



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 21, 2024- Earth Sunday

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *For the Beauty of the Earth* (Kocher/Pierpoint) feat.
 Alistair Hamilton

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- from Psalm 96:9,11)

Let us worship the Maker of the heavens and the earth;

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

let the sea roar, and all the fills it;

let our voices join with all creation in praising God.

Prayer of Approach (together)

**God who crafted the sea, the sky, and the land,
 we thank you for the beautiful creation
 you have given us for our home.**

**Help us to respect all of the earth's creatures
 and to use the earth's resources wisely.**

**Help us also to respect each other
 as we follow in the way of Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Hymn: 296 VU *This is God's Wondrous World*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 37 MV *Each Blade Of Grass*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Prayer for Earth Sunday

Michèle Ashby

Responsive Reading: Psalm 95:1-7 (p.814 VU)

Meditation: "The Environment and Faith"

Joan MacGillivray

First Lesson: Isaiah 32:16-20

Meditation: "The Environment and Housing"

Christine Briand

Epistle: Ezekiel 34:25-30

Meditation: "The Environment and Peace"

Hope Graham

Anthem: *Blue Green Hills of Earth*

Choir

Gospel: Matthew 7:24-27

Meditation: "Partners in Creation"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 174 MV *Soil of God, You and I*

Minute for Social Justice (Anne Camozzi)

Michèle Ashby

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 (see back of bulletin)

Hymn: 293 VU *We Praise You, Creator, in Earth, Sea, and Sky*

Commissioning and Benediction

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

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Postlude *Called by Earth and Sky*

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 and Christine Briand

Coffee Hosts are Ken and Linda MacDougall Penner

Scriptures for Next Sunday

Acts 5:1-12 • 1 John 4:7-21 • John 15:1-8

Earth Day Prayer for Creation

Blessings on the rain, the rivers, the lakes, the oceans, all sacred water,

Without water, we can not live

Blessings on the sun, the great star in the sky that gives us all life,

Without the sun, we can not live.

Blessings on the soil, the fungi, the trees, the plants,
that feed us and clean our air,

Without the green earth, we can not live.

Blessings on all the creatures of the land and sea,

the big and small, the rare and common,

we especially bless the insects who pollinate,

Without them, we can not live.

Blessings on all the peoples of the Earth that we may live in peace and
harmony for this too will help the earth.

Without peace, we can not live.

God who has created and is creating

bless us all this Earth Day and help guide us

**to better and more respectful ways of living in our home,
your creation, Amen.**



THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, April 21

- 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.
- 12:00 pm 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 this Sunday (April 21) starting at 12 noon at Cribbon's Point.

Tuesday, April 23

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

Thursday, April 25

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

Earth Day's theme in 2024 is Planet vs Plastic Please consider signing this petition asking the UN and governmental organizations to reduce plastic use at: action.earthday.org/global-plastics-treaty.

“Walking in Creation, I am filled with a love for all that surrounds me... This abundant life is hurt and threatened by our greenhouse gas emissions and consequent warming of the planet. Livelihoods around the world are being disrupted. We need to summon a fierce love and act together. During Earth Week, April 21–28, let's show up For the Love of Creation.”

- UCC Moderator the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne

In addition to celebrating Earth Day on April 22 nd , please note that the 24 th is **World Immunization Day**. Immunization is a global success story, saving millions of lives annually. When you get a vaccine, your immune system responds. We can prevent more than 20 life-threatening diseases, (more than 3.5 – 5 million deaths), from diseases like diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza and measles.

Immunization is one of the best health investments money can buy! And the 25 th is **World Malaria Day**. The World Health Organization states that in 2022, there were 249 million malaria cases and 608,000 malaria deaths in 85 countries. But Africa carries a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden – 94% of cases (233 million) and 95% (580,000) of deaths. Children under 5 accounted for about 80% of all malaria deaths.

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Easter Food Drive – for the 5th Sunday in Easter, please consider donating some cereals and/or other breakfast fare (spreads, jams, syrup).

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!

St James UCW Bursary Interested applicants should submit a letter to St James United Church directly. The letter should indicate the applicant's connection to St James and their plans for the upcoming academic year (community college, university, etc.). Preference will be given to confirmed members of St James United Church. It should also be noted that this is not a scholarship nor an award of merit, however applicants may choose to include any information that they think might be relevant to the selection committee. Application deadline is *June 16th*. Submit applications to office@stjamesuc.com or mailed to St. James United Church, P.O. Box 1178 Antigonish NS B2G 2L6.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Roots of Hope Traumatic Loss Program for anyone who has experience profound loss of loved one due to suicide or traumatic death. Tuesdays May 7- June 25 6- 8 pm East Coast Community Corner 257 Main Street 902 564-6795 to register or info@bereavedfamiliesns.ca

The Antigonish Town and County Library offers assistance with accessing Virtual Care. If you do not have a Family Practitioner, our Virtual Health Navigator can help you access health care in a private setting within our library. Please call 863-4276 for an appointment or more information.