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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)*

March 1, 2026- Second Sunday of Lent

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (400 VU Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying)

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!*

Call to Worship (responsive from Ezekiel 36:26, 27)

God says “I will take away your stubborn heart of stone
and give you an obedient heart.”

God promises “I will put my spirit in you
and I will see to it that you follow my laws
and keep all the commands I have given you.”

Prayer of Approach (together)

**God of Sarah and Abraham, God of us all:
you call people throughout the ages
to journey in faithfulness.**

**Give to us a sense of anticipation through this Lenten season,
that we may move with confidence and hope
toward the new life of Easter.**

We pray in Jesus’ name, our Companion and Guide. Amen.

Hymn: 223 VU *Eternal, Unchanging*

Welcome to New Members

Children’s Story and the Lord’s Prayer.

Hymn: 703 VU *In the Bulb There is a Flower*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 121 (p.844 VU)

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5

Gospel: John 3:1-17

Anthem:

Sermon: “Moving in Faith”

Jonathan Davie

David Hamilton

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 147 VU *What Wondrous Love is This*

Offering Invitation and Prayer

Offertory Response (227 VU For the Fruit of All Creation v3)

*For the harvests of his Spirit, Thanks be to God;
For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God;
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us, Thanks be to God.*

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 238 VU *How Great Thou Art*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (298 VU When You Walk From Here)

*When you walk from here, when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God's humble care.*

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.

Storyteller at Children’s worship is Melissa Kuipers

This morning we welcome to St. James through transfer of membership *Kit Bascug* from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

Anna Fe Bascug from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

Scriptures Next Sunday

Exodus 17:1-7 • Romans 5:1-8 • John 4:5-42

Thoughts on God's Love

Though we are incomplete, God loves us completely. Though we are imperfect, God loves us perfectly. Though we may feel lost and without compass, God's love encompasses us completely. ... God loves every one of us, even those who are flawed, rejected, awkward, sorrowful, or broken.
-Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Legalism says God will love us if we change. The gospel says God will change us because God loves us.
-Tullian Tchividjian

The sin underneath all our sins is to trust the lie of the serpent that we cannot trust the love and grace of Christ and must take matters into our own hands.
- Martin Luther

If you have never known the power of God's love, then maybe it is because you have never asked to know it - I mean really asked, expecting an answer.
-Frederick Buechner,

(God's love is) Like when you sit in front of a fire in winter — you are just there in front of the fire. You don't have to be smart or anything. The fire warms you.
-Desmond Tutu

One who has been touched by grace will no longer look on those who stray as “those evil people” or “those poor people who need our help.” Nor must we search for signs of “loveworthiness.” Grace teaches us that God loves because of who God is, not because of who we are.
- Philip Yancey

I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, God will not ask, ‘How many good things have you done in your life?’ but rather will ask, ‘How much love did you put into what you did?’
-Mother Teresa

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, March 1

11:30 am Our Congregational Annual Meeting follows worship. Chili, Soup, and Rolls. Everyone is welcome and vegetarian options available!

Tuesday, March 3

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program
2:30 pm Mediation Group in the parlour.

Wednesday, March 4

7:00 pm Choir practice in the Sanctuary

Thursday, March 5

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program

Thanks to all the folks who walked and donated to the Coldest Night of the Year walk yesterday. Together we helped get the Naomi society in their effort to care for women and children in need.

This week your Social Justice Collective wants to highlight the work of the **St Ninian's St Vincent de Paul** organization. This group assists with basic food purchases, medical/child care products, transportation for out of area medical appointments, help with in-school tutoring programs and assisting transients. Additionally, volunteers pick up furniture and household items from donors and make deliveries to those who require specific items. If you can assist in any way please call (902) 863-8050.

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, March 3

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program
2:30 pm Mediation Group in the parlour.
4:00 pm Finance and Stewardship in the Meeting Room

Wednesday, March 4

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are warmly invited to join us for the World Day of Prayer service at St. Ninian Cathedral on Friday, March 6 at 2PM. The World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of Christian women who gather annually for a shared day of prayer and worship. For 2026, women from Nigeria have written the worship service and resources, and we are happy to have Grace Adewoye, of Antigonish and formerly of Nigeria, to speak. This year's service invites us to learn about the faith, experiences, challenges, and hopes of Nigerian women as we pray in solidarity with them. All are welcome to attend. Tea and Coffee will be served afterward.

Interested in poverty issues and how this affects Antigonish? Please check out the Antigonish Coalition to Eradicate Poverty's (ACEP) website at: <https://www.endpovertyantigonish.ca/>. It covers the excellent work the Coalition is doing. ACEP is an alliance of local individuals and groups who are actively working to alleviate the effects of financial distress in Antigonish Town and County while actively engaging in local and regional poverty eradication initiatives and action. Additionally, they have recently posted a series of videos that address the following topics: Housing Security, Poverty Advocacy - Sr Marion Sheridan, Childcare, Education & Training, and Income Security.

Interested in learning more about Truth & Reconciliation? There is a game called The Truth in Truth and Reconciliation available at our Town Library. "The TRUTH is HERE! Are you up for the Challenge?" There are two versions: one for players ages 14+; 20+; and one for grades 3-4, 5-6, 7-8. This Educational Board Game includes an Indigenous educator-created Guide Book, that supports people in learning even more about the Truth of what took place on Turtle Island, and a graphic novel written and illustrated by board game creator James Corbiere called Tales of The Firekeeper. These powerful resources are designed to educate and are for everyone - we all have a role to play in Truth and Reconciliation." There is a trigger warning: "The contents of this activity are based on real events in Canadian history that may be emotionally and intellectually challenging to engage with. This activity is crafted as a guide to help people engage bravely, empathetically, and thoughtfully with difficult content." For more information there is a video. <https://library.nic.bc.ca/boardgamesforeveryone/truth>

