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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)*

January 18, 2026- Second Sunday after Epiphany

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Make me a Channel of Your Peace*

Carolyn Curry and Melissa Kuipers

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (79 VU Arise your Light Has Come vs1)

*Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.*

Call to Worship (responsive- from John 8:12)

Jesus said. "I am the light of the world,"

Let us open our eyes to see what God is doing through Jesus.

Jesus said "Whoever follows me will have the light of life."

Let us follow Jesus and experience the light of God in our lives.

Prayer of Approach (together)

**Eternal God, radiant with grace,
thaw our fears and anxious hearts;
make us shine with your Word, our hope;
shine with your love, our life;
shine with your peace, our joy;
shine with your grace, our way;
through Christ, who is our Light, Amen.**

Hymn: 415 VU *God We Praise You*

Children's Story and the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn: 585 VU *Jesus Bids Us Shine*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 40 (764 VU)

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Gospel: John 1:29-42

Anthem: *Take Now My Voice* (Douglas Nolan)

Sermon: "The Way of the Lamb"

Elliott Norman
Melissa Kuipers

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 352 VU *I Danced In The Morning*

Minute for Social Justice

Michèle Ashby

Offering Invitation and Prayer

Offertory Response (104 MV *Know that God is Good*)

*Know that God is good, know that God is good,
know that God is good, God is good, God is good.
C'est vrai: Dieu est bon! C'est vrai: Dieu est bon!
C'est vrai: Dieu est bon! Dieu est bon! Dieu est bon!*

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 595 VU *We Are Pilgrims*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (79 VU Arise your Light Has Come vs4)

*Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.*

Postlude *Figaro* (C.F. Van Meert)

A warm welcome to everyone joining us for worship. May this time draw you closer to God and your neighbour. We acknowledge that we gather in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People, and seek to be good neighbours to the First Nations.

*This bulletin is dedicated to the Glory of God
in loving memory of Wayne Trenholm by his family*

Greeters at the door are Bob and Diane Penney

Storyteller at Children's worship is Christine Briand

Coffee Hour Hosts are Anna Fe and Kit Bascug

Scriptures Next Sunday

Isaiah 9:1-4 • 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 • Matthew 4:12-23

Striving for Peace and Justice

The United Church of Canada issued a statement earlier this month strongly condemning the US military attack on Venezuela and the kidnapping of its president, Nicolás Maduro, and his wife Cilia Flores. This armed aggression violates international law. Partners in the region have also shared that additional threats made by US officials against Colombia, Cuba, and Mexico have been met with rejection and alarm.

The outcry is coming from Latin American and Caribbean partners of the United Church, its full communion partners in the US, and from Canadian and global ecumenical organizations. The member churches and movements of the Alliance of Reformed Presbyterian Churches in Latin America (AIPRAL) ask Christians in Latin America to “raise their prophetic voice to affirm peace, life and justice as non-negotiable values of God’s plan for creation, to proclaim the right of a country to its sovereignty and the right of a people to live without fear of being invaded, to announce the message that animates us as communities of faith: Glory to God in the heights and on earth peace and good will for all human beings.”

“As faith-based organizations, we affirm that peace and justice are not abstract ideals but concrete ethical imperatives,” said ACT Alliance in Latin America and the Caribbean in a recent statement. “We reiterate that military aggression can never be a solution, and that the defence of life, the self-determination of people, and regional peace must prevail over any geopolitical, economic, or strategic interests.”

The United Church joins with our full communion partners to “offer our prayers for all communities impacted by the recent unilateral and unlawful decisions of the United States to attack sovereign nations.” A joint statement from January 4 by the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ states, “As churches committed to the gospel of peace, we grieve the loss, fear, and instability these actions have caused globally. These actions do not create the conditions for a safer or more peaceful world.”

The prayers and Christian Sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of *Willie R. Quinn* who died last week. Please keep Glenna, Yema, and all of Willie's family, friends, and colleagues in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Arrangements are still being made for Willie's funeral service.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, January 18

12:00 pm **North of Nowhere** Book Discussion. For those registered, sessions begin at 12 pm today after church.

Tuesday, January 20

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program
2:30 pm Mediation Group
7:00 pm Council Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, January 21

7:00 pm Choir practice

Thursday, January 22

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program

The Social Justice Collective asks you to note the 18th, **World Religion Day**. It was started by the Bahá'í community in 1950, celebrating the oneness of religion, and aims to foster peace and mutual respect by educating people about different faiths and their common ethical foundations. The 18th to the 25th is the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, an ecumenical Christian observance celebrated internationally. This year's theme is Ephesians 4:4: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." The materials were developed by the Armenian Apostolic Church.

2026 Social Justice calendars are now available in the narthex for those who would like to be aware of important upcoming dates in 2026 that require our reflection, prayer, and possibly, action.

Canada Helps - Looking for a copy of a tax receipt for a donation you made to St. James through Canada Helps in 2025? We don't issue those but go to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/tax-receipts/> and they will email you a duplicate.

Did you know? PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance for offering) is as easy to start as one-two-three. 1) Ask to sign up at the church office. 2) Fill in the amount you want to give each month. 3) Know that each month your gift goes to help the church do God's work here in Antigonish and around the world! If you are interested in PAR speak to Pamela Cunningham or drop by the church office.

St James' Prayer Circle is a small group of folks who believe in the power of prayer. We are happy to pray for individuals and situations upon request. If you'd like to join us or if you would like to bring forward a prayer request, please speak to Michèle Ashby after church or call her at 232-3473. All matters are kept strictly confidential.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service will be held on Thursday January 29th at 7pm at St. Ninian's Cathedral. Everyone is welcome to attend!

The Antigonish Library offers free training on your new tech devices – smartphones, tablets, laptops. A series of information sessions are being held on Tuesdays in January at either 3 pm or 7 pm. * Jan 6: Your tech toy basics * Jan 13: Email, Camera, Weather * Jan 20: WiFi, Maps, News, Libby * Jan 27: Strong passwords, Phishing * Register for any or all sessions, or book individual appointments, by calling 902-863-4276.

Wild Grief - A guided, participatory experience of sharing in community. Not recommended for those who have recently suffered a personal loss. Saturday January 24, 1-3 pm Bethany Resource Centre, 75 Marian Drive, Antigonish. Free event. Register at www.fireloch.com or contact griefantigonish@gmail.com.

