

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

USHERS: Peter Clark, Ruby MacNabb,
Karen Taylor, Andrea Dimock



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 7, 2021 10:30 a.m.
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Black History Month

Prelude

Welcome and Announcement

Call to Worship (Psalm 147)

Hallelujah. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him.

He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

Sing to the LORD with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.

the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Let us worship God.

Black History Month

“History is written by the victors” goes the old adage. Though there is some truth to the statement, it isn't entirely accurate. The Hebrew exodus and the resurrection of Jesus are stories from the margins. As a church, we observe Black History Month every February because we remember that the gospel that has shaped our identity is a message from the margins; it is history written by the oppressed.

During Black History Month, the population is given the opportunity to hear about Black Canadians like Anderson Ruffin Abbott, the first Black Canadian to be licensed as a physician. Abbott had petitioned US President Abraham Lincoln to allow him to join the Union Army during the American Civil War and developed a relationship with Lincoln. He was later honoured to receive the plaid shawl Lincoln wore at his 1861 inauguration as an expression of gratitude from Mary Todd Lincoln, after her husband's assassination.

During Black History Month, we remember the stories of women like Marie-Joseph Angélique, who was accused of starting a fire that destroyed all of, what is now, Old Montreal on April 10, 1734 (before the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1833). There is no consensus on whether Angélique started the fire or was accused of it due to her social conditions.

During Black History Month, we remember the struggles, contributions, and achievements of Black Canadians, knowing that the more these stories are shared, the more we will come to know one another.

For more on Black History Month see www.united-church.ca/worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TELEPHONE CONTACT: Please note all calls to the church will be received at 328-6114.

YOUTH WITH A PURPOSE

WEDNESDAY Feb. 10th . 6:00 p.m.

This week our Youth Group (Ages 12 – 18) will be held through “Zoom” on the Computer. Ages 12 - 18
Call your friends to join, as well, prepare a snack and enjoy an hour of “Youth With A Purpose.”

The information will be sent out on Tues. or Wed.

**Thanks to all who reached out to someone
with a call, card or prayer**

***DURING THIS TIME OF COVID19
LET'S ALL DO OUR PART BY
MAKING A PHONE CALL OR
SENDING A CARD.***

“CONNECT”

At our last session meeting there was a presentation involving a program called Connect.

This week we would like to share this program.

This is designed to have each of us connect with someone they know or they feel is feeling isolated in this COVID world.

All that is involved is to just phone someone once or twice a week to see how they are doing, anything they need , or just say hello.

If you do call someone, could you let Mary or Rev Adekunle know, so we have an idea of the interest there is out there.

Thank you, Keith

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

Prayer of Confession and Approach

Dear Jesus, we thank you for your presence in our world. Lord, at times we forget what we once knew of your love. Consumed by worry, we forget to trust you. Although we know you made us for a purpose, we choose our own ways. Discouragement seeps into our hearts in the cold of winter and we do not serve you with eagerness. May we walk by your light and not grow weary. May we run and not faint. In Jesus Christ name we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Matthew 6: 14-15)

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Praise to the Lord, Alleluia.

Celebrations

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

Offertory prayers

Dear Jesus, we bring our offering to you, trusting that you will bless our gifts and use them in ways we cannot even imagine. We ask that these gifts will touch many lives, with your healing and hope in these difficult days. Amen.

Scriptures Reading: Mark 1: 29-39

REFLECTION:

“OVERCOMING THE PRESSURE OF TIME”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dear Jesus, we thank you for the story of your life among us, we give you thanks for moments of quiet and contemplation that restore us, and help us perceive your Spirit at work in the world and in our own lives. Teach us to trust in your strength, so that we can live with confidence and courage even in the midst of stress and anxiety. These days of pandemic are still difficult and we need to know you are near in our lonely times. Meet us in that place of deep stillness within us all.

In the quiet of this moment, we hand over to you.

Anything that has been distracting or hurtful...O Lord

In the quiet of this moment, we hand over to you.

Anything that makes us worry or brings sleepless nights...O Lord

In the quiet of this moment, we hand over to you.

Our hopes and dreams for the future... ..O Lord

In the quiet of this moment, we hand over to you.

For the lives of those we love.....O Lord

In the quiet of this moment, we hand over to you.

We hold before you the needs and hopes of those we know who need your presence, especially remembering those sickness...facing grief and loss.....O Lord

In the quiet of this moment, we hand over to you.

We pray for wisdom for the leaders of our world.....O Lord

In the quiet of this moment, we hand over to you.

We pray that peace and prosperity will begin to flourish in places facing war, famine, and disaster, and we pray for the work of The United Church of Canada serving in these situations...O Lord

In the quiet of this moment, we hand over to you.

We pray that those who manage the world economy find honest, just and generous ways to respond to the challenges caused by the pandemic.....O Lord

In the quiet of this moment, we hand over to you.

We pray that the dignity of each creature be honoured and the earth itself be treasured.....O Lord

In the quiet of this moment, we hand over to you.

May peace with justice thrive in the world you love...**Our Father who art..**

Closing Hymn:

Closing Prayer

Benediction and Send forth (Psalm 16: 5-6)

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.

NOTE: ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE TODAY.

THE ANNUAL REPORT IS TO BE OUT THIS WEEK AS OUR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 21ST. following the Morning Worship Service in the sanctuary.

More information to follow.

Black History Month

Children's Time – The Freedom Quilt

Those of us who have heritage linked to the transatlantic slave trade come from a variety of peoples, most of whom taught through oral tradition, where the customs of people are taught through the spoken word. Much in the history of Black peoples connected to the transatlantic slave trade was never written down; one such piece of history is related to quilting.

Today, a person can go to a church in almost any part of this country and usually find one or more quilting groups, primarily consisting of women. However, the tradition that came with slaves from Africa was that men were primarily responsible for creating quilts. Once on North American soil the tradition continued, this time predominantly stewarded by women.

It is told that some of the quilts created during the era of the Underground Railroad included secret codes to help runaway slaves find safe houses. Some say that this is not true, while others say that the idea is rooted in the oral history of Black peoples and will not be found recorded anywhere. One book that popularizes the idea of the secret code is Deborah Hopkinson's *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt* (Dragonfly Books, 1995). One January, I took the book to the UCW of my church and asked them to create such a quilt. Not only did they make a quilt, but they presented it to me in February in time for Black History Month!

Whatever you believe about secret quilt codes, quilting is a part of the history of Black peoples across North America—whether their ancestors came here centuries ago or even last week.

Adam Kilner

For more on Black History Month see www.united-church.ca/worship