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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)*

February 9, 2025- African Heritage Service

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude: Amazing Grace, Victoria Muzuva

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (97 MV Listen, God is Calling)

*(Listen) Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy*

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Call to Worship (responsive)

We remember the faithful who showed love in times of persecution.

We celebrate their music which calls us to trust and believe in God.

We know there is still prejudice, mistrust, and despair around us.

We come believing there is healing and hope through Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Approach (together)

God of yesterday and today, we look back and see a long history of struggle and achievement for those of African heritage. We look around and admit that prejudice and racism is still a very real part of our world. Help us, we pray, to work toward the day where everyone will be treated with love and compassion and we live together as your people, Amen.

Hymn: 88 MV *Over My Head*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 577 VU *I've Got Peace like a River*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 138 (p. 860 VU)

First Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Anthem: Give Me Jesus (soloist Victoria Muzuva)

Sermon: "Letting Down the Nets"

Melissa Kuipers

Mark Norman

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 575 VU *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

Minute for Mission

Pamela Cunningham

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: 185 MV *Ev'ry Day is a Day of Thanksgiving*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction: (431 VU Sing Amen)

(Sing Amen) Amen we praise your name, O God

(Sing Amen) Amen we praise your name, O God

(Sing Amen) Amen, amen, amen, amen,

amen, we praise your name O God.

Postlude *Wayfaring Stranger* - Victoria Muzuva

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 Marlene and Gerrit Groenburg

Scripture for Next Sunday

Jeremiah 17:5-10 • 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 • Luke 6:17-26

CELEBRATE AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025

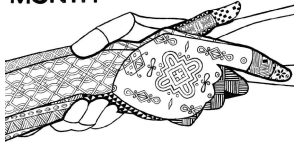
Honoring the History, Culture, and Brilliance of African Nova Scotians

This year, African Heritage Month embraces the provincial theme, “Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance.” The theme celebrates the enduring legacy of Black Nova Scotians, paying tribute to the community’s resilience, achievements, and impact throughout history. It reflects the brilliance within the community: the stories we share, the lessons passed down by our elders, the rhythms that drive progress, and the powerful ability to honor the past while shaping the future.

The theme also aligns with the culmination of the second United Nations’ International Decade for People of African Descent (2025–2034). Over the past decade, this global initiative has emphasized empowerment, leadership, and increased awareness of the contributions of people of African descent worldwide. The decade’s focus on justice, recognition, and development mirrors the progress and presence of African Nova Scotians in all facets of society.

Nova Scotia is home to 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities, with a rich and complex history that spans more than 200 years. African Heritage Month is a time to honor this heritage and celebrate the culture, achievements, and contributions of Black Nova Scotians—both past and present. It is a moment to recognize the strength of our shared legacy and the brilliance that continues to inspire future generations.

**BLACK HISTORY
MONTH**



THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, February 9

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

Tuesday, February 11

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

Wednesday, February 12

10:00 am United Church Worship at the Maples
11:00 am United Church Worship at the RK

Thursday, February 13

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

The Annual Reports for 2024 are available at the door and will be available online as well. Please take one and read through in preparation of the Congregational Annual Meeting in three weeks.

Income Tax Receipts for 2024 are available at the door. Please make sure you stop and pick yours up before you leave. If you donated through Canada Helps those receipts were emailed to you or can be resent at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/tax-receipts/> (all you need is the email address you used for your donation).

UCW Stove Fundraiser. Thank you! The fundraiser has been a tremendous success. \$2230.00 was raised for the purchase of the stoves. One stove has already been replaced and the kitchen committee will make a decision as to when the second one should be replaced. Any funds left over after the purchases will be put towards equipment for the kitchen.

African Heritage Month in the United Church-In February, we celebrate the rich Black history in The United Church of Canada. This is a time to honour the contributions and struggles of people of African descent. Wilbur Howard became the first black man ordained in the United Church of Canada in 1941 and became the church's first Black

Moderator in 1974. His gentle presence, unwavering faith, and wit helped bridge the racial divide and helped change the face of our church. We give thanks to God that the leadership and participation of Black peoples and congregations continue today within the United Church of Canada

The Social Justice Collective asks you to consider the contributions of African Nova Scotians. They have been leaders in officially promoting and recognizing African Canadian heritage. Some efforts include:

1985 – The official opening night of Black History Month at the Halifax North Branch Library

1987 – First meeting of the Black History Month Association

1988 – First Black History Month in Nova Scotia

1996 – Black History Month renamed African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia

2008 – The Canadian Senate officially declared February Black History Month. Nova Scotia Senator Donald Oliver, QC, was the first Black Canadian appointed to the Senate. His motion was the final parliamentary procedure needed for Canada's permanent recognition of Black History Month.

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

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

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

Winter Square set/Ceilidh at St Ninian's Place in Antigonish on February 16, 2025 from 1:30 - 4:00 pm. Featured performers are Shelley Campbell and Allan Dewar. Admission: adults - \$10.00; students by donation; children under 12 free. Square dance lessons are provided. Light lunch provided as well.

