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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)*

October 6, 2024- Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *God is Here* (William Rowlands)

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.***

Hymn: 1 MV *Let Us Build A House*

Call to Worship (responsive)

This is the time for us to gather in worship,
so let us be thoughtful,
let us be reverent,
let us be honest,
and let us be receptive to the Spirit of God.

Prayer of Approach (together)

**Open our eyes, Lord, to the wonder of your created world.
Open our souls to your presence in word and sacrament.
Open our wills to the influence of the Holy Spirit to do what is right.
Open our minds to new truth hidden in your word.
Open our souls to the reality of your saving grace and mercy, Amen.**

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 37 MV *Each Blade of Grass*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 8 (p. 732 VU)

First Lesson: Genesis 2:18-23

Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Gospel: Mark 10:13-16

Anthem: *We Praise You, O God*

Sermon "Blessing the Children"

Nancy Kotanen

Linda Darwish

Alistair Hamilton

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 126 MV *Are You A Shepherd*

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 pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.***

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 194 MV *Bread of Life, Feed My Soul*

Celebration of Holy Communion (see insert)

Panis Angelicus (Cesar Franck)

Alistair Hamilton

Hymn: 209 MV *Go Make A Difference*

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: *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (George Job Elvey)

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.

Coffee Hosts this morning are Glenna Quinn and Diane Theurekauf

Scripture for Next Sunday

Joel 2:21-27 • 1 Timothy 2:1-7 • Matthew 6:25-33

Anniversary Hymn Sing

This year marks the 220th Anniversary for St. James as a congregation. In celebration of that milestone, we're having an Anniversary Hymn Sing on Sunday, October 27th at 7:00 pm.

We've picked some beloved and favorite hymns that we're going to be singing that night. If you wish to make a donation in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a milestone or special event we'll make sure those dedications are part of our service as we gather to remember the good people who have been part of our lives and part of St. James.

Donations for the Anniversary Hymn Sing can be put in the offering boxes with this form, sent via EFT (eft@stjamesuc.com) or via our Canada Helps Page (please make the memorial donation information in the comments in electronic donations).

Together we have much to celebrate and many reasons to give thanks to God!

Congregational Hymns for the Anniversary Hymn Sing

1. Amazing Grace
2. Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
3. Here I Am Lord
4. How Great Thou Art
5. Open My Eyes
6. Precious Lord, Take My Hand
7. What a Friend We Have in Jesus
8. Will Your Anchor Hold

I am making this donation (circle one) *in memory of* *in celebration of*

Your name and address (or envelope number)

Thank You!

The prayers and Christian sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of *Allister Herbert Smith* who died earlier this week. His funeral was last Friday at St. James. Please keep his all of his family in your thoughts and prayers.

The congratulations and best wishes of the congregation are extended to *Trina Robar* and *Kevin Cameron* who were married yesterday at St. James. May God bless them as they begin this new part of their life together.

Are you interested in decorating a window for Thanksgiving Sunday? The Worship Committee is looking for individuals and families to add to our Thanksgiving celebration. The sign up sheet is at the front door!

The latest issue of Connections is at the door and online at www.stjamesuc.com/connections. Thanks to all the contributors and to Brenda Rose for editing the issue.

The United Church bookstore is taking pre-orders for the 2025 United Church Calendars. The cost is \$10.00 per calendar. There are limited supplies so order early. Contact christine@betterbodiesbymassage.ca or 902-714-9463 if you would like to order.

Thanks everyone for your participation in the successful yard sale on September 21st

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, October 8

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program
3:00 pm Meditation Group resumes in the Parlour Contact Fran for more information 902 870-1198.

Wednesday, October 11

11:00 am Worship at the RK MacDonald

Thursday, October 10

10:00 am Worship at the Maples
11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program
7:00 pm Choir practice

Celebration of Holy Communion on Worldwide Communion Sunday

St. James United Church, October 6, 2024

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give God thanks and praise.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of all creation, we give you thanks and praise for we are blessed in this land to enjoy the riches of the earth. The apples from the trees, the wheat from the fields, and the fish from the streams are all signs of your goodness to us.

We thank you for the natural world, a world filled with all kinds of good food and drink within it.

God of life, you have given us food not only to sustain us but also to enjoy. In this bountiful world you have included a variety of rich flavours to make eating another one of the delights of being alive.

We thank you for the meals which not only nourish our bodies but allow us to enjoy life.

God of community, when we gather to eat we are aware that sharing a meal is also an opportunity to build families and friendships. At the table we nourish not only our bodies but build stronger ties with each other.

We thank you for the meals we have experienced over the past year which we remember not for the food but for the company.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest! Bless'd is the one

who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

As we gather on this Worldwide Communion Sunday, keep us mindful of the importance of food and water for our sisters and brothers around the world. Help us to always remember those in need and to keep our hands outstretched.

You have blessed us with plenty in this land. Help us to use this bounty to bless the lives of others.

We come before this table and see the gifts of field and vine laid out before us. Yet as we come to this table we are remembering a hunger which cannot be filled with bread and a thirst that cannot be satisfied with drink.

**We cannot live by bread alone.
We hunger and thirst for the eternal to be among us.**

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again

We come remembering your love and celebrating your gifts to us. We break bread in thankfulness that through Jesus Christ you have offered to us the bread of life. We share the cup in gratitude, knowing that in Jesus Christ you have forged an unbreakable bond with us.

We remember and we rejoice that through Jesus Christ you have done this for us.

Send we pray your Holy Spirit that by what we do here this day we might serve with greater joy, witness with greater certainty, and love with a more willing spirit. For we have come to share these gifts, Almighty God, through the power of the Holy Spirit and in Jesus' name, *Amen. Amen. Amen*

Prayer after Communion (together)

We thank you, Gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table. Allow us to go forth from this place as your people, filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking your good news, and serving in Christ's name, Amen.

This prayer is from *All Things are Ready* by Peter Andrew Smith © 2007 CSS Publishing. Used by Permission.

Tomorrow is **World Habitat Day**. The UN-Habitat and your Social Justice Collective invite you, and everyone interested in sustainable urban development, to join the Global Observance of World Habitat Day, under the theme "Engaging youth to create a better urban future." This is a day to reflect on the state of towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. Please note that 10 October is **World Mental Health Day**, an international day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma. After all, one in five Canadians experiences some sort of mental health issue every year. Perhaps not to the extent of requiring treatment, but it is extremely widespread.

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, October 13

10:30 am Thanksgiving at St. James
2:00 pm Thanksgiving at St. David's

Saturday, October 26

Indigenous Cultural Day Trip to Visit Mi'kmawey/Debert Cultural Centre location where we will Meet Elder Gerald Gloade. Bring lunch or buy enroute to Millbrook for pt 2 of day Sign up after church with Fran or call Office 902 863 2001 Carpooling encouraged. Indicate if you want to be a driver.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Antigonish Choral Society presents Kaleidoscope Hearts, A Musical Celebration of Diversity and Inclusion. Thursday October 17th at 7pm St. FX Chapel. Suggested donation \$20. More information is on the bulletin boards.

Eat, Think, Vote October 17th is International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty is hosting a free lunch and learn with candidates of the upcoming municipal election. 11:30-1 pm The People's Place Library. No Registration is required.