

Saint James United Church

November 12, 2017 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7M1H1

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Minister's Office 328-3191 Minister's Cell Phone No: 323-1304

Minister: Rev. Debra Baker

Music Director and Organist: Amy Anderson

Admin. Assistant: Mary Wheelan C.D. Coordinator: Joan Hall

Reader: Keith Fullarton

Ushers: John McLellan, Ken and Janet Nichols



Welcome all visitors and their families who may be worshipping with us this morning. We pray that you will feel at home here at Saint James and that you will feel the presence of God's Holy Spirit, as we worship. After the service please introduce yourself to

Rev. Debra,, sign our guest book at the back of the sanctuary and join us join us for Coffee, Tea , and fellowship in the Board Room.

WE GATHER

Prelude

Introit MV#189 – Jesus, We Are Here (2x)

Welcome

Question to ponder: What is spiritual preparedness? Do you feel spiritually prepared?

Call to Worship

The God of our ancestors has called us here.

We are witnesses.

The wisdom of the ages has called us here.

We are witnesses.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 12

- Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
- Special Music - The Kiersteads
- Sunday School
- Coffee, Tea and fellowship
- Sunshine Singers

Nov. 14

- Games 1:00 p.m.
- Sparks and Pathfinders 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 15

- Quilting 1:00 p.m.
- Choir Practice 7:15 p.m.

Nov. 19

- Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday School
- Coffee, tea and fellowship
- Sunshine Singers

MONTHLY NOVEMBER CALENDAR---NOTE CHANGE TO U.C.W. COFFEE PARTY Nov. 25th 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

SCENT FREE ENVIRONMENT: A few of our congregation members have been experiencing problems due to perfumes in the church. We have tried to maintain a Scent Free Environment within Saint James United Church. We would like to remind everyone to please consider this request and refrain from wearing perfumes.

Minute For Mission

The choice to follow God has called us here.

We are witnesses.

The Lord of life has called us here.

We are witnesses.

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Prayer of Opening

Promise of the ages, we come to you this day to choose the way you set before us. Strengthen our convictions and grant us patience in our waiting, as we watch for signs of your coming kingdom. Help us teach our children your ways, that we may pass on a better world to the generations to come. Amen.

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Hymn

VU#343 – I Love to Tell the Story

Children's Time

The Kiersteads

Prayer of Confession

When our courage wears thin, O God, strengthen our resolve to choose you each day. When we grow weary in our waiting, steel us for the long watches of the night – for we long to be found ready when you appear in your glory. Fill our lamps with your grace, that we might share your light with our children and with the generations that follow. Amen.

(time for silent prayer)

Words of Forgiveness

We worship a God of mercy and love. Hold onto these words of hope: “We will be with the Lord forever.”

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ministry of Music The Kiersteads

Prayer for Illumination

Listening for the word of God keeps our lamps lit and our hearts ready.
Listen ... hear ... receive ... choose to let God in. Amen.

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Scripture Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
 Psalm 78, VU p.792, Part One (*seated; omit refrain*)
 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 Matthew 25:1-13

Message

Music for Meditation

Hymn VU#356 – Seek Ye First the Kingdom

Offertory *What can I do? What can I bring?
 What can I say? What can I sing?
 I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
 I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.*

Offertory prayer

We dedicate these gifts to you, Eternal One, as symbols of our choice to follow you. Receive these gifts of love as celebrations of your presence in our lives. Hold us to our promises, that we might share your blessings and wisdom with the world. Amen.

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Minute for Mission (*printed*)

Announcements

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn VU#560 – O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

Blessing and Sending Forth

Choose God this day, and keep your lamps lit.

We go with hearts ablaze with God's love.

Choose God this day, and shine with God's light.

We go with lives kindled with the call to serve.

Choose God this day, and enter into fullness of life.

We go to embrace the life we have received.

And may the blessings of God, Christ, and Spirit go with you today and forevermore. Amen.

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Choral Benediction VU#963 – May the Grace of Christ Attend Us

Postlude

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**If you have noticed someone missing from our congregation,
please contact them by phone or visit them in person.**

You may be their "angel."

PAR REMITTANCE PROGRAM

This is a great time of year to sign up for our PAR REMITTANCE PROGRAM! If you have automatic debits from your bank account to pay your bills, then you understand the PAR principle. It means regular contributions throughout the year. Even when we are away, our church has commitments every week. This is a convenient way to support both the local church and M&S. CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE DETAILS.

DATES TO MARK FOR DECEMBER

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY **ON WEDNESDAY'S 10:00 A.M. or 7:00 P.M.**

Dec. 3	First Sunday of Advent Communion Ecumenical Service - St. James	10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 10	Second Sunday of Advent Cantata White Gifts Christmas Kirk Service	10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 11	Community Cantata	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	Third Sunday of Advent Sunday School Concert Family Christmas Pot Luck	10:30 a.m.
Dec. 21	Blue Christmas service	7:00 p.m.
Dec. 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent	10:30 a.m.
Dec. 24	Family Christmas Eve Service with Communion	7:00 p.m.

TODAY'S READINGS

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ²And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors – Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor – lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ³Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

¹⁴ "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

¹⁶Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord; for he is our God."

¹⁹But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." ²¹And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" ²²Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." ²³He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel."

²⁴The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” ²⁵So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew 25:1-13

¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Scriptures for Sunday, November 19, 2017

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS KETTLE

CAMPAIGN *The Salvation Army are asking for volunteers to work the schedule of their annual Christmas Kettle Campaign. (November 24 to 30th and December 1st to December 23rd). It was suggested we might like to do a full day and our church would be noted, as the volunteers. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board for volunteering throughout the noted dates, but we, as a church, will need five people to work Tuesday, Dec 5th. at the Atlantic Super Store. Thanking you in advance for your time.*

ROAST BEEF DRIVE THROUGH SUPPER *on*

Thursday, November 30th 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Cost \$ 12.00 Meal includes: Roast Beef, Gravy, Potatoes, Carrots , Peas, Roll and Apple Crumble. Proceeds to cover repairs of the Kirk Church in Northampton. Use the back door on Maple Street.

The Carleton County Animal Shelter's furball Dinner and Auction *Thursday, November 16* starting *at 6 pm* at the K of C

Hall in Woodstock. A catered dinner followed by a live and silent auction. Tickets are \$25 and available at the shelter in Debec, at Vanity Flair, Shur Gain, Saint John Valley Vet Services and from all board members.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

Fair-Trade Gift Sale—Free Admission

Woodstock Baptist Church 694 Main St.

Friday, Nov. 17th 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 18th 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

ST. GERTRUDE'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

St Gertrude's Annual Memorial Service

Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 2 PM

The St Gertrude's Bereavement Ministry invites you to attend the upcoming Memorial Service to be held at the Woodstock First Nation's Gym. If you have a loved one that you would like to have remembered in this service, please contact Linda Markey at 328-3506 or e-mail at njmarkey@aernet.ca The Memorial Service consists of Music, Prayer, Scripture, Reflection, deceased people's names being read aloud and lighting a candle to remember the loved one(s). We invite you to bring a photo or memento of your loved one and place next to the candle on the Memorial Table. Immediately after the Service, light refreshments will be served.

COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!!

We've made it to Jerusalem and have toured around the city. Now it's time to head for home. If we start walking now, we can plan to be in Woodstock for Christmas. That is 8401 km. A sheet is back on the Bulletin Board to record your kms. This week we travelled 291 kms. The total to date is 5041.07 kms. We are getting closer. KEEP WALKING!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT *We want to have a family Christmas Concert celebrating Canada 150 on December 17th at 10:30 a.m.. If your family has any talents or traditions that you would like to share either songs, poems, skits, readings, etc. We were thinking about celebrating West Coast, French, Indigenous, East Coast Canada. If anyone, as a family or individual, would like to participate please contact Evelyn Clark by November 19th at 328-2025 or email evelyn.clark@nb.aibn.com. Thank you.*

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Our small group study this Advent is entitled "O Wisdom." In this 4 week study, we trace the path of Wisdom knowledge through four books of the Bible: Proverbs, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. We start on Wednesday, November 29th and finish on December 20th. Sessions will be held in the boardroom at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Feel free to attend either one.

U.C.W. Coffee Party and Craft Sale *at Saint James is Saturday, November 25th 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Tickets are \$ 2.00 available from U.C.W. members or at the church office.*

BUDGET REQUESTS FOR 2018

*The Board of Stewards will be working on the budget for 2018 and committees are asked to submit proposals by **December 1, 2017.***

CHURCH COMMITTEES 2018

Special thanks to the members who have served on the committees during 2017. Our regular committee meetings and Official Board are scheduled for Tuesday, November 21st. Please let the chair of the committee know if you are interested to have your name remain on the committee for the up coming year. Also, if you are interested in serving on a committee, please leave your name with Mary at the church office.

*Peter Clark
Chair of Official Board.*

ANGEL PROJECT *Last year we decorated the hall outside the Church office with Angels in memory of loved ones. Please bring your Angel in if you did not leave it here last year and we will place them in memory with a place card naming your loved one. Anyone who would like to take part this year please bring the information and angel into the office.*

COFFEE HOUR *We serve coffee and tea after church and if you wish to bring a snack to share, please feel free to do so. We still need volunteers for setup and cleanup. See sign up sheet. Thank you.*

UPPER ROOMS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

***The SMALL AND LARGE PRINT have arrived.** We also have small print for September and October. Cost \$ 3.00 .*

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY SUPPORT GROUP

This support group meets at Saint James the 3rd Monday of each month. The next meeting will be from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on November 20th.. All those who are care givers may like to mark this on your calendars. Please call the church office to confirm meetings over the summer, as sometimes there are changes.

SIGN-UP SHEETS: *We have placed sign-up sheets on our bulletin board in the lobby for volunteers for: Readers, Sunday, School Teachers and Helpers, as well as, our Advent Study Group.*

ADVENT CALENDAR OF DEVOTIONS 2017 *have been ordered. Will let you know when they arrive. Cost \$ 3.00*

2018 CANADIAN CHURCH CALENDARS *have arrived. Please check at the church office. Cost is \$ 5.00.*

GIFTS WITH VISION BOOKS *have arrived. Located on table outside the church office..*

20TH FESTIVAL OF TREES *hosted by Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Carleton-York AYR Motor Centre Fri Dec. 1 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017 from 11:00 am- 5:00 p.m. HOLIDAY GALA from 8:00 pm – 1:00 a.m. Contact 328-2094 for further information.*

DEBEC TUESDAY QUILTERS

The Debec Tuesday Quilters invite you to our 9th Annual Snowflake Craft Bazaar, Saturday, Nov. 18th from 9 am until noon at Trinity United Church Hall, Debec, NB. Delicious Home Cooking, Quilted Crafts, Knitting, Wreaths and more. Free admission. Proceeds to the upkeep of the Church Hall and for purchasing batting and flannel for Comfort Quilts.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND COFFEE PARTY

St. Luke's Anglican Church Hall, Woodstock, Wednesday, November 15, 2017 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Admission \$ 3.00

