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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 15, 2026- Fourth Sunday in 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 Psalm 16:10-11)

God is faithful and true.

God shows us the path of life.

In God's presence there is fullness of joy.

At God's right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Prayer of Approach (together)

**God of grace and love,
we come this morning seeking to have
a pure heart, that we may see you;
a humble heart, that we may hear you;
a loving heart, that we may serve you;
and a heart of faith, that we may be your people
now and always, Amen.**

Hymn: 326 VU *O for A Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Children's Story and the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn: 371 VU *Open My Eyes*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 23 (p. 749 VU)

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Joe Apaloo

Gospel: John 9:1-21, 24-31

Anthem: *Bist du Bei Mir* (Gottfried Heinrich Stölzel) Alistair Hamilton

Sermon: "Confronted by Grace"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 271 VU *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Minute for Social Justice

Christine Briand

Offering Invitation and Prayer

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

*For the harvests of the 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: 410 VU *This Day God Gives Me*

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.

Greeting at the Door is Christine Morrison

Storyteller at Children's worship is May MacKenzie

Coffee Hour Hosts are Christine Briand and Hope Graham

Scriptures Next Sunday

Ezekiel 37:1-14 • Romans 8:6-11 • John 11:1-45

Thoughts on Faith

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”

— Corrie ten Boom

“All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

“To love means loving the unlovable. To forgive means pardoning the unpardonable. Faith means believing the unbelievable. Hope means hoping when everything seems hopeless.”

— G.K. Chesterton

“To have faith is to trust yourself to the water. When you swim you don't grab hold of the water, because if you do you will sink and drown. Instead you relax, and float.”

— Alan Wilson Watts

“Some things have to be believed to be seen.”

— Madeleine L'Engle

“We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.”

— Martin Luther

“It is not the strength of your faith but the object of your faith that actually saves you.”

— Timothy Keller

“Go where your best prayers take you.”

— Frederick Buechner

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, March 17

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

Wednesday, March 18

7:00 pm Choir practice in the Sanctuary

Thursday, March 19

7:00 pm Church Council in the Meeting Room

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.

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.

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, March 29

10:30 am We wave our palms to greet Jesus and then gather around the table to share his gifts.

Thursday, April 2

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday around the table in the hall.

Friday, April 3

10:30 am Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 5

6:30 am Easter Sunrise in the Bethany grounds
10:30 am Easter Sunday service

Your Social Justice Collective asks you to note that the 21st is the **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**. We recognize that the injustices and prejudices fuelled by racial discrimination still take place every day. In Canada, this day is an opportunity to reflect on the fact that while progress has been made, Indigenous Peoples, racialized communities and religious minorities in Canada continue to face racism and discrimination. We must re-commit efforts to combat all forms of racial discrimination, injustice, systemic racism and hate, to ensure a world where everyone is respected, safe, and has equitable access to contribute meaningfully to all aspects of society.

Did you know? St. James is now able to accept electronic fund transfers (e-transfers) for your offering. How do you do it? Simply log into your bank/credit union and add "eft@stjamesuc.com" as a contact and then transfer your donation (we are set up for auto deposit so no need for questions or passwords). You can use e-transfers for a one time gift or set it up for regular donations. Best of all your gift helps us continue the work and ministry which happen at St. James!

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 to reserve your space.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two Eyed Seeing March 16, 2026 with speaker Annie Johnson Meet and Greet at St. FX Kiknu (Coady West) 11-12 Seminar JBB 236 12:30-1:20 All Welcome

Steve Bell concert at St. Ninian's Cathedral Thursday March 26th @ 7:30. Tickets \$25 at the Parish Office 902 863-2338 or <https://stevebell.com/event/antigonish-ns-solo-concert/>

Antigonish Town and County Palliative Care Society Annual General Meeting Tuesday, March 31st 4:30 pm People's Place Library Meeting Room. Everyone Welcome.

