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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 5, 2025- Worldwide Communion Sunday

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Morning Has Broken* (Jones/Saward) April Martell

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)

For Moses, the sacred place was a burning bush.

For Jacob, the sacred place was a special stone.

For the Israelites in the desert, the sacred place was a portable tent.

For the Kingdom of Israel, the sacred place was a temple.

Wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is a sacred place.

The Spirit of the Lord is here, and so this, too, is a sacred place.

Prayer of Approach (together)

**We thank you, Creator of us all,
for friends and for family members who love and support us,
for the natural world with all of its beauty and wonder,
and for the knowledge that we live under the wings
of your love and concern.**

**For this morning we gather in this holy place as people
called by your love for us through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Hymn: 42 MV *Praise God for this Holy Ground*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 583 VU *Jesus Came A Child Like Me*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 37 (p. 763 VU)

First Lesson: Lamentations 3:19-26

Danielle Bennett

Epistle: 2 Timothy 1:3-10

Ida Sarty

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

Anthem *In the Garden* (Miles, arr. Goldston)

April Martell

Sermon "Answering a Basic Question"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

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: 194 MV *Bread of Life, Feed My Soul*

Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

Hymn: 651 VU *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*

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.

Greeter at the Door is Glenna Quinn

Storyteller at Children's worship is May MacKenzie

Coffee Hosts are: Debbie MacDougall and Glenna Quinn

Scriptures Next Sunday

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 • Philippians 4:4-9 • Luke 17:11-19

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, October 7

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 8

10:00 am Worship at the Maples
11:00 am Worship at the RK MacDonald Nursing Home
7:00 pm Choir practise in the Sanctuary

Thursday, October 9

11:00 am Community Hot Meal in the Hall

Congratulations to Robin Scott and Vincent Messier who were married yesterday at their family cottage. May God bless them as they begin this new part of their life together.

The children of the congregation are joining with the choir to sing on Thanksgiving. Practise with the choir will be for a few minutes after service this Sunday and at 9:45 am next week before service.

Your Social Justice Collective asks you to note the **Global Observance of World Habitat Day** on 6 October. "Urban Crisis Response" is the theme focusing on addressing multiple crises affecting urban areas, including climate and conflicts that are contributing to inequality; and promoting existing tools and approaches to effective crisis response. And October 10th is **World Mental Health Day**. The theme is "Access to services – mental health in catastrophes and emergencies" focusing on ensuring people in crisis situations can get the mental health support they need and recognizing the profound impact of such events on emotional well-being. Talking is good for your mental health. And talking *about* mental health is important! Remember "It's okay *not* to be okay."

Thanksgiving is when we give thanks for all our many blessings! This harvest season could we extend our appreciation of these gifts to others and share with the local Community Food Pantry/Fridge organization by donating some non-perishable goods. For Thanksgiving Sunday, October 12th, could you kindly bring in some cereal or pasta? All donations will be gratefully received.

Celebration of Holy Communion on World Wide Communion Sunday

St. James United Church, October 5, 2025

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We do thank and praise you, Loving God, for the richness of your gifts. You give us the bounty of creation, the bold colours of autumn, the cycles of nature and the wonder of the earth around us. You richly bless us with a world of life and beauty.

You give us women and men of vision to share our lives. Prophets and saints and teachers to lead us and teach us to follow you. People who show your love and goodness through their words and actions. People who touch our lives and the church with their service.

You give us yourself in Jesus Christ. You came and dwelt among us as a tender infant, a youth, and an adult. You wept with those who wept and rejoiced with those who rejoiced. Through Jesus, you teach us about love and grace, mercy and service.

You give us joy, Eternal God. For on the third day you caused the Resurrection to take place to shatter the sorrow of death. In its place you gave us the joy, hope, and promise of our Risen Saviour. For through Jesus you show us the way, the truth, and the life.

*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!*

We remember that on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave thanks for it, and shared it with his followers saying “Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me”

We remember, and we celebrate what you have given us in Jesus Christ.

We remember that also on that night, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks for it, and shared it with his friends saying, “This cup is the new covenant God has made with you in my blood. Each time you do this and drink from this cup, remember me.”

We remember, and we celebrate what you continue to give to us in Jesus Christ.

Remembering Christ’s death and celebrating his resurrection, we await with hope his coming again to bring peace and justice to the earth.

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

Gracious God, send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and cup. Allow us to see and hear and taste your goodness and the promise of eternal life. Fill us with strength, wisdom and renewed vigour to live as your people. For we ask this in Jesus’ name,

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Prayer after Communion (together)

Eternal and Loving God, for the bread which we have eaten and the cup we have tasted, we praise and thank you. For you have touched us by your Holy Spirit, and challenged us to live as your people, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, October 11

10:30 am

Thanksgiving Service at St. James

2:30 pm

Thanksgiving Service at St. David’s

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.

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.

FINANCIAL NEWS TO AUGUST 31, 2025

Offering Last Month \$ 13,341 Year - To - Date Offering \$143,376
Required for Budget \$ 22,652 Year -To - Date Budget \$188,189

The Offering Last Month reflects the money received from the congregation through donations put on the offering plate, PAR, Canada Helps and EFT Transfer. This represents a -19.6% down from budgeted offerings. The Required for Budget amount is the total collection needed to break even, if all budgeted activities took place.

The Year – To - Date offering is the actual total amount that our congregation has donated so far in 2025, to the end of August. The Year – To - Date Budget amount is the required amount needed for all budgeted activities to take place this year as of the end of August, 2025.

To the end of August we have received \$143,376 in revenue and spent \$188,612. This has St. James in a deficit position of \$ -45,236

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

15th Annual Blessing of the Pets Service will be held Saturday, October 4th at 2:00 in the Garden of St Theresa on the former Bethany grounds. This beautiful service will be attended by clergy of various denominations, many lovely pets and happy pet owners. All are welcome! Pets must be leashed or crated. In case of inclement weather, the service will move to the hall at St James United Church – please use the back entrance.

Seekers of Nature's Wisdom Thursday, October 9th, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., at Candid Brewery in Antigonish. There will be a panel discussion with local artist and writer Linda Johns, and Big Barn Little Farm organic farmers Susannah Murphy and Will Frankland. They will share their own stories of seeking nature's wisdom. Light vegetarian fare will be served. Pre-registration required through prepayment (\$15.00) by e-transfer to events@novaspiritus.org. There are only 50 tickets being sold. Organized by the Nova Spiritus Society who are imagining creative ways to foster inspired engagement with the natural world.

Wind from the Sea Harvest Season Wander and Celebration. Saturday, Oct 11 @ 2pm. Bethany Gardens. Harvest “Communion” at the end. Bring a seasonal offering to share ie. Squash, herbs, apples, etc. Contact rector3harbours@gmail.com

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