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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)*

February 15, 2026- Transfiguration Sunday

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

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, John 1:5)

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

Whoever follows Jesus will have the light of life.

The light of life shines in the deepest night
and the night shall never overcome it.

Prayer of Approach (together)

**God of grace and wonder,
on mountain tops and lowly plains,
in classrooms and hospital beds,
on town streets and by flowing streams,
you visit us with your transforming spirit.
Your presence frees us from fear.
Your touch transforms our doubts.
Your voice speaks what is true.
Come among us, we pray, so we might
know your presence, feel your love,
and hear your voice speaking to us and our world, Amen.**

Hymn: 232 VU *Joyful, Joyful*

Children's Story

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Reception of New Members and the Lord's Prayer.
Hymn: 299 VU *Teach Me God to Wonder*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 99 (819 VU)

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Anthem: *Gather by the River to Pray* (Pepper Choplin)

Sermon: "On the Mountain Top"

Linda Darwish
Alistair Hamilton

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

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

Minute for Social Justice

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

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

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.

Greeting at the door are Members of Finance and Stewardship
Storyteller at Children's worship is May MacKenzie
Coffee Hour Hosts are Ida Sarty and Judy McCarron

Scriptures Next Sunday

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 • Romans 5:12-19 • Matthew 4:1-11



This Sunday is the third week within African Heritage Month- a time to honour and celebrate the contributions of people of African descent in Canada and to look at the past while giving thanks as we look forward to the future.

Black people have played a significant role in the history of The United Church of Canada, but their stories have often gone untold. As we marked the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada last year the church took an effort to bringing untold stories to life.

“Here from the Beginning” is an exhibition that showcases the contributions and experiences of Black people within the church, amplifying voices that have long been overshadowed by the dominant narrative. This is a celebration of faith, history, community and The United Church of Canada.

The virtual presentation can be found at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fo3SyaMAO0g> (Link on our website under “Links for February 22, 2026) and more information on live presentations and discussions can be found at
<https://herefromthebeginning.ca/>

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, February 17

11:00 am	Community Hot Meal Program
2:00 pm	Funeral for John Miller in the Sanctuary and reception to follow in the hall.
2:30 pm	Mediation Group in the parlour.

Wednesday, February 19

7:00 pm	Choir practice in the Sanctuary
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Thursday, February 20

11:00 am	Community Hot Meal Program
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This morning we welcome to the church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism, *Joey Albert Doyle* son of Heather (Isenor) and Steven Doyle. Standing with Joey as godparents are Kim Chisholm and John Doyle.

This morning we welcome through transfer of membership William Marshall and Penny Fuller from Lochaber United Church Keith MacCormick from St. Theresa's Parish, Sydney, NS.

The prayers and Christian sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of *John Miller* who died late last week. Visitation will be Monday from 4-7 pm with the funeral Tuesday at 2pm at St. James. Please keep his son, grandchildren and brothers and sister in your thoughts and prayer during this time.

2025 Congregational Annual Reports and Detailed Financial

Statements are available this week at the door. Please have a chance to prayerfully consider them before we gather to look back at the year past and look forward to the year ahead at the AGM. Electronic Copies will be available the website (<http://www.stjamesuc.com>)

2025 Tax Receipts for donations made to St. James and St. David's by envelope or through PAR or EFT, are available at the door.

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 from the church but go to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/tax-receipts/>

and they will email you a duplicate (all you need is your email address).

Your Social Justice Collective hopes you will enjoy **Nova Scotia Heritage Day** tomorrow. This year it honours Joseph William Comeau, a proud Acadian educator, MLA and Senator. Also please note that the 20th is the World Day of Social Justice – near and dear to the hearts of your Collective! The 2026 theme “Empowering Inclusion: Bridging Gaps for Social Justice” focuses on inclusive policies and social protections. And the 21st is Mother Language Day. The theme this year, “Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities” identifies that languages and multilingualism can advance inclusion – emphasizing that education, based on mother tongue, must begin from the early years, as education is the foundation of learning.

Coldest Night of the Year February 27th at 4pm. There are a group of people from St. James and St. Paul's who are walking to support the Naomi Society as they build new facilities here in Antigonish to help the most vulnerable among us. If you want to join and walk 2km or 5km please go to <https://en.cnoy.org/location/antigonish> and join or donate to “Some of the Saints (St. James and St. Paul).”

Are you interested in helping tape our Sunday service? Training is provided and it is just to tape the service (although if you have experience editing you are more than welcome!). If you (or your family) is interested please speak with Rev. Peter, Paul or Jonathan.

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, February 22

10:30 am

The season of Lent begins and we gather around the table and celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Sunday, March 1

11:30 am

Our Congregational Annual Meeting will take place in the hall following a shared meal. Members of our Church Council are bringing Chili, Soup and Rolls for the meal (vegetarian options are available). Members of the congregation are invited to bring a dessert to share or to stay afterwards and help clean up.

Interested in Social Justice issues? Environment, Poverty, Peace, Food Security, Housing Security, etc? Think about joining the St James' Social Justice Committee! We welcome new members and ideas. If you want to know more, please contact the office for a list of current members/contact info and we'll be happy to answer questions.

Just a reminder that the musicians of the church consider their offering of music and song to be part of the worship service. If you feel moved by what they do offer a silent prayer of thanks to God and let them know personally after service.

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

Storm Closure Policy at St. James- When a storm is being forecast for Sunday morning, a discussion between the minister, chair of council and the custodian will occur by 8:00 am on Sunday to try to make the safest decision possible. If the storm is scheduled to occur between the hours of 9:00 am and 1:00 pm on a Sunday, the service will be cancelled. If a service is cancelled, the cancellation will be announced on all local radio stations, CBC, the church voice mail, and social media (including the website) as soon as the decision is made. If the weather is bad on a Sunday morning please check these sources to see if our in person service is cancelled.

St James is a busy and active church not just on Sunday but through the week. As well as our church community there are exercise groups, girls guides, AA, and other regular users of our building. So if you have a group or committee that is looking to meet please remember to contact the office (902-863-2001 or office@stjamesuc.com) to reserve your space.

If you would like to **sponsor the bulletin** in celebration or memory of a loved one or a special day, please call the office at 863-2001 and let Barb know.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 pm Black X-cellence Panel hosted once-again by renowned leader Kwame Osei '10 and will feature: Rebecca Mesay (2020) an immigration lawyer and known for her campus leadership; Ellis Ffrench (2013) a recognized marketing expert for professional sport teams. Alexandra Hall (1998) recently recognized as a rising-star lawyer in the financial and corporate sector for the Caribbean region. Augy Jones (1990) known as a StFX leader, athlete, coach, and a national advocate for diversity and inclusion; To register please go to <http://www.alumni.stfx.ca/blackxcellencepanel2026>

Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator, a new six-part video series coming this Lent exploring food, faith, and the power of invitation, hosted by the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath. The series debuts with a Shrove Tuesday (Feb 17) pancake feast in the Moderator's home kitchen, with new episodes following each Sunday throughout Lent, and concludes with a special Easter message from the Moderator. Episodes will be shared each week on the Kitchen Conversations webpage (see our congregational website for the links) and The United Church of Canada YouTube channel — subscribe today to stay up to date.

Good Stories to Live By: A fresh look at the Bible. Join us for a relaxed, open minded exploration of the stories of Jesus- teacher, healer, leader, and troublemaker. Details: Thursdays Feb 26, Mar 26, Apr 23, May 28 and June 25@ 7pm @ St. Paul's Anglican Church. More info? Naterz@gmail.com or rector3harbours@gmail.com.

Wild Grief Mandala. Guided participatory experience of sharing in community. Saturday February 28th 1-3 pm. Bethany Resource Centre 75 Marian Dr. Antigonish. Free event. Register at www.fireloch.com