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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 26, 2025- Third Sunday after Epiphany

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude:

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 Psalm 19:7-8)

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.

Prayer of Approach (responsive)

**God of grace, allow us during this time
to better understand your word,
to catch a glimpse of your glory,
to see the Way you call us to follow,
to be inspired to practice love,
and to commit ourselves to being
signs of good news in the world, Amen.**

Hymn: 415 VU *God, We Praise You For The Morning*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 570 VU *Jesus Hands' Were Kind Hands*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 19 (p. 740 VU)

First Lesson: Nehemiah 8:5-6, 8-10

Bethalee Cooper

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Joan MacGillivray

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Anthem: *You Are Mine* (Mark Hayes) feat. Wavey Middleton on flute

Sermon: "The Spirit of the Lord"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 79 MV *Spirit, Open My Heart*

Minute for Mission

Stewart MacPhee

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: 238 VU *How Great Thou Art*

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 *Irish Blessing* (Bob Chilcott) Wavey Middleton on vocals

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 Christine Briand and Joan MacGillivray

Scripture for Next Sunday

Jeremiah 1:4-10 • 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 • Luke 4:21-30

Quietly Prophetic

In a cynical and despairing world, O God,
give us a quietly prophetic voice
to proclaim your hope.

In a violent and angry world, O God,
give us a quietly prophetic voice
to proclaim your peace.

In a dismissive and disinterested world, O God,
give us a quietly prophetic voice
to proclaim your compassion.

In a lonely and inhospitable world, O God,
give us a quietly prophetic voice
to proclaim your love.

In a grieving and weeping world, O God,
give us a quietly prophetic voice
to proclaim your joy.

May we be so captivated by your hope, O God,
that we cannot help but to whisper,
to sing, and to enact,
the message of your reign
which is always coming into our world;
And may our quietly prophetic lives,
be channels of your restoring grace
wherever we may go.

Amen.

The prayers and Christian sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends on *Susan Margaret (Webber) Davidson* who died last week. Please keep her mother Betty, sisters Carolyn and Mary and the whole family in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, January 28

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

Thursday, January 30

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

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.

The Social Justice Collective asks us all to note that tomorrow is an *International Day of Commemoration – International Holocaust Remembrance Day*. 27 January was chosen to commemorate the date the Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated by the Red Army in 1945. In April 1945, Canadian forces liberated the Westerbork Transit Camp in the Netherlands, including 900 Dutch Jews who were still interned there. As a nation, Canada has been profoundly shaped by approximately 40,000 Holocaust survivors, who resettled across our country after the war.

St. James has a new mailing address! Following a review by the Finance and Stewardship Committee it was decided to switch from our postal box to door-to-door delivery through our office mail slot. The new mailing address for the church is: St. James United Church, 197 Main Street, Antigonish, NS B2G 2B8

Interested in Social Justice issues? Environment, Poverty, Peace, Food Security, Housing Security, etc? Think about joining the St James' Social Justice Committee! We welcome new members and ideas. If you want to know more, please contact the office for a list of current members/contact info and we'll be happy to answer questions.

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!

Did you know? Electronic fund transfers (e-transfers) are one more way you can make your offering. How do you do it? Simply log into your bank/credit union and add "eft@stjamesuc.com" as a contact and then transfer your donation (we are set up for auto deposit so no need for questions or passwords). You can use e-transfers for a one time gift or set it up for regular donations. Best of all your gift helps us continue the work and ministry which happen at St. James!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Wind from the Sea is offering a Wild Wander Saturday February 8th at Fireloch, 1442 Hwy 7 North Lochaber. For more information rector3harbours@gmail.com or Wind from the Sea on Facebook.

