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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)*

April 13, 2025- Palm/Passion Sunday

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Introit: (108 VU Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights v 1)

*Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.*

Call to Worship (responsive - Zechariah 9:9)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Look! Your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he—

humble and riding on a donkey

on a colt, the foal of a donkey!

Opening Prayer (together)

Merciful God,

as we enter Holy Week

and gather in your house of prayer,

turn our hearts again to Jerusalem,

and to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Bring us at the last with him

and all the faithful to your new Jerusalem,

your kingdom of peace and justice for all.

For we ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Hymn: 122 VU *All Glory Laud and Honour*

Litany of the Psalms (see back of bulletin)

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer
Hymn: 123 VU *Hosanna Loud Hosanna*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 118:14-24 (p. 837 VU Parts 2 and 3)

First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Judi MacPherson

Second Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11

Christine Briand

Gospel: Luke 19:28-40

Anthem *Sing to the Lord Hosanna!* (George F. Handel)

Sermon: "Witnesses to Salvation"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 669 VU *Live Into Hope*

Minute for Mission

Stewart MacPhee

Offering Prayer

Offertory Response (540 VU Grant Us, God, the Grace of Giving)

*Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.*

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 480 VU *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Hymn: 127 VU *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction: (967 VU Amen)

A-men, a-men, a-men

Postlude

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 Barb Gardiner and Sheryl Chapman

Scripture for Next Sunday

Isaiah 65:17-25 • 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 • Luke 24:1-12

Celebrating with Palms

We join with the crowd
that eagerly awaited the coming of Jesus.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God!

Hosanna in the highest!

Fulfilling prophecy, Jesus entered the city
riding humbly on a donkey.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God!

Hosanna in the highest!

Jesus' followers were excited, filled with anticipation.
Yet, within a few short days,
they were scattered, disillusioned, and frightened,
unwilling to follow as far as Christ would have them go.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God!

Hosanna in the highest!

We, too, long to join the triumphal procession,
only to find ourselves burdened by the past, fearful of the future,
and reluctant to accept the way of the cross.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God!

Hosanna in the highest!

Yet this Palm Sunday, we receive palm branches,
a reminder of the welcome offered to Jesus
as he travelled toward the cross.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God!

Hosanna in the highest!

Like the crowd in Jerusalem that day,
we take our palm branches this day and shout:

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God!

Hosanna in the highest!

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, April 15

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

Thursday, April 17

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program
7:00 pm Choir practice
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion in the hall.

Friday, April 18

10:30 am Good Friday service in the Sanctuary

Sunday, April 20

6:30 am Sunrise Service on Bethany grounds followed by a pancake breakfast back at the hall.

Are you interested in reading scripture on Good Friday? If so please speak to Rev. Peter following the service.

Plans are underway for the pancake breakfast after the Sunrise service. If you are able to help please speak with Alistair after the service or contact the church office (office@stjamesuc.com).

Your kind donations for the Antigonish Community Fridge and Pantry are greatly appreciated. Whenever you are able to do so, please place your donations in the donation box in the narthex. Thank you.

Your Social Justice Collective wishes to highlight the fact that “**Intimate Partner Violence**” is on the rise. Since last October seven women have been killed in Nova Scotia, whose deaths are connected to their male partners. There are four types of intimate partner violence – physical and sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression. Our local Naomi Society offers support to women and children who experience family violence. Donations are used to purchase gas, food, personal care items & emergency overnight shelter. They also accept donations of sample size shampoos and soaps from hotels. (902) 863-3807

Celebration of Holy Communion on Palm Sunday

St. James United Church, April 13, 2025

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 and good to give God thanks and praise.

We thank and praise you, Eternal God, for you have sent your son Jesus Christ into the world to reclaim us. Your answer to our world lost in sin was a Saviour with the power to set us free and return us to your kingdom.

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

We thank and praise you, Loving God, for Jesus Christ who has shown us your face and has spoken your words to a weary world.

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!

Jesus in his life showed us your way and allowed us to hope of life eternal with you.

Jesus said, “Whoever has seen me, has seen my Father.”

We thank and praise you, Merciful God, for Jesus Christ who emptied himself and became a servant to all. He took upon himself our sins and suffered for our sakes. He was wounded for our transgressions and was killed to break the power of sin and death.

Jesus said, “This is my body, which is broken for you.”

Take this bread and bless it we pray. That it might be for us the body of Christ.

Jesus said, “This is my blood which is shed for you.”

Take this cup and bless it we pray. That it might be for us the blood of Christ.

Jesus said on the cross, “It is finished.”

Renew us as we share this bread and cup. Renew our weary spirits, fill our hearts with your love, and open our eyes to see the meaning and purpose of Christ’s death upon the cross and his rising from the grave.

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

Hear our prayer, God most Holy, in the name of Jesus, the Lamb of Heaven, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever,

Amen. Amen. Amen

Prayer after Communion (together)

**Lord Jesus,
bread of life and the true vine,
we have remembered your death upon the cross
and the new covenant made in your blood.
Fill us now with the zeal and passion
to go out in the world
and bear witness to your love, Amen.**

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The second last of the Winter/Spring Square Dance/Ceilidhs for 2025 will be held on April 13th from 1:30-4:00 a St. Ninian’s Place. Featured entertainment will be Dara Smith-MacDonald, Natalie DeCoste, Junior Fraser, and Leona Williams. Admission is \$10 for adults, students by donation, and children free. A light lunch is offered throughout the afternoon.

The Mi’kmaq Ecological Calendar with Dr. Gerald Gloade Antigonish Town Library Thursday April 17th .Smudging 2 PM, Presentation 2:30-4:00 pm

We encourage you to celebrate Earth Day, Tuesday April 22. At the Heritage Museum and later at the Landing two events are planned. At noon there are two short talks about The Landing. One gives the human history. The other gives the climate impact. Refreshments served. The second event at 1:15 is a BioBlitz using the app iNaturalist. Come to learn in small groups at The Landing nearby. Go to the Facebook site of Seniors for Climate-Antigonish for more information At night(6:30) the first public screening of the documentary Never is Too Late from October Rally. Peter Murphy’s local footage is included. Community Room, Town Library.

Compassionate Conflict Transformation Workshop If you're concerned about the increasing polarization in the world and wondering if there's any way forward - please attend a free community workshop about how compassionate conflict can strengthen our communities. Sat, 3 May from 10:00 to 4:00 at 4 West Street in Antigonish. Sponsored by the Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers), facilitated by Mel Burns, Peace Program Coordinator, this will be a highly interactive workshop with time for discussion and skill-building practice. For more information and to register, contact keppochns@gmail.com