

St. James United Church

February 16, 2020/6th Sunday after Epiphany

Minister: Rev. Brian Colbourne
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Organist: Amy Dalziel
Music by: St. James Guitar Group
Usher in Charge and Greeter: Oliver Wellon
Ushers: Don Blackmore, Ruth Baker, Eric King,
Sandra Thistle, Jack Head

St. James United Church is a safe place for all people to worship, regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background or sexual orientation.

MUSICAL PRELUDE:

Guitar Group

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CANDLE: (One) This is the light of Christ, a promise of love. This light shines for us, and through us and for all of creation. For this we give thanks as we gather in worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Praise to the Lord!

All: How good it is to sing praises to our God, for God is gracious and a song of praise is fitting.

One: The Lord builds up Jerusalem; God gathers the outcasts of Israel.

All: God heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

One: The Lord lifts the downtrodden; God opposes the oppressors.

All: Sing to the Lord! With thanksgiving make melody to our God on the lyre. Praise the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER: (together) Lord, we give You thanks that Your Spirit has gathered us here today, to attend to Your word, sing Your praises, and be nourished by Your presence. Help us set aside the cares and worries of the day. Teach us to turn our hearts to You, that we may leave this place refreshed, renewed, and restored, ready to serve You with joy. Amen.

HYMN: *Take Time to Be Holy*

672

CHILDREN'S TIME, BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

HYMN: *I Love to Tell the Story*

343

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY CHORUS:

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (together) Blessed are You, O Lord our God, creator of the universe. From You, we receive all that we need, often before we even know to ask. Along with our thanks, we return to You a portion of these gifts. Let them be used in Jesus’ name to serve those in need, that whatever good works these gifts accomplish might glorify our God in heaven. Amen.

ANTHEM: *He Touched Me* Guitar Group

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40: 21 - 31
Mark 1: 29 - 39

MEDITATION

HYMN: *Blessed Assurance* 337

PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: *1, the Lord of Sea and Sky* 509

COMMISSIONING: (One) And now, touched by God’s Spirit, which makes us free, held in God’s love, which gives us strength, befriended by God’s son, who breaks down walls, let us live with hearts wide open to all that it means to be God’s people.

BENEDICTION

(Let us share the peace of Christ with each other as we leave.)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Minute for Mission: Thanks to Affirm United and Mission & Service, the Living Apology Project gave many a place to heal and to learn. Seeing the poems, laments, stories, and pieces of art created by people affected by the 1988 decision to accept LGBTQIA2S+ people as full members in The United Church of Canada was therapeutic for some; for others, it conjured up memories of anger and fear. The late Former Moderator Anne Squire shared the first reflection: My

secretary once handed me a letter, saying, "I don't want to give you this, but I have to." It was from Elizabeth, outlining her work in the church; she said the last straw was the possible ordination of gay and lesbian people. She ended with "My prayer is that you will be stricken with AIDS. Yours in Christ, Elizabeth." Another day a big box arrived with no indication of the sender. Inside were two 10-inch cubes of acrylic; embedded in each was a metal rod that had been bent into a Greek letter. One was Alpha and the other was Omega. When someone asked what this meant, I said it meant that God was with us at the beginning of our life and will be with us at the end. I also felt that it meant that God was with us in this divisive project and would help guide us. To answer that hurtful letter now, I say, "Yes, Elizabeth, I do have aids but not the kind you are talking about. My aids are Affirm, my family, my friends, and my faith."

St. James United Church Life and Work, February 16, 2020

We offer our condolences to the following people:

***Chesley Howell**, his family and friends, on the passing of Chesley's beloved wife, Lavinia May, who passed away on February 9. Her funeral took place from St. James United Church last Tuesday.

***Preston Robbins**, his family and friends, on the passing of Preston's beloved wife, Charlotte 'Winnie' on January 30. Her funeral service took place from Carnell's Chapel on February 3.

***The family and friends of Grace Serrick**; Grace passed away peacefully on February 3. A Celebration of Life was held at the Fluvarium last Friday.

***The family and friends of Rema Attwood**; Rema passed away on December 28; Rema had a private burial on December 31 at Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

We gratefully acknowledge a donation to the General Fund in loving memory of husband Gilbert, son Gil Jr. and daughter Lona from Ruby Hiscock.

Financial Update: St. James sincerely thanks our congregation for their ongoing support. To meet our budget, we need average weekly givings of \$4,038. (This includes the weekly PAR contributions.)
Givings: January 26: \$3,919
February 2: \$2,037
February 9: \$3,652

The Lenten Folders are here. They are in the Sanctuary, in alphabetical order of your last name, for the next two Sundays to be picked up.

Because there were not enough left from previous years, we ordered a new supply. Now some of them hold \$10 and some \$15! Feel free to give what you wish! Those that are left will be delivered by our zone captains.

Kiwanis Music Festival, February 15-27: As usual, we are pleased to host part of the Kiwanis Music Festival. The schedule for when St. James Sanctuary is being used is on the bulletin board in the foyer. If you are coming to the church during those times, please tread quietly.

Monday, February 17: *Loose Threads Sewing Studio*, 2-5pm.

Wednesday, February 19: AOTS dinner meeting at 5pm for 5:30 in the Auditorium. New members are always welcome, and encouraged to join

Saturday, February 22:

***Ukelele class, 1:30pm** in the Youth Chapel;

* **Contemporary Worship Service, 4:30pm;**

***Community Potluck and Games Night in the Auditorium, 6pm.** All ages are welcome! Bring something to share for supper, and stay for fun and board games, or even a game of cards!

Notice to all congregation members: Your Council has recently approved several action plans which affect all of us. As a result, we give notice of two upcoming congregational meetings in this regard, and advance notice of our Annual Meeting. We ask that members make every effort to attend these meetings.

Sunday February 23rd following the morning service to receive the report from our Diversity Committee and take the vote on becoming an Affirming Congregation.

Sunday March 1st following the morning service to share information on a proposal formulated by Stewardship to address our debt and financial future.

Sunday March 15th following the morning service our Annual Congregational Meeting to receive the Annual Report and Budget.

Lenten activities:

***Annual Pancake supper**, Tuesday, February 25 at 5:30pm: Tickets are now available from the church office; \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Please purchase before the event; they will not be available at the door.

* **Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday, February 26 at 7pm** in the Fellowship Room.

***Lenten Study Program: 'Signs of Life: Why Church Matters.'** A 5-week program on Thursday mornings at 10:30, starting March 5. Please contact Susan (722-1881, ext. 204 or susan@stjamesuc.org) to register; course materials will cost \$5.

***Lenten Lunchtime Communion Services, beginning Thursday, March 5.** Please note change of day from previous years.

THE END

