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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 26, 2025- Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Just As I Am* (Elliott/Bradbury)

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)

In a world of angry voices,

we open our ears to God's message of love.

In a world of violence and destruction,

we open our spirits to God's message of hope.

In a world of shifting ideas and values,

we open our minds to God's enduring truth.

Prayer of Approach (together)

Loving God, we gather in this place,

not because we are better than anyone else,

or because we deserve your love,

or because our lives have been so exemplary.

We gather because you loved us before we loved you,

and because you have invited us to come.

So we are here to answer your call, to receive your blessing,

and to open our lives to your Spirit, Amen.

Hymn: 1 MV *Let us Build a House*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer
Hymn: 579 VU *The Church is Wherever*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 63 (p. 781)

First Lesson: Joel 2:23-32

Ken Penner

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Linda MacDougall Penner

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Anthem *Listen to the People Singing* (Choplin)

Sermon "Right before God"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 375 VU *Spirit of Gentleness*

Minute for Mission

Paul van De Wiel

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: 420 VU *Go to the World*

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 *Diapason Movement* (Keeble)

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 Members of Finance and Stewardship

Storyteller at Children's worship is May MacKenzie

Coffee Hosts are: Sally and Paul van De Wiel

Scriptures Next Sunday

Isaiah 1:10-18 • 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 • Luke 19:1-10

Profession of Faith

To join the United Church, members are asked to profess their faith in the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and to commit themselves to faithful conduct in the church and in the world. Accepting the Bible as the shared standard for our faith, members are not required to adhere to any particular creed or formulation of doctrine.

*With the Church through the ages,
we speak of God as one and triune:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
We also speak of God as
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer
God, Christ, and Spirit
Mother, Friend, and Comforter
Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,
and in other ways that speak faithfully of
the One on whom our hearts rely,
the fully shared life at the heart of the universe. (A Song of Faith)*

United Church ministers, in addition, are required to be in "essential agreement" with the four statements of faith found in the Doctrine section of The Basis of Union.

As members of one body of Christ, the United Church acknowledges our Reformation (Protestant) heritage and the teaching of the creeds of the ancient church, particularly the Apostles' and Nicene creeds. Our membership in the World Council of Churches links us to a fellowship of churches that confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures.

*The Risen Christ lives today,
present to us and the source of our hope.
In response to who Jesus was and to all he did and taught,
to his life, death, and resurrection,
and to his continuing presence with us through the Spirit,
we celebrate him as the Word made flesh,
the one in whom God and humanity are perfectly joined,
the transformation of our lives,
the Christ. (A Song of Faith)*

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, October 26

11:30 am Highlight Sunday in the hall following service. St. James shines with so many groups and activities. Is there something you would like to be a part of this year? Have a look at the information on the tables and talk to the people who have "Ask Me About" nametags!

Tuesday, October 28

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, October 29

7:00 pm Choir practice in the Sanctuary

Thursday, October 30

11:00 am Community Hot Meal in the Hall

Sunday, November 2

11:30 am UCW meets in Meeting Room

The prayers and Christian Sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of *Brenda Botterill* who died earlier this week. Arrangements are still being made and will be announced when available. Please keep Ruth, Ross, Kate, and all the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

The congratulations and best wishes of the congregation are extended to *Ryan and Rhiana (Dixon) Scott* who were married yesterday in Arisaig. May God bless them as they begin this new part of their life together.

Just a reminder that Rev. Peter will never email you to purchase gift cards for him for any reason. Unfortunately this is a scam which is again targeting people associated with churches.

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

There are no special dates this week on the Social Justice Calendar, so the Collective would like to focus attention on the work of the **Antigonish Community Fridge and Pantry** – where people give what they can to share with others, or take what they need. This is a community-organized and run initiative of the Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty. Locations are at the Farmers' Market (available 24/7) and the Library. The selection will always be different. In season, you may find fresh produce alongside tinned foods. There may also be spices, hygiene items, household goods and other products available. Supported by The Open Kitchen, Sodexo and community members' donations. Here we can leave donations in the box in the narthex and they will be delivered for us.

LAST CHANCE! If you'd like to encourage world leaders to participate in this Jubilee Year's campaign to *"Turn Debt Into Hope"*, getting richer countries like the US, the UK and Canada to forgive smaller country's insurmountable, devastating loans/debts, (so those in the Global South and in Indigenous communities worldwide can spend their budgets on prioritizing hospitals, education, environmental issues, etc) , please see Michèle after church and sign the petition. Hundreds of thousands around the globe have signed already and it will be presented to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and COP30 prior to their upcoming meetings.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Antigonish Lions are having their Pancake and Sausage Breakfast for Sunday October 26 from 9-12 at the Lions Den on 13 Highland Dr. Ext.. Donations at the door will go to The Jordon Myles Foundation, raising mental health awareness while reducing stigma in our communities with You Matter Bags.

The Municipality of the County of Antigonish is carrying out a Municipal Boundary Review, a process that looks at how our municipal districts are divided and how many councillors represent residents. Public information sessions are being held at community centres around the County. These sessions are your opportunity to learn more, ask questions and share your feedback on the proposed boundary changes. Visit antigonishcounty.ca for the information session schedule or email Beth.Schumacher@antigonishcounty.ca for more details.

HOLLY TEA AND SALE

Saturday, November 15, 2024, 12 Noon to 2 p.m.

The countdown is on! It's just over three weeks until our annual Holly Tea and Sale. St James has a well-established tradition of fun, fund-raising, and fellowship, so now is the time for everyone in the congregation to think about what they can do to make this popular event a success. The following is a list of the various tables. If you have suggestions or questions, please feel free to reach out by phone or text.

Conveners - Christine Briand 902 714 9463
Judi MacPherson 902 863 1006
Joanne MacKenzie 902 714 5724
Barbara Gardiner 902 863 1641

Bake Table, Candy, Pickles & Preserves

Remember the bake table when making your Christmas goodies. This table always draws a large crowd. Homemade bread, muffins, loaves, cakes, pies, squares, cookies, and Christmas treats are all popular. What would a Christmas sale be without fudge?? Autumn is also the time of year when we close out our gardens and finish up pickles, jams and preserves. You may have an extra bottle or two to donate.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please note any special ingredients - nuts, eggs, milk or cheese. This can help us with pricing and allergy warnings.

New - To - You

Do you have items you have purchased, received, or never used? Please consider donating them to this table. These are not the usual yard sale items; they are new or like-new items.

Christmas Room

We have a special room dedicated to all things Christmas—seasonal items, wall hangings, tableware, decorations, etc. If it's Christmas-related and in good condition, we would love to have it.

Silent Auction

Do you have a special item you know would be popular to bid on? Businesses are not solicited, so we are counting on your generosity to fill these tables. Items like paintings, china, and beautiful wreaths have been donated in the past. Perhaps you have a skill or talent you could donate—like snow shovelling or knitting woollen items to order. You may want to donate a gift, like a catered dinner or a boat tour. Please give an approximate value for your donation to aid in a starting bid amount.

Jewellery

Have you cleaned out your jewellery box lately? This is a very popular table that accepts new and previously loved items. Working watches, bracelets, brooches, earrings, and necklaces are all welcome.

Children's Corner

For just \$2, children can decorate cookies, do crafts, and have a small lunch. This area is well supervised and allows drop-off to give the adults time to shop and enjoy their own lunch.

The Drop-Off times for donation items and baked goods are listed below. Please use the back door for the church, as items are sorted in the storage room.

Baking and preserves, etc.

Friday, November 14, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Saturday, November 15, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Don't forget - UNCUT squares are needed for the tea table.

All other tables

Week days starting October 20th through to Nov 7th, from 10 am to noon. If alternate drop off times are needed, contact Barbara Gardiner at 902 863 1641.