

Saint James United Church
120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7M 1H1
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Email: stjames@nb.aibn.com Website: saintjamesunited.ca

Minister: Rev. Adekunle Benjamin Adeniyi

Music Ministry: Prerecorded

Admin. Assistant: Mary Wheelan

Ushers Bob and Bonnie Stokes, Heather Voutour,
Carolyn Porter



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 March 21, 2021 10:30 a.m.
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Welcome and Announcement

Call to Worship

Come, all who desire to know God.

Come, all who yearn to see Jesus.

Come, all who thirst for the Spirit.

God is in our midst this day.

So, let us praise God's holy name.

We will worship God with heart, mind, strength and soul, and declare God's goodness to us.

Opening Prayer

Dear Jesus, we are grateful for your patience and persistence, drawing near to us even through the times we cannot draw near each other. Your promise of hope in Jesus Christ, drawing life out of the grip of death, means so much to us. Let your Holy Spirit anew on us as we gather today. May we go back home renewed. Amen.

5 Things about Palm Sunday that Remind Us Christ is King

1. God's Word tells us the people cut palm branches and waved them in the air, laid them out on the ground before Jesus as He rode into the city. The palm branch represented goodness and victory and was symbolic of the final victory He would soon fulfill over death. *"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"* [1 Cor. 15:55](#)

2. Jesus chose to ride in on a donkey, which directly fulfilled Old Testament prophecy of [Zech. 9:9](#). In Biblical times, it was common for kings or important people to arrive by a procession riding on a donkey. The donkey symbolized peace, so those who chose to ride them showed that they came with peaceful intentions. Jesus even then reminded us that He is the Prince of Peace. *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."* [Zech. 9:9](#)

3. When the people shouted "Hosanna!" they were hailing Christ as King. That word actually means "save now," and though in their own minds they waited for an earthly king, God had a different way in mind of bringing true salvation to all who would trust in Him. *"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!"* [Ps. 118:26](#) *"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."* [Rom. 10:9](#). The Bible says that Jesus wept for Jerusalem. In the midst of the praise of the moment, He knew in His heart that it wouldn't be long that these same people would

DONATIONS

A donation has been made to the Youth Camp Fund in loving memory of Ed Stone, by David and Debbie Daye,

A donation has been made to the Kirk Cemetery Fund in loving memory of Ed Stone, by Western Valley Service Commission.

A memorial donation has been made to the Kirk Cemetery Fund in loving memory of Ed. Stone by Bert and Dorothy Connell.
Greg and Shawna M. Quinn,

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Greg Fox by Neil and Jane Girdwood,

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Jocelyn Dundas, sister of Marg Beattie,
by Gail Lipsett

A donation from Margie Daye-Patterson to The Mission and Service Fund has been given today in recognition of
The International Day for the Elimination of Racial
Discrimination,

and in loving memory of our first Mission Band teacher Muriel Cluff, March 22, 1913- February 20, 2010. who taught us the memory verse: "Jesus said: "Love on another" and the song:
" Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world:
red or yellow, black or white, all created in God's sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. through Zoom. You will receive the "Zoom" information each week in your email.

YOUTH WITH A PURPOSE WEDNESDAY March 24 . 6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. This week our Youth Group (Ages 12 – 18) will be held through "Zoom."

Call your friends to join as well, prepare a snack and enjoy an hour of "Youth With A Purpose."

Opening Hymn

Prayer of Confession and Approach

Dear Jesus, as we ponder your sacrifice, we recognize the self-centered ways in which we lead our lives. We get lost in our own plans and worries and neglect to show love, even to those right beside us. Our own needs seem insurmountable, and we cannot reach out to someone else. Forgive us, Lord Jesus. Renew a right spirit within us, so that we find the courage to go on and the compassion to reach out in your name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus said, come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Friends, trust that peace and forgiveness are God's gifts to you this day.

Be renewed by the power of the Spirit that moves with you into each new day.

Celebrations

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

Offertory prayers

Dear Jesus, with our gifts we offer you our thanks and praise for the promise of spring and the promise of resurrection in Christ Jesus. Bless our gifts and accomplish more than we can ask or imagine, as they bear fruit in the world you love, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scriptures Reading: John 12: 20-33

REFLECTION: THE SECRET TO LIFE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dear Jesus, we give you thanks for your presence to sustain us during unending change and challenge. While we find it hard to understand why things happen, we are grateful that you are with us.

You understand our fears; you support and guide us; and you give us courage to face the unknown.

Dear Jesus, we give thanks that you intend goodness for us; that your gift of faith is a solid rock which supports us; and that prayer gives us the hope you keep working in ways seen and unseen for goodness to prevail.

You understand our fears; you support and guide us; and you give us courage to face the unknown.

Dear Jesus, in this time of uncertainty when there is much to be anxious about, we pray for the world you love. Send your healing Spirit to guide countries and communities as they respond to COVID-19. Bless the work of medical researchers and frontline health care workers in these stressful times. Bless the plans to offer vaccine to all who want it and give us patience and common sense as we wait our turns for vaccination.

Send your healing Spirit to bring peace with justice to the troubled places.

Dear Jesus, bring care and comfort to those who have been hurt in conflict, wisdom to those who offer leadership in their communities, and courage to those who advocate for the most vulnerable.

Send your healing Spirit to mend relationships between religious groups and cultural groups who find themselves in tension or turmoil.

Dear Jesus, we pray for mutual respect to grow between peoples who look at each other with suspicion and among people who have experienced painful histories with each other. Open our hearts and minds to those whose situations and concerns we don't understand and bring your gift of reconciliation to us all.

Send your healing Spirit to people we know and the earth you love.

Dear Jesus, we pray for the continuing ministry of Saint James United Church in our neighborhoods and around the world. As we prepare to celebrate Easter and Christ's resurrection, help us plan safely and creatively.

Send your healing Spirit to raise our hearts and our hopes with the promise of new life in Christ.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain in us all a willing spirit. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying: **Our Lord's prayer...**

Closing Hymn:

Closing Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers, feeding us with your word, and encouraging us together. Take us and use us to love and serve you, and all people in the power of your spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction and Send forth. (Ephesians 3:20–21)

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. **Amen.**

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.

**The bulletin today had been dedicated in loving memory
of Kimberly Buckingham Green
by her Mom, Joyce Gibson, and family.**

turn their backs on Him, betray Him, and crucify Him. His heart broke with the reality of how much they needed a Savior. *"As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it, and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace--but now it is hidden from your eyes."* [Luke 19:41-42](#)

5. Palm Sunday reminds us that the reign of Christ is far greater than any the mind of man could ever conceive or plan. Man looked for someone to fight their battles in the present day world. Yet God had the ultimate plan of sending His Son to fight the final battle over death. This is the greatness of why we celebrate this week. Because of Christ's ultimate sacrifice, we can be set free of death. *"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,'* [John 11:25](#) We have so much to be grateful for this week. The enemy knows that, and you can bet, he's going to do everything he can to try and distract us away from the true meaning of what this Holy Week means. Don't let him win. In this Holy Week, may God direct our thoughts and attention towards what matters most, Jesus Christ our King...Let's choose to focus on worshipping our Lord, thanking Him for the gift of His sacrifice, celebrating the power of the Resurrection, and the new life found in Him alone. Grace. *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"* [2 Cor. 9:15](#)

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