

Saint James United Church

September 24, 2017 – 16th 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: Gail Lipsett

Ushers: Keith Fullarton, David and Sandra MacNally



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 for soup, rolls, and fellowship in the C.E. Centre.

WE GATHER

Prelude

Introit MV#18 – Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary (2X)

Welcome

Question to Ponder *Have you ever felt envious of others? Why?*

Call to Worship

Remember this! (*stage whisper*) God is always generous, and God is always fair.

We will remember! (*stage whisper*)

Remember this! (*a bit louder*) God will give us more than we deserve.

We will remember! (*a bit louder*)

Remember this! (*louder still*) God will also give others more than they deserve.

We will remember! (*louder still*)

Let us worship God, who is loving, generous and fair.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 24

- Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday School
- Soup, Rolls and Fellowship in C.E. Centre
- Kirk Service 2:00 p.m.

Sept. 25

- Fellowship Unit 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 26

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

Sept. 27

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

Sept. 29

- Wedding Rehearsal

Sept. 30

- Wedding

Oct. 1

- Morning Worship (Communion) 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday School
- Coffee Tea and Fellowship in Board Room

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

This is the last week to have your donations ready for the fall yard sale and to sign up for working at the sale. Volunteers are needed to set up for the sale, to work at the sale and to clean up on Friday a.m. If you are able to help sign on the bulletin board or call Lana at 328-6736.

DONATIONS

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Robert MacFarlane by Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1587.

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Mary Jane Hatfield by Ray and Arlene Derrick

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Terry Drake by Ray and Arlene Derrick

A donation has been made to the Building Fund in loving memory of Robert MacFarlane by Ron and Anne Murray, Andrea Dimock.

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.*

Prayer of Opening

We worship you, God, and give thanks for your generous Spirit. We have come as your people to thank you for the many ways you help us. Make us glad that you help others, too. Help us not to compare what they have with what we have, for you alone know our needs. We praise you with happy hearts because we know you love us all. Amen.

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Hymn VU#229 – God of the Sparrow

Children's Time

Prayer of Confession

Today, let us think about things we have done this past week that have hurt someone:

**perhaps we didn't have time for them;
perhaps we said something cross to them;
perhaps we have insisted on our own way;
perhaps we have been jealous of something someone else had which we did not have;
perhaps we have resented people who have recently arrived in our country or moved into our neighbourhood.
Whatever the case may be, let us take a moment to confess our sin silently to God.**

(time for silent prayer)

Words of Forgiveness

Your heart is always open, dear God. You offer us love and forgiveness whenever we confess our sins.

Thank you – we accept. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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Passing the Peace of Christ

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem Give Thanks to the Lord

Scripture Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105, VU p.828-829, Parts One & Four
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Message

Music for Reflection

Hymn VU#227 – For the Fruit of All Creation

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Presentation of the Offering I Saw the Rich Ones - choir

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

Long ago, when your people were starving and did not know which way to turn, you offered them manna in the wilderness, a strange food that nonetheless could sustain them and offer them life. Now we offer you a portion of what we have, as a way of helping to feed those who are hungry, bring hope to those who are hopeless, and to help make your love felt in the world. Amen.

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Minute for Mission

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn VU#574 – Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love

Blessing and Sending Forth

Live as Christ in all that you say. Love as Christ in all that you do. Go forth as the children of God.

Amen.

Choral Benediction MV#215 – Peace Be with You

Postlude

† † † † † †

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

You may be their “angel.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER *The large print did arrive but we are still waiting for the small print. (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 October 16th. 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, Pie Making, Pie Orders, etc. Yard Sale, etc.**

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 413.5 kms. The total to date is 2,335.2 Kms. We are in the Mediterranean Sea. Let's Go!! Keep Walking.

TODAY'S READINGS

Exodus 16:2-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" ⁸And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him – what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord?"

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" ¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground.

¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy, in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. And this is God’s doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1-16

¹For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’ ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous? ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

† † † † † †

Scripture readings for October 1, 2017

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Coming up at Hillcrest United, Graveyard Hill, Stanley:

ANNUAL ELLEN'S COUNTRY KITCHEN

11:00 - 1:00 For reservations (10 or more)
 call Geraldine at 440-7896
 or leave a message
 at church office 367-2288.

Mon., Sept. 25 Turkey Dinner (apple, pumpkin pie)

Tues., Sept. 26 Roast Beef (lemon, coconut cream pie)

Wed., Sept. 27 Potato Scallop, Ham, Baked Beans (apple
crumble, butterscotch pie)

Thurs., Sept. 28 Roast Chicken Breast (cheesecake)

Fri., Sept. 29 Roast Pork (strawberry shortcake)

PLUS

Sat., Sept. 30, 3:30 - 5:30

Turkey Dinner (assorted pies)

Available daily: - drumstick pie, rice pudding

- sale of homemade preserves

All meals: \$14