

Saint James United Church

November 26th, 2017

Reign of Christ Sunday

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: Anne Murray

Musical Guests: Peter Wood and Ken Nichols (Wood 'n' Nichols)

Ushers: Ken and Janet Nichols, John McLellan



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 Soup, Rolls, and fellowship in the C.E. Centre.

WE GATHER

Prelude

Introit VU p.820 – Psalm 100, Make a Joyful Noise

Welcome

Question to Ponder When have you helped “the least of these”? Do you find it easier to be the giver or receiver? Why?

Call to Worship

The reign of the Coming One is not from this earth.

The kin-dom, the power, and the glory of the Holy One are forever.

The reign of the Risen One is here, now.

The kin-dom, the power, and the glory of the Holy One are for freedom.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 26

- Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
- Special Guest Wood “N” Nichols
- Sunday School
- Soup Sunday, Coffee, Tea and Fellowship
- Sunshine Singers

Nov. 27

- Fellowship Unit Christmas Party at Evelyn Clarks 6:00 p.m.

Nov. 28

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

Nov. 29

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

Nov. 30

DRIVE THROUGH ROAST 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
BEEF SUPPER—Proceeds to Kirk Church Repairs
By Donation

Dec. 3

- First Sunday of Advent-Communion 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday School
- Coffee, tea and fellowship
- Sunshine Singers
- Ecumenical Service at Saint James 7:00 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.

CHRISTMAS... *It's All About the Cross" will be presented on Saturday, Dec. 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at Jacksonville United Baptist Church. This musical drama involves singers and actors from area churches who have joined with us to tell the story of Christ's birth from the view point of the biblical characters who were present. A free will offering will be taken in support of Bible Faith Outreach in Papua New Guinea where "Aunty Rosa" cares for orphans and widows. Everyone is welcome so please invite a friend or neighbour to share this special evening with you.*

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR *at Presbyterian Church in Vestry on Saturday, December 9th 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. A special sale table will be set up for children. Coffee, Tea and Refreshments. Proceeds for local charities.*

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.*

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 341.5 kms. The total to date is 5382.57 kms. We are getting closer. KEEP WALKING!

The reign of the Living One is in us all.

The kin-dom, the power, and the glory of the Holy One are for all.

(Written by Robin Wardlaw. **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2017, page 49. Used by permission.)

Prayer of Opening

Jesus, you are brother, friend, Lord, neighbour, Sophia/wisdom, Saviour, God, and so very much more. The important thing is not the name but your abiding grace and power.

I wonder, Jesus, if we recognize you in the ordinary activities of life. Your dearest friends had difficulty knowing you were in their midst. What about us? Do we notice you in the people we meet? Are your eyes looking back from the bedside of someone who is ill and frightened and very glad for some company? Is that your laughter heard from the children on the playground? Forgive us for the times you go unrecognized and open our hearts that we might take notice the next time we catch a glimpse of you.

Bless us in our worship, Jesus, and then send us out to love and serve you. Amen.

(Written by Susan Ivany. **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2017, page 49. Used by permission.)

Hymn VU#600 – When I Needed a Neighbour

Children's Time Wood 'n' Nichols

Prayer of Confession

God of glory, we do not always see your glory in the world around us. When we see a person in need, it is not easy to look him in the eye. When we hear a cry for help, it is not easy to offer her quick assistance. When we know of a lonely prisoner, it is not easy to make that visit. Forgive us when we fail to see you in our everyday lives. Forgive us when we are afraid to act, afraid to care. Encourage us, God of glory. Help us to see others with the eyes of compassion, that we might be your loving presence in the world. Amen.

(time for silent prayer)

Words of Forgiveness

There is immeasurable greatness in the power of God for those who believe. There is unquenchable fire in the hearts of believers for those who have tasted God's hope. In the name of Christ Jesus, who brings fullness to all, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ministry of Music Wood 'n' Nichols

Prayer for Illumination

God, sometimes the words we hear in scripture challenge us more than we like. There are times when all we want is to hear something life-affirming and easy. But then you bring us words that call us to be more, to do more, and to love more. Open us to the challenge of these words and strengthen our faith; for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Written by Susan Ivany. **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2017, page 37. Used by permission.)

Scripture Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Message

Music for Reflection

Hymn VU#592 – Come Now, You Blessed

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Presentation of the Offering Wood 'n' Nichols

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

Gentle Shepherd, may the gifts we bring this day: be nourishment for a hungry world, be clothing and shelter for those in need, be compassion for those who are hurting. Bless these offerings, that they may help those in need, and that they may remind us of who we are really helping. With gratitude, we pray. Amen.

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Minute for Mission (printed)

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn VU#211 – Crown Him with Many Crowns

Blessing and Sending Forth

Whether we are those fed or those feeding,

O Spirit, lead us through grace.

Whether we are those forgiven or those forgiving,

O Spirit, lead us through insight.

Whether we are those naked or those clothing,

O Jesus, who is God with us, be our guide, our strength, and our joy.

(Written by Gord Dunbar. **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2017, page 50. Used by permission.)

Choral Benediction MV#222 – May the Peace of God Be Your Peace

Postlude

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TODAY'S READINGS

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. 17	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.

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Jesus Christ when he raised him from the dead

and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?’ ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?’ ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Scriptures for Sunday, December 3, 2017 Isaiah 64:1-9; Ps 80; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

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. Thanking you in advance for your time.*

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.

UNITED CHURCH OBSERVER *Time to look at renewal of you United Church Observer. If you do not wish to renew, please let Mary know at the church office or if your are a new subscriber, we can add your name for a subscription for the up coming year. Cost is \$ 20.00.*

SEE BULLETIN BOARD

CANDLE LIGHT PARADE Dec. 3rd from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

MUSICAL AT PEMBROOK HALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. 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.*

ANNUAL REPORT - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting will be held on February 4th after church. Please have your annual reports in by January 16, 2018 . 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.

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.

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 December 18th .. 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.

ROAST BEEF DRIVE THROUGH SUPPER on

Thursday, Nov. 30th 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. **BY DONATION**
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.

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.

UPPER ROOMS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

The SMALL AND LARGE PRINT have arrived. Cost \$ 3.00 .

ADVENT CALENDAR OF DEVOTIONS 2017 have arrived and are at the church office. 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..

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.