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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)*

April 7, 2024- Second Sunday of Easter

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

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 may come with the certainty of the apostle Paul;

we may come with the joy of the follower Mary Magdalene;

we may come with the doubts of the disciple Thomas,

but whatever the state of our faith,

we know we are welcomed by the living God and the risen Christ.

Prayer of Approach (responsive)

God, you call us to be humble, gentle, and patient,

bearing with one another in love.

Help us to consider what this means in our own lives.

God, you call us to be witnesses to the resurrection.

Help us to consider what this means in our own lives.

God, you call us to be signs of your grace and examples of your love.

Help us to consider what this means in our own lives.

God, you call us to be your people, freely sharing your mercy and joy,

so we come this day trusting in your great love

for each and every one of us, Amen.

Hymn: 352 VU *I Danced in the Morning*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 412 VU *This is the Day*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 111 (p. 833 VU)

First Lesson: Acts 4:32-35

Maggie Mae MacDonell

Epistle: 1 John 1:1-2:2

Claire MacDonnell

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Anthem *Christ is Risen, As He Said* (John Carter)

Choir

Sermon "Seeing the Nail Marks"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 187 VU *The Spring has Come*

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: 158 VU *Christ is Alive*

Commissioning and Benediction

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

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Postlude

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.

Greeting at the door is Joan MacGillivray

Coffee Hosts are Glenna Quinn and Dianne Theurekauf

Scriptures for Next Sunday

Acts 3:12-19 • 1 John 3:1-7 • Luke 24:36b-48

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, April 7

- 11:30 am Social Justice Committee in the Meeting Room. This is a meeting to plan the Earth Day Service. Everyone is welcome.
- 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 9

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

Wednesday, April 10

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

Thursday, April 11

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

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.

Are you interested in Confirmation? Joining the church? We have some people interested in confirmation this year and hope to start classes after church on April 14th. If you are interested or want more information please speak to Rev. Peter.

How can you help support the life and work at St. James? If you are worshipping in person there are the offering boxes at the doors for your donation. Envelopes can also be dropped off at the office (or in the mail slot after hours) or mailed to “St James United Church, P. O. Box 1178 Antigonish, NS B2G 2L6.” Online donations via credit card can be made

by clicking on the “Donate” button at www.stjamesuc.com and interac e-transfers can be sent to eft@stjamesuc.com.

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 this Sunday or by calling the office at 902-863-2001.

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.

Today is **World Health Day!** Around the world, the right to health for millions is increasingly coming under threat. Diseases and disasters loom large as causes of death and disability. Conflicts are devastating lives, causing death, pain, hunger and psychological distress – just think of the situations in Palestine, Ukraine, Haiti, Sudan, Yemen and other areas of conflict and drought. At least 4.5 billion people – more than half of the world’s population – are not covered by essential health services. The theme for 2024 “My health, my right” was chosen to champion the right of everyone, everywhere, to access quality health services, education, and information, as well as safe drinking water, clean air, good nutrition, quality housing, decent working and environmental conditions, and freedom from discrimination.

Interested in having the weekly sermon delivered to your inbox? Just send a message to weekly.sermons@stjamesuc.com or the church office asking to join the mailing list.

St James' Prayer Circle is a small group of folks who believe in the power of prayer. We are happy to pray for individuals and situations upon request. If you'd like to join us or if you would like to bring forward a prayer request, please speak to Michèle Ashby after church or call her at 232-3473. All matters are kept strictly confidential.

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!

The United Church is turning 100! Join us for a worship service to kick-off a year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada. The 100th Anniversary kick-off service will be held at Metropolitan United Church in Toronto. It will also be livestreamed. Save the date: June 9, 2024, 4:00 p.m. EDT - Watch for more details.

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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The film "Call of the Forest" with biologist Diana Beresford-Kroeger will be shown today at 1:30 April 7, 2024 at the People's Place Library. In partnership with the Antigonish Climate Action Hub, it's a free presentation! "Call of the Forest, the Forgotten Wisdom of Trees" is a documentary that follows Diana as she investigates our profound biological and spiritual connection to forests. Her global journey explores the science, folklore and restoration challenges of this essential eco-system.

Tuesday, April 9th at 7:30 pm Antigonish Choral Ensemble Spring Concert at St. James United Church. Admission by donation: \$20/person suggested. Doors open no earlier than 7:00 pm Janice Alcorn, Director Amy Hendricks, Piano With Special Guests: The Rose String Quartet Thaddeus Mordon, Cellist and The Blue Skies Jazz Trio

