



Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy), Carolyn Curry (Organist)  
May MacKenzie (CE Dir), Chad Brazier (Custodian)  
Barb Shea (Secretary) [office@stjamesuc.com](mailto:office@stjamesuc.com)  
197 Main St, P.O. Box 1178, Antigonish, NS B2G 2L6  
(902) 863-2001 [www.stjamesuc.com](http://www.stjamesuc.com)

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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)*

January 19, 2025- Second Sunday after Epiphany

### GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude: Voluntary in G, (Henry Heron)

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (84 VU O Radiant Christ, Eternal Word)

*O Radiant Christ, Eternal Word,  
eternal love revealed in time  
come make your home within our hearts,  
that we may dwell in light sublime.*

Call to Worship (responsive from Isaiah 43:19)

Behold, God is doing a new thing.

**Here. Now.**

In the midst of daily life.

**The Holy One who created heaven and earth**  
forms us afresh today.

**Let our spirits rise to praise our God.**

Prayer of Approach (responsive)

Loving God, open our hearts

**that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit.**

Open our lips

**that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life.**

Open our eyes

**that we may see Christ in friend and stranger.**

Breathe your Spirit into us,

**and touch our lives with the life of Christ, Amen**

Hymn: 244 VU *Sing Your Praise*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 585 VU *Jesus Bids us Shine*

### GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 36 (p. 762 VU)

First Lesson: Isaiah 62:1-5

Ken Penner

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Alistair Hamilton

Gospel: John 2:1-11

Anthem: Blessed Is the Spirit of Jesus (Eric Wild, Deanna Waters)

Sermon: "What the Servants Witness"

### GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 624 VU *Give to Us Laughter*

Minute for Social Justice

Offering and Offertory Response (104 MV Know That God is Good)

*Know that God is good, know that God is good,  
know that God is good, God is good, God is good.  
C'est vrai: Dieu est bon! C'est vrai: Dieu est bon!  
C'est vrai: Dieu est bon! Dieu est bon! Dieu est bon!*

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 651 VU *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (84 VU O Radiant Christ, Eternal Word v4)

*O Light of Nations, fill the earth;  
our faith and hope and love renew,  
Come, lead the peoples to your peace,  
as stars once led the way to you.*

Postlude

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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.

**Coffee Hosts** this morning are Debbie MacDougall and Jessie Detweiler

### Scripture for Next Sunday

Nehemiah 8:5-6, 8-10 • 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 • Luke 4:14-21

## The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**What is it?** The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an annual ecumenical celebration. Christians around the world pray for the unity of all Christians, reflect on scripture together, participate in jointly-organized ecumenical services, and share fellowship.

**When does it take place?** In the northern hemisphere, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally held every year between January 18th and January 25th. This year's service in Antigonish is at the St. FX Chapel on Thursday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm. Representatives from St. James, St. Paul's Anglican Church, St. Ninian's, Full Gospel Assembly, and the University Community will take part.

**Why does it matter?** In the Gospel of John, Christ prays for his disciples before going to the cross. He asks that his followers "may all be one," as he and the Father are one, "so that the world may believe" and have life in his name (John 17). Christian unity is here made central to the very being of the church and to its mission and witness.

Today, we live with divisions even as we yearn for the unity promised and commissioned by Christ. The long and often painful history of Christianity has sundered our churches for theological, liturgical, and political reasons. Many Christians now strive to heal these divisions, yet honour our diversity, through ecumenical dialogue, common action, and relationship-building. They also come together to pray for unity, joining Christ in his prayer to the Father.

The worldwide celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is both the seed and the fruit of this striving for 'unity in diversity'. This time of shared prayer, reflection, and fellowship invites Christians of different traditions to deepen our relationships and to live and witness together throughout the year.

For more information on the Week of Prayer in Canada please go to <https://www.weekofprayer.ca/>

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

**Tuesday, January 21**

- 11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program
- 2:30 pm Meditation Group in the Parlour. Contact Fran for more information 902 870-1198.
- 7:00 pm Church Council meets via Zoom

**Thursday, January 23**

- 11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program
- 7:00 pm Choir practice

**Meditation Group** is meeting at an earlier time starting this week: 2:30 on Tuesdays in the Parlour. Contact Fran for more information 902 870-1198.

**The UCW** is fundraising for a new stove for the kitchen. The two we had in the kitchen are over 10 years old, and one broke January 9 beyond repair. Both are used regularly for church functions and the Hot Meal program. Hot Meal group and UCW are going to split the cost to replace the broken one. Please return any funds in the envelope you were given this morning by February 2, through the donation boxes Sunday morning or at the office through the week.

**Today is World Religion Day**, a reminder of the need for harmony, peace and understanding between religions and faith systems, encouraging people to learn about other faiths and their followers. On this day, communities of different faiths can take the opportunity to get together and listen to each other, as well as celebrate the differences and commonalities that the delicate intermingling of culture and religion brings. There are approximately 4,200 religions around the world. While many people live their lives without religion, faith in a higher being or power works well for the majority of people.

**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.

**Storm Closure Policy at St. James-** When a storm is being forecast for Sunday morning, a discussion between the minister, chair of council and the custodian will occur by 8:00 am on Sunday to try to make the safest decision possible. If the storm is scheduled to occur between the hours of 9:00 am and 1:00 pm on a Sunday, the service will be cancelled. If a service is cancelled, the cancellation will be announced on all local radio stations, CBC, the church voice mail, and social media (including the website) as soon as the decision is made. If the weather is bad on a Sunday morning please check these sources to see if our in person service is cancelled.

**Did you know? PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance)** is as easy to start as one-two-three. 1) Ask to sign up at the church office. 2) Fill in the amount you want to give each month. 3) Know that each month your gift goes to help the church do God's work here in Antigonish and around the world! If you are interested in PAR speak to Pamela Cunningham or drop by the church office.

## UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

**Sunday, February 9**

- 10:30 am We celebrate African Heritage Month with special music and prayers.

**Sunday, February 23**

- 11:30 am A shared meal in the hall following worship which leads into our Congregational Annual Meeting. Everyone is welcome!

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ecumenical Service** at the St FX University Chapel. Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

**Monday Night Yoga:** Ruth Young is offering a series of gentle yoga classes starting January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 in the hall. Call or text 902 870-5562 to register or for more information.

**The Antigonish Lions Pancake and Sausage Breakfast** will be held at the Lions Den on 13 Highland Dr Ext. on Sunday January 26 from 9-12. Donations to help with needed medical emergency expenses

