

Saint James United Church
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Minister: Rev. Adekunle Benjamin Adeniyi
Music Ministry: Pre-recorded
Admin. Assistant: Mary Wheelan



Welcome all visitors and their families who may be worshipping with us this morning through live stream. We pray that you will feel the presence of God's Holy Spirit, as we worship.

St. James United Church, Woodstock, N.B.
Order of service for February 28, 2021 10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Welcome and Announcement

Call to Worship (Psalm 22: 23-26).

“You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one;

he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you,

I will fulfill my vows. The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him may your hearts live forever!”

This past week our Committees for 2021 and the Official Board met for our first meetings.

Our teams are ready to work and we all have a part.

It's Everybody's Job

The story is told about four people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have!
- SOURCE UNKNOWN

This whimsical tale has a very practical moral: when it comes to making decisions and getting the job done it is important to be clear, to step up, to take initiative, and to be responsible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Adekunle will be holding Lenten Bible Study on Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. through Zoom. You will receive the “Zoom” information each week in your email. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2021

COVID-19 has not cancelled World Day of Prayer this year! Many of us will be doing it online. You can watch the 1 hour service by yourself, with your household or with a small group by going to wicc.org or you can watch it online with a larger group of people using Zoom. Rev. Shirley DeMerchant will be hosting two Zoom calls where people can come together from different churches to experience World Day of Prayer. One Zoom service will be on **Friday, March 5, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm**. We will watch the video and discuss it as well as share local prayer concerns. The second Zoom call will be on **Sunday, March 7, 7:00 pm - 7:45 pm**. For this call, participants are asked to watch the online service in advance and then come together to discuss it and share local concerns. You can register for a World Day of Prayer service by Zoom by going to "World Day of Prayer Online With Shirley" (<https://worlddayofprayeronlinewithshirley.com/>). If you have any questions please email Shirley at sldmerchant@gmail.com.

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

Prayer of Confession and Approach

O God, following you brings joy, we confess the way is sometimes hard for us. There are times we get tired and would eagerly settle for an easier road and ignore the needs of our neighbours. Forgive us when our commitment to you waver and when we take that easier path. Stir the embers of our devotion and kindle a brighter flame in us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. We are justified by God's grace which has come to us through Jesus Christ. By grace, we are forgiven and set free to find new life in Christ. Thanks be to God!

Celebrations

Please share your celebrations with us as we give thanks together.

Offertory prayers

Lord Jesus, you challenge all your followers to give to God like you did, without counting the cost. Receive our gifts and bless them so that they may continue your ministry of healing in this hurting world. Bless us with your courage so our lives speak to others of our love for you and for them. Amen.

Scriptures Reading: Mark 8: 31 - 38

REFLECTION: “DISCERNING”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dear Jesus, we thank you for the vision you have for our lives, the promises you have made to us, and the journey you open before us.

Today we remember with gratitude:

Dear Jesus, we thank you for the ways our lives are held secure in uncertain times by our trust in you;

Today we remember with gratitude:

Dear Jesus, we thank you for the moments in these months of pandemic that made us laugh or smile;

Today we remember with gratitude:

Dear Jesus, we thank you for the moments when we felt your gifts of courage and patience;

Today we remember with gratitude:

Dear Jesus, we thank you for the people who love us and give us encouragement;

Today we remember with gratitude:

Dear Jesus, we are grateful for all these signs of your love in our lives. Thank you for the hope they bring us. Show us how to share this hope and love with others who are struggling in these difficult days.

Dear Jesus, we pray for healing and restoration in the world that is our home. Hear us as we name in silence the needs and concerns, we carry today. We pray for people, places and situations deeply in need of your grace, especially as they face the fears and frustrations of coping with COVID-19;

O Lord, hear our prayers and let it come to you.

Dear Jesus, we pray for those who struggle to feed, clothe or house themselves and their families, and all those who worry about their economic future;

O Lord, hear our prayers and let it come to you.

Dear Jesus, we pray for those who are weak or vulnerable for any reason, especially...and for all who lack dignity and respect in our community;

O Lord, hear our prayers and let it come to you.

Dear Jesus, we pray for peace with justice in regions of the world facing turmoil;

O Lord, hear our prayers and let it come to you.

Dear Jesus, we pray for all those offering leadership and service in these times of hope and anxiety, in our community;

O Lord, hear our prayers and let it come to you.

Dear Jesus, work in us and through us, that we may bring the light and love of your kingdom into our relationships and our community in all we do and say. Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray in these words: **Our Father who art in heaven...**

Closing Hymn:

Closing Prayer

Benediction and Send forth.

Lord, you are my portion and my cup of blessing; you hold my future. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

Postlude

MISSION STATEMENT The congregation of Saint James United Church strives to be a welcoming, caring, committed family of people from all ages and walks of life who come together in fellowship with each other and our Creator God.

We endeavor to respect each other's differences and abilities, to follow the way of Jesus, and to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in us and through us, for the ultimate enrichment of our faith, our community and our world.

JUST A NOTE FROM MARG BEATTIE:

Marg would like to share that her sister, Joycelyn Dundas, passed away last week in Cambridge Ontario. If anyone wants to make donations in her name...please give to the General Fund.. I am so happy I saw her last September. I am at my Florida home and plan to return in April...hope the snow has disappeared by then!!

FOOD BANK SUNDAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. Our Food Bank is in need of your support. Next Sunday we will try to help them out with donations from Saint James.

Our unspoken assumptions usually cause the anger and frustration that can sour our relationships and create dissonance rather than harmony at work, at home, or wherever we interact with others. When we feel certain about what must be done, when we feel strongly about how to do it, and when we are certain who is responsible for accomplishing the task, we tend to assume that others think as we do and that they agree with the way we see things. No matter how confident we are about what must be done, communicating our expectations of others as well as what we are willing to do ourselves is essential for good cooperation.

When we function as a member of a team, a department, a family, or any other group, there is always ample opportunity to blame others when something does not get done. But if Nobody blamed Anybody, and if Everybody helped Somebody, think how much more pleasant it would be to be around those with whom we interact - and how much more pleasant it would be for them to be around us!

I once saw a sign that read, "Everyone brings joy to this office, some when they come and others when they leave." We bring joy when instead of blaming, complaining, or waiting for others to act, we communicate clearly and do our part - *cheerfully* - to get the job done.