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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)*

September 8, 2024- Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit (222 VU Come, Let Us Sing)

*Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.*

Call to Worship (responsive)

Open your eyes -

To the wonder of God's grace which fills the world.

Open your ears -

To the word of God sharing the good news about Jesus.

Open your mouths -

To celebrate and rejoice in the goodness of God.

Prayer of Approach (together)

**We come, Holy God, to be instructed by your Word,
to be inspired by the example of Jesus Christ,
and to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit,
so we may become the kind of people you call us to be-
sharing your grace and your love with the world, Amen.**

Hymn: 223 VU *Eternal Unchanging*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 703 VU *In the Bulb*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 146 (VU p.865)

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Epistle: James 2:1-10, 14-17

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

Anthem *Panis Angelicus*

Sermon "An Outsider's View of Salvation"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 326 VU *O For A Thousand Tongues*

Minute for Mission

Shaun Scott

Offering (537 VU Your Work, O God)

*Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere
and some there are who cannot serve, unless our gifts we share.
Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make;
Be please to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.*

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 226 VU *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (222 VU Come, Let Us Sing)

*Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow*

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.

Thanks to Amy Hendricks and Rebecca Wild who are sharing their gifts of music in our service this morning.

Scripture for Next Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a • James 3:1-12 • Mark 8:27-38

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, September 8

10:30 am Children's Worship program resumes

Tuesday, September 10

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program

3:00 pm Meditation Group resumes in the Parlour Contact Fran for more information 902 870-1198.

4:00 pm Finance and Stewardship in the Meeting Room.

Wednesday, September 11

11:00 am United Church Worship at RK MacDonald Nursing Home

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

Thursday, September 12

10:00 am United Church worship at the Maples

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program

7:00 pm Choir practise resumes.

The Community Fridge and Pantry wishes to thank the congregation of St. James United Church for your ongoing support through the summer months. Food scarcity is a year-round problem for many people in our area, and your generosity does not go unnoticed.

The autumn issue of Connections is in need of articles. Because this is the time of year when people are returning from vacations and summer events, I'm pretty sure that many of you have things to share. Would you consider putting your thoughts into words and emailing them to Brenda Rose at brendaannerose@gmail.com If you don't have access to a computer, drop your typed or hand-written articles off at the church office and Brenda will type them out for you. The deadline for submissions is Saturday Sept. 21st.

St James is a busy and active church not just on Sunday but through the week. As well as our church community there are exercise groups, girls guides, AA and other regular users of our building. So if you have a group or committee that is looking to meet please remember to contact the office to reserve your space.

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 9 – 12 There will be a **Fall Yard Sale at St. James** This would be a good time to clean out those things that you no longer have a use for. Items can be dropped off at the church using the back door from Sept. 16th – Sept. 19th from 9am to 12 noon. Please, no clothing, computers, printers, keyboards or older style TV's.

Your Social Justice Collective asks you to mark **International Literacy Day** on 8 September. This year's theme is: "Promoting multilingual education: Literacy for mutual understanding and peace." 10 September is **World Suicide Prevention Day**. The triennial theme for 2024-2026 is "Changing the Narrative on Suicide" with the call to action "Start the Conversation". This aims to raise awareness about the importance of reducing stigma and encouraging open conversations to prevent suicides. At 11:30 am that day there will be a free on line event sponsored by the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention featuring special guest, Dr. Mark Sinyor, a psychiatrist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto - more information is available on the CASP website.

Did you know? There is no minimum or maximum amount for your PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) contribution to St. James. Simply designate the offering you normally give to the congregation and once a month on a designated date the money moves from your account to the church's. Interested in learning more? Speak with Pamela Cunningham or drop by the church office.

The Spiritual Enrichment Fund provides financial support to individuals and/or families at St. James who wish to attend church sponsored events. The aim of this fund is to allow more involvement and interest in enriching our faith by providing access to experiences and resources which otherwise might not be accessible. Interested in taking in a workshop at Tatamagouche Center, an event offered by our Region, or a course you have seen in the bulletin but the cost is making you hesitate? Ask for an application form from the church office and see if the Spiritual Enrichment Fund might be able to help!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Breaking the Silence Guatemala is an "Artist Spotlight" in the upcoming "Antigonight 2024 Festival". Youth artists in both Guatemala and Antigonish have been working hard on this BTS project. Watch for it on Sat, 14 Sep! BTS is a voluntary network of people in the Maritimes who began to organize in 1988 to support the efforts of Guatemalans struggling for political, social, and economic justice.

Join a group of pilgrims walking from Pomquet Beach to Lower South River on Saturday, September 14th, then from Lower South River to the Cathedral on Sunday, September 15th in time for the 10:30am Eucharist, which closes the 150th anniversary of St Ninian's Cathedral. This is an ecumenical pilgrimage organised by Dr. Matthew Anderson, pilgrimage scholar at StFX and author of The Good Walk. Anyone interested (and able to walk approx. 23 km over two days), email manderso@stfx.ca to register. Registration closes Wed. For full info see: <https://somethinggrand.ca/2024/08/29/a-nova-scotia-ninian-walk/>

Cape George Hiking Trail Committee thanks you for your contribution to the successful hike a thon held on August 24, We thank the workers, those who collected pledges, gave donations, the parents with their children,(great turn out). those who donated food .and all who hiked. The free advertisements , the bulletins . everyone who supported us in so many ways. A great contribution and help towards keeping our trails safe. What a successful and fun day! Thank you all.

Who is Jesus? For some, he's a teacher or moral guide, for others he is Lord and personal Saviour. The Rev. Dr. Heather McCance, President at AST, will lead a course this fall to help participants think about who Jesus was, who the Church tells us Jesus is, and who is Jesus for them. Sessions are Tuesday evenings from September 17 through October 22 from 7:30 through 9:00 pm via Zoom. The cost is \$70 plus service fee. Everyone is welcome to participate in this open learning course. No prior learning is required! Participants should have access to the book Freeing Jesus by Diana Butler Bass, who will be visiting AST in the spring. Watch for details on that! To register please visit the AST website or find the link through the St. James website.

