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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 15, 2024- Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

### **GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER**

Prelude *Variations from Organ Concerto (Handel)*

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)

In our world there is so much busyness.

**It is good to come aside and seek quietness.**

In our world there is so much conflict.

**It is good to come aside and seek peace.**

In our world there is so much uncertainty.

**It is good to come aside and seek God's presence.**

Prayer of Approach (together)

**Holy God, as we gather before you  
encircle us with your love.**

**Bless us with your sustaining presence  
and surround us with your grace.**

**Draw us to your living Word,  
and bind us to one another as followers of Jesus. Amen.**

Hymn: 409 VU *Morning Has Broken*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 585 VU *Jesus Bids us Shine*

### **GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 19 (p. 740 VU)

First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Christine Morrison

Epistle: James 3:1-12

Kit Bascug

Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

Anthem *Come Now and Follow Me* (Nancy Price & Don Besig)

Sermon "Jesus the Messiah"

### **GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND**

Hymn: 567 VU *Will You Come and Follow Me?*

Minute for Social Justice

Linda Darwish

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: 562 VU *Jesus Calls Us*

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 *Be Thou My Vision*

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**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** this morning is Christine Briand

**Coffee Hosts** this morning are Barb Gardiner and Sheryl Chapman

### **Scripture for Next Sunday**

Jeremiah 11:18-20 • James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a • Mark 9:30-37

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

**Sunday, September 15**

11:30 am Worship Committee in the Parlour.

**Tuesday, September 17**

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program

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

7:00 pm Church Council in the Meeting Room

**Thursday, September 12**

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program

7:00 pm Choir practise

**The prayers and Christian sympathy** of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of *Ilene Farrell* who died on September 6<sup>th</sup> at the R.K. MacDonald Nursing Home. Ilene will be buried on September 29<sup>th</sup> in Goldboro. Please keep her children Eugene, Alan (Patsy), Terry (Stephanie) and Elaine (Phil) as well as her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and extended family in your thoughts and prayers.

**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](mailto: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. 21<sup>st</sup>.

**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.

Today is **International Democracy Day**. The theme for 2024 is "Empowering the Next Generation". It emphasizes the importance of youth involvement in the advancement of democracy. Young people have an essential role in advancing democracy and ensuring that their voices are included in the decisions that have a profound impact on their

world. They are the current and future custodians of democracy. Sept 21<sup>st</sup> is the **International Day of Prayer for Peace**. We unite to pray for peace and justice in our community, our country and throughout the world.

## 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. 16<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12 noon. Please, no clothing, computers, printers, keyboards or older style TV's.

**St James' Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up** is happening! It is scheduled for 4:30, Wednesday, 25 September. Anyone 16 years and older is invited to join in. We will meet at the parking lot in Nova Landing across from Cleve's Sports Store, near our area, Hwy 7 and 104 – Exit 32. All equipment supplied. All you need is comfortable clothing appropriate to the weather, work gloves and waterproof footwear. Note tickets are active – plan to stay covered up! This should only take about two hours, beautifies our community and improves the environment. Treats and swag provided! Please talk to Michèle Ashby after the service or call her at 232-3473, if you are able to assist and have not already indicated your interest. Thanks!

**The Social Justice Collective** invites you to two hours of learning about the history of Palestine and Israel prior to and leading up to the start of the present hostilities and devastation on Gaza that began nearly one year ago. Called "the Palestine Land Exercise," the program is modeled on the KAIROS Blanket Exercise created to bring experiential knowledge to that history. Similarly, the PLE is an educational play in which the audience takes on the role of Palestinians to experience historical events and personal stories dating back to the late 19th century. There is no charge, but due to space limitations in the play, prior registration is required. You may register by sending your name to [jpwg2023@gmail.com](mailto:jpwg2023@gmail.com) ((Subject: for the PLE in Antigonish). The event is also a fundraiser to help a Canadian-Palestinian (Najlaa Alzaanin) bring her family, displaced multiple times, from Gaza to Nova Scotia. Date: Oct. 6. Lunch is offered from 12:00-12:30. The play runs from 12:30 to 2:30, followed by a five-minute presentation from Najlaa.

**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.

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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.

**The Highland Quilt Guild** of Antigonish presents "Stitched from the Heart 2024 Quilt Show" at St. James United Church on Friday September 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 am until 6pm and Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 4pm. Admission is \$5 and there is a silent auction and small handmade items for sale.

**The 14th annual Blessing of the Pets** Service will be held on Saturday, October 5th at 2:00 in the Garden of St Theresa on the former Bethany grounds. This beautiful service will be attended by clergy of various denominations, many lovely pets and happy pet owners. All are welcome! Pets must be leashed or crated. In case of inclement weather, the service will move to the hall at St James United Church – please use the back entrance.

