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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)*

October 12, 2025- Thanksgiving Sunday

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Praise the Lord of Harvest* (Catherwood) feat. Children's Choir

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)

God created the Earth and gives us the harvest.

God provides all that we need.

God came through Jesus to bring us salvation.

God reaches into our world with grace.

God love us and strengthens us by the Holy Spirit.

God's care never ends.

Prayer of Approach (together)

**God of all creation, we come to celebrate the beauty and bounty
of your good earth: glorious blue skies and blazing fall colours;
fields ripe for harvest; and gardens overflowing with goodness.
Grant us thankful hearts, we pray, so that our prayers and our lives
might overflow with gratitude this day and always, Amen.**

Hymn: 516 VU *Come, You Thankful People Come.*

Litany of Thanksgiving (see back of bulletin)

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 249 VU *Rejoice in the Lord Always*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 100 (p. 824)

First Lesson: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Martha Palmer

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Tim Hinds

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Anthem *All Praise the God of Harvest* (Williams/Lantz)

Vocals: Alistair Hamilton and Carolyn Curry

Sermon "Three Questions at Thanksgiving"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 517 VU *Praise God for the Harvest*

Minute for Mission

Shaun Scott

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: 227 VU *For the Fruit of All Creation*

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 *Lobt Gott, ihr Christen allzugleich* (Walther)

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.

Greeter at the Door is Barb Smith

Storyteller at Children's worship is May MacKenzie

Coffee Hosts are: Fred and Sheila Davison

Scriptures Next Sunday

Jeremiah 31:27-34 • 2 Timothy 3:16-4:5 • Luke 18:1-8

Thanksgiving Litany

For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome;
for seen and unseen splendors;

We thank you, God.

For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together;
for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying;

We thank you, God.

For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor;
for exchanges of good humor and encouragement;

We thank you, God.

For family; for living together and eating together; for homes to grow in
and find shelter, peace, and community;

We thank you, God.

For the young; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward worn-out
values; for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows;

We thank you, God.

For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience;
for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing;

We thank you, God.

For your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for gifts of grace and hope;
for preserving us in temptation and danger;

We thank you, God.

For the church into which we have been called; for Jesus Christ, who
lived and died and lives again for our salvation; and for the Holy Spirit
who blesses and guides;

We thank you, God, now and always, Amen.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, October 12

10:30 am Thanksgiving Service at St. James
2:00 pm Thanksgiving Service at St. David's

Tuesday, October 14

11:00 am Community Hot Meal in the Hall
2:30 pm Meditation Group in the Parlour. Please use the Church St door. Text Fran 902 872 1198 for info.

Wednesday, October 15

7:00 pm Choir practise in the Sanctuary

Thursday, October 17

11:00 am Community Hot Meal in the Hall

The prayers and Christian Sympathy are extended to **Maggie Mae MacDonell** and family following the death of her biological mother Annie Padlayat Saviadjuk in Salluit, Nunavik, Quebec. Please keep Annie's family, friends, and community in your thoughts and prayers.

October is the month Christians recognize all we've been given through God's generosity! For those of us who may have more than we actually need, perhaps we can extend our gratefulness to those around us and share with the local Community Food Pantry/Fridge organization by donating some non-perishable goods. For Sunday, October 19th, is it possible to bring in some tinned fruit or vegetables? They will go to good homes ...

The Social Justice Collective asks you to note that the 16th is **World Food Day**. The event was established to increase awareness of world hunger and poverty and to inspire solutions for world change. The 17th is the **International Day for Poverty Eradication** which will continue to emphasize global solidarity and the need for inclusive policies that uplift marginalized communities and ensure equal opportunities for all. One response to both of these issues would be donating to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/>. This group of almost 30 organizations, (including the United Church), have been working all over the world since 1983 to provide both emergency food assistance and long term responses to global hunger.

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Community Gathering and Video Launch Oct 17, 2025 11am-1pm St. James United hall. Light lunch served. All are welcome.

Garnet Rogers, gifted guitarist, singer, songwriter and composer, performs a benefit concert for the Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network **Sunday, Oct. 19th, 7pm here at St. James**. Tickets are \$30 at the door; seniors, students and unwaged \$15. Breaking the Silence is completing more than 35 years of solidarity with Guatemalan organizations facing repression and human rights violations, with financial and moral support from the United Church. Invite friends and family. Come early. Doors open at 6:30pm.

Highlight Sunday- come to the hall after service on Sunday, October 26th. St. James shines with so many groups and activities. Is there something you would like to be a part of this coming year? Have a look at the information on the tables and talk to the people who have "Ask Me About" nametags!

On Saturday November 15, St James UCW will be holding their annual Holly Tea and Sale. We will need several dozen volunteers, all ages and genders, on both the sale day and a few days prior to the sale. If you can help in any way, please contact Joyce Hilling, as soon as possible by phone or text at 902 870-9814. We will shortly be accepting donations for the Christmas Room, Silent Auction, New-to-You (NO yard sale items or books) and Jewelry Tables. Watch for dates.

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two Eyed Seeing Dr. Albert Marshall. Thursday, Oct. 16th @7 pm. Amphitheater, Mulrooney Hall, St. FX.

Wild Grief Tending Our Collective Sorrow Together. Free Events. Oct 2, 6-8 pm Fireloch, Lochabar - Grief Mandela. Oct 18 - 1-4 pm Bethany Gardens, Antigonish - Walking a Labyrinth. For more information or to register : griefantigonish@gmail.com

