nations contest powwow this weekend. It's being held at The Keating Centre, StFX University in Nalikitquniejk, Eskikewa'kik Mikmaw District. Come out and support our First Nations neighbours. There will be colourful dancing, drumming, singing and goods for sale. See you there!

The Antigonish Bicycle Project is “gearing up” for another busy season of recovering, repairing, and rehoming bicycles within the community. Chad Brazier and Sarah Armstrong collect donated bicycles, repair them, and rehome them with newcomers, students and low-income community members. Bicycles can be dropped off in the parking lot of Candid Brewery (88 College St) on Friday, April 19th between 4pm and 8pm, and on Saturday, April 20th between 2pm and 6pm. For more information call Chad or Sarah at 902-735-2336 (landline with voicemail). This project is entirely community-funded and volunteer-run.

Sunday April 28 from 9-12 Antigonish Lions Pancake and Sausage Breakfast proceeds will go to Antigonish Challenger Baseball.

Did you know? The Antigonish Community Fridge and Pantry is a place where people give what they can and take what they need. It is a community-organized and run initiative of the “Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty”. Volunteers regularly stock shelves and hold “soup gatherings” at two locations: the People’s Place Library and outside the Farmers’ Market. But we can donate right here at St James where another willing volunteer will transport your donation for you! Thanks for your generous donations throughout the harsh winter months. Please continue to support this worthy project if you can.

Scriptures for Next Sunday

Isaiah 32:16-20 • Ezekiel 34:25-30 • Luke 24:36b-48

