



ST. JAMES UNITED
CHURCH

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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)*

December 4, 2016- Second Sunday of Advent

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (O Come, O Come Emmanuel Vs 2)

*O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Call to Worship (responsive - from Isaiah 40:3)

Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Prayer of Approach (together)

Prince of Peace, be with us as we gather to worship.

Help us to sharpen our focus more on you than on ourselves.

Enable us to emerge from the shadows and come to the light.

As we lay aside all barriers, speak to us through your Word and

Spirit that we might answer in our lives, Amen.

Hymn: 18 VU There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Prayer of Confession (responsive)

We confess, Lord Jesus, that sometimes we place barriers to your coming. We allow obstructions to minimize your influence in our lives- distractions of selfishness, of lust for things, of hidden habits, of bitterness, of troubled relationships. Pardon us, we pray, and help us to sweep aside all that stops us from welcoming you, Amen.

Hymn: 43 VU Go Tell it on the Mountain

The Advent Candle- Claire MacDonell, Lucassie, and Maggie Mae

O God of Peace, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts at this time. Work in our hearts and help us prepare ourselves for the peace that Jesus brings- inner peace and peace with our neighbours. Amen.

*A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Prayer for Illumination

Responsive Reading: Psalm 122 (p. 845VU)

Old Testament: Isaiah 11:1-10

Joanne MacKenzie

Epistle: Romans 15:4-13

Chad Brazier

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Anthem: *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

(arr: Robert C .Lau)

Sermon: "When the Kingdom of Heaven Comes Near"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 29 VU Hark the Glad Sound

Minute for Social Justice

Offertory *Forest Green* (trad. English carol) (Arr. Gordon Phillips)

Offertory Response (In the Bleak Midwinter 55 VU verse 4)

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.*

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 44 VU It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (Glory to God in 124 MV)

*Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.*

Postlude *From Heaven on High*

(arr: Wilbur Held)

A warm welcome to all who have gathered with us for worship this morning. May this time be one of fellowship with God and neighbour. If you are visiting please sign our guest book and make yourselves known to those around you.

Greeters at the door this Sunday are Cathy Sampson, and Lily and George Dawson.

Babies and toddlers who don't want to stay in the service for worship are welcome to make use of the nursery located in the multipurpose room. The nursery has toys and a speaker for parents to hear the service. This Sunday in the nursery - Beth MacMillan

Congratulations and best wishes to the participants of the Coady International Institute and all who are receiving diplomas and degrees at Fall 2016 Convocation at St FX this afternoon.

Envelopes for 2017 are now available in the Narthex before and after the service. Those wishing envelopes or to begin using PAR please contact the church office. Finance and Stewardship Committee

Connections is waiting for your contribution to the Christmas 2016 edition. The deadline for all submissions is Dec. 11th, no later than 5:00 p.m. You may hand deliver your work to the church office or e-mail it to one of the following addresses: office@stjamesuc.com OR brendaannerose@gmail.com

The Social Justice Committee invites you to note that December 6 is Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence, and December 10 is Human Rights Day. Dec 6 is the anniversary of the 1989 École Polytechnique massacre, in which an armed student, Marc Lépine, murdered fourteen women and injured ten others to "fight feminism". The commemoration date was established by Parliament in 1991. Flags on all federal buildings – including the Peace Tower – will fly at half-mast. Canadians are encouraged to observe a minute of silence and to wear white or purple ribbons as a commitment to end violence against women. On Dec 10, the UN calls on everyone to stand up for someone's rights! Disrespect for basic human rights continues to be wide-spread in many parts of the globe. Extremist movements subject people to horrific violence. We need to reaffirm our common humanity. Wherever we are,

we can make a real difference. In the street, in school, at work, in public transport; in the voting booth, on social media. It starts with each of us. You can step up and defend the rights of a refugee or migrant, a person with disabilities, an LGBT person, indigenous peoples, minority groups, or anyone at risk of discrimination or violence.

Attention Pet Lovers - Michèle Ashby will have both SPCA and Cat Rescue Maritimes (carma) 2017 calendars for sale the next few Sundays if you would like to purchase one. They make an ideal gift for fellow pet fans!

Next Sunday's Scriptures (December 11, 2016)
Isaiah 35:1-10 • James 5:7-10 • Matthew 11:2-11

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, December 4

- 10:30 am This morning a special White Gift offering will be received. Traditionally the special white gift offering is divided equally between Brunswick Street Mission and the United Church Mission and Service fund. Special White Gift envelopes are provided in today's bulletin. The Sunday School will be packing the Christmas bags for the Food Bank today. Thanks to everyone who has brought in and donated items.
- 11:30 am **UCW** will meet briefly on Sunday morning following worship at the front of the Church.

Tuesday, December 6

- 7:30 am Yoga with Stacy Steeves in the Hall
- 10:00 am Bible Study in the parlour.
- 11:00 am Hot Meal in the Hall
- 3:00 pm Meditation Group in the Meeting Room.

Wednesday, December 7

- 10:00 am Christmas Service at the Highland Crest Nursing Home. Everyone is welcome.

Thursday, December 8

- 11:00 am Hot Meal in the Hall

6:30 pm Senior Choir (Welcoming new members)
7:30 pm Women Chorus (Welcoming new members)

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, December 11 Combined Service St. Paul's Anglican Church on Reception following, *please bring some sandwiches or finger food.*

Sunday, Dec. 11, 7:30pm, The Antigonish Choral Ensemble presents a Christmas Celebration, featuring the St James Handbell Choir and the Antigonish String Quartet, at St. James United Church Admittance by donation. All are welcome.

Sunday, December 11, St. James United Church Women will meet following the reception for St. Paul's. We will be packing our "Baskets Of Love" in the meeting room. We could use donations of small or individual bottles of *sent free* Hand Lotion, Shampoo, Powder, Deodorant, toothpaste, Soap, Kleenex, Candy, Fudge, and Cookies.

Wednesday. December 14 at 11:00 United Church worship at the RK MacDonald Nursing Home.

Saturday, December 24th. **Christmas Eve Services** will take place as in previous years. 4:00 pm at St. David's, 7:00 pm Family Service at St. James, and 9:00 pm Communion Service at St. James.

Sunday, December 25th Christmas Day worship will occur at 10:30 as usual and will include readings and music.

FINANCIAL NEWS

For December 4, 2016

<u>Offering Last Week</u>	<u>\$2,724</u>	<u>Year - To - Date Offering</u>	<u>\$131,565</u>
Required for Budget	\$3,708	Year -To - Date Budget	\$168,806

The offering for last week reflects the money received from the congregation through donations put on the offering plate and through PAR. 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 amount that our congregation has donated so far in 2016, to the end of October. 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 October, 2016.

Gifts with Vision Our Congregation has multiple copies of the 2016 edition of *Gifts with Vision: A Gift-Giving Catalogue from the United Church of Canada* for all of us to use and share. The United Church developed the gift catalogue in response to member requests to be able to give gifts to support that support the church's Mission and Service partners. Gifts are available in a range of dollar amounts and include projects here in Canada and around the world many different areas of need (hunger, shelter, education, health, safety, mobility, and more). An online copy of the gift catalogue can be found at www.giftswithvision.ca

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the R.K. MacDonald Chapel.

Lights of Love Christmas Campaign Join the celebration this year by helping the R.K. MacDonald Nursing home light up their tree with bulbs dedicated to love. You can dedicate a bulb in memory of a deceased loved one or honour someone presently in your life. Monies raised will be used to support the construction of a Dementia-friendly Healing and Sensory Garden in the central courtyard. Recent research has highlighted the powerful influence of nature in promoting physical and mental health. If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one and are not already on our mailing list, please call the R.K. Foundation office (902) 863-2578 Ext. 223 and leave your mailing address. Please join us for the dedication ceremony

Friday, December 16 at 8:00 pm A King's Christmas in Antigonish: at St Ninian's Cathedral. Paul Halley and the University of King's College Chapel Choir return to Antigonish for a third year to present their feast of seasonal song and story that brings audience and performers fully into the profound beauty and poignancy of Christmas. The choir will be joined this year by guest narrator Roberta Barker, Associate Professor and Associate Director (Theatre) at the Fountain School of Performing Arts at Dalhousie University. Tickets \$15-\$100, reserve at Antigonish Performing Arts (902.867.3909) or www.tickethalifax.com. Tickets also sold at the door. Info at www.ukings.ca/concerts.

Council Highlights

St. James United Church - November 15, 2016

Welcome to Council Highlights! Below is information about what happened at the last Council meeting and key decisions made.

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The Council received with regrets the resignation of Ida Sarty from her position as Christian Education (CE) Co-ordinator, effective 30 June 2017. Discussion about hiring of the new CE coordinator will be discussed at the Council Meeting in January 2017.

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The St. James United Church directory has arrived but not everyone had their picture taken for it. A poster with all the pictures should be arriving soon for the bulletin board. Members can still submit pictures to be added or have them taken by the Church photographer, Sara.

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The Council received news from the UCW that Barbara Gardiner has stepped down from chairing the Holly Tea and Sale and the yard sales, as well as leading the Ruth Unit. We are thankful for all of Barb's work at organizing these events and are grateful for these gifts she has shared with the congregation.

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Pictou Presbytery conducted a triannual visit this fall. The visitation team reviewed the life of St. James and in the report "applaud their work within the community and beyond and the joy they foster within the Church."

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The Council was pleased to hear that the loan from Maritime Conference for our Renovations (Bridge Financing) has been repaid early.

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During the meeting, discussions were held about about the Remits before the. Council voted to agree with The Elimination of Transfer and Settlement and The Creation of an Office of Vocation. A decision on the other remits was referred to the January 2017 meeting.

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The next meeting of St James United Church Council will be on January 17, 2016 at 7:00 pm.