



Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy), Carolyn Curry (Organist)
May MacKenzie (CE Dir), Elena Leblanc (Custodian)
Barb Shea (Secretary) office@stjamesuc.com
197 Main St, Antigonish, NS B2G 2B8
(902) 863-2001 www.stjamesuc.com

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)*

November 2, 2025- Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (79 MV Spirit Open My Heart vs 1)

*God replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.
Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit open my heart.*

Call to Worship (responsive- from Isaiah 40:31)

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.

They shall mount up with wings as eagles;

They shall run and not be weary;

They shall walk and not faint.

Prayer of Approach (together)

God who calls to us through Jesus,

where we are fearful,

grant us freedom and daring;

where we are anxious,

grant us peace and reassurance;

For we long to walk as your people,

to run the race of faith,

and to soar at the movement of your Holy Spirit, Amen.

Hymn: 312 VU *Praise With Joy the World's Creator*

Skit: "The Story of Zacchaeus" and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 570 VU *Jesus Hands Were Kind Hands*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 119:137-144 (Part Six p. 841 VU)

First Lesson: Isaiah 1:10-18

Paul Davie

Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Jonathan Davie

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

Anthem

Sermon "A Surprising Story"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 567 VU *Will You Come And Follow Me*

Offering and Offering Prayer

Offertory Response (542 VU We Give You But Your Own)

*We give you but your own; what'er the gift may be
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.*

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 635 VU *All The Way My Saviour Leads Me*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (79 MV Spirit Open My Heart vs 2)

*Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought word and deed, may my living bring you glory.
Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.*

Postlude

A warm welcome to everyone joining us for worship. May this time help you draw 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.

Greeters at the Door are Beryl Duggan and Joan Poole

Storyteller at Children's worship is May MacKenzie

Coffee Hosts are: Judy McCarron and Bethalee Cooper

Scriptures Next Sunday

Michah 4:1-4 • Romans 14:7-12 • Matthew 5:1-12

The Welcome of the Gospel

Jesus welcomed everyone, whether they were poor, rich, or just getting by; ill or healthy; self-made or educated; popular or a loner; secure or full of doubts.

*Jesus...crossed barriers of race, class, culture, and gender.
He preached and practised unconditional love...
and he commanded his followers to love one another
as he had loved them. (A Song of Faith)*

The United Church prides itself on being open and welcoming as Jesus was, regardless of age, race, class, gender, orientation, identity, or ability. Children, for example, aren't viewed as adults-in-waiting; they're full and welcome participants at the heart of each congregation, bringing ideas and unique talents that can inspire the entire church.

Indigenous peoples have always been a part of The United Church of Canada. "The Indigenous peoples of the lands that became Canada welcomed those who brought the Christian Gospel," The United Church Manual tells us, "finding in it a confirmation of their understanding of relationship with the Creator, and in Jesus Christ an inclusiveness that embraced the wider human community." Yet as Christians, we abused this welcome and imposed our own vision of civilization as a condition of existence and of accepting the gospel. We have since apologized for our part in colonization and "for the pain and suffering that our church's involvement in Indian Residential Schools has caused." As part of a long journey toward right relations, in 2012, the ongoing presence and spirituality of Indigenous peoples in the church was recognized by revisions to our crest. It now incorporates the four colours of the Medicine Wheel, and the Kanien'keha (Mohawk) phrase "Akwe Nia Tetewá:neren," which means "All my relations."

Today, we are challenged by our intercultural vision to go beyond inclusion to a radical welcoming. This vision calls us to renew the ways we worship, live, and work together, with the leadership of people who may previously have been on the margins.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, November 2

11:30 am UCW meets in Meeting Room

Tuesday, November 4

11:00 am Community Hot Meal in the Hall

2:30 pm Meditation Group in the Parlour. Please use the Office door. Text Fran 902 872 1198 for info.

Wednesday, November 5

7:00 pm Choir practice in the Sanctuary

Thursday, November 6

11:00 am Community Hot Meal in the Hall

The prayers and Christian sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of *Johnny Partridge* who died earlier this week. There will be private family funeral. Please keep everyone in your prayers as they mourn this death as well as that of Johnny's sister Brenda (Partridge) MacDonald who died earlier this month.

2026 United Church Calendars for sale \$10. Please contact Christine at 902 714-9463 or christine@betterbodiesbymassage.ca

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, November 9

10:30 am Remembrance Sunday. We welcome members of the community, RCL Branch 59, as well as Army and Air Cadets.

Saturday, November 15

12:00 pm Holly Tea and Sale

Friday, November 28

11:00 am Memorial Service for Brenda Botterill

Coming soon. There's a chance to read and reflect on the powerful account of the over 6 yrs on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as written by Marie Wilson in *North of Nowhere*. Limited registration so sign up soon for the three sessions, either after church or in office. Books are available in the town library and at area bookstores. Begins January 4th after church. Registration closes on November 30th. Contact Fran 902 872 1198 for info.

Thanks largely to our congregation, over 100 more signatures were forwarded last week to KAIROS Canada for inclusion with the hundreds of thousands being forwarded to the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and various major country's leaders - asking them in the spirit of Jubilee, to free those oppressed by unpayable debts, offering them a renewed path and hope towards human dignity. By forgiving the crushing debts of smaller nations who have no reasonable hope of ever repaying, we can truly "Turn Debt Into Hope". Thank you for your support!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 4th, People's Place Library 10am - noon. Volunteer Nova Scotia offering a session re. What tools and resources do you need to better support volunteer engagement at your organization?

Canadian Blood Services at St. Ninians Parish

November 18 and 19-12-3pm and 5-8pm November 20- 10 - 2pm

Music of the Night presents Into the Woods, Eleanor Mutimer Theatre, Dr. John Hugh Gillis High School. November 21-30. Tickets available at Antigonish Five to One Dollar Store or online at <http://tiny.cc/motn2025> \$20 adult, \$18 students and seniors.

