

Saint James United Church

March 19, 2017 – 3rd . Sunday in Lent

120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7M1H1

Phone: 328-6114 Fax: 324-9349 Evenings: 328-3198

Email: stjames@nb.aibn.com Website: saintjamesunited.ca

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

Ushers: Heather Voutour, Jolene Caverhill, Ruby MacNabb

Reader: Evelyn Clark



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 Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in the board room.

WE GATHER

Centering Words

Water gushing from a rock ... living waters welling up to eternal life ... these are gifts from the One who pours love into our hearts, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Come and drink deeply. Taste and see that our God is good.

Prelude

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

Welcome

DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | | |
|---------|--|--|
| Mar. 19 | Morning Worship
Sunday School
Handbells and Sunshine Singers
Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in Board Room | 10:30 a.m. |
| Mar. 21 | WI Service
Games
Sparks / Pathfinders
Committee Meetings
Official Board | 10:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m. |
| Mar. 22 | Lenten Study Group
Lenten Service 12:05 p.m. St. Gertrude's
Quilting
Choir | 10:00 a.m.

1:00 p.m.
7:15 p.m. |
| Mar. 26 | Morning Worship
Sunday School
Handbells and Sunshine Singers
Soup, Rolls and Fellowship in Board Room | 10:30 a.m. |

SCENT FREE ENVIROMENT: *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.*

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

7th ACTS VARIETY SHOW *This year's date for our 7th Acts is Friday, April 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. here in the C. E. Centre. We will also be having a Silent Auction at this time.....so get your Acts fine tuned, and your items gathered for the Auction. Let Joan know if you have either of these. Thanks!!*

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND *We have a new Youth Development Fund which donations would be greatly appreciated.*

LENTEN CHALLENGE *During Lent as a congregation let's pledge to walk to Jerusalem from Saint James. That's 8401 Km. We have a lot of walkers here all we need to do is keep track of our km. and report in once a week during lent. A tally sheet will be posted on the Bulletin Board. The person with the most km. will receive a special prize. **TRAVEL LOG** The week of March 12th 258.13 Km. We have reached Halifax, Nova Scotia.*

CHURCH CALENDARS 2017 *Have arrived. Check at the office, if you wish to purchase one. Cost \$ 7.00*

COFFEE HOUR *This year we will be serving 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. Thank you.*

SPRING FASHION SHOW AND TEA *Saturday, April 1st at 2:00 p.m. Tickets available at the office or U.C.W. Members.*

DEBEC ANNUAL SALAD PLATE *Wednesday April 5, 2017*
These are delivered.
For further information, please read
SIGN-UP SHEET ON BULLETIN BOARD

Call to Worship

Come, let us worship God!

Let's make a joyful noise to our God!

Come into God's presence with thanksgiving!

Let's make a joyful noise to our God!

Make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

Let's make a joyful noise to our God!

Come, let us worship God.

(From *The Whole People of God* curriculum © Wood Lake Publishing 2017.)

Opening Prayer

Amazing God, you have poured your love into our hearts until it is overflowing. No matter what we have done, you still love us. You sent Jesus into our lives, and we have been transformed. Continue to love us, God, and continue to nudge us ever closer to you.

Amen.

(From *The Whole People of God* curriculum © Wood Lake Publishing 2017.)

Hymn

VU#310 – God, Who Touchest Earth with Beauty

Children's Time

Prayer of Confession and Pardon

Loving God, there are times we are impatient. We don't want to wait. We don't want to trust. We are stubborn. We are hard as rock.

Forgive us, God.

(lighting 3rd candle)

Yet, often just below the surface there is goodness, waiting to be tapped. We are scared to share our gifts. Tap into us, God. Help us to find our hidden talents.

Use our gifts for your glory, O God.

God knows us, and God loves us. God reaches out to us through Jesus, and refreshes us.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

(From *The Whole People of God* curriculum © Wood Lake Publishing 2017.)

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

- Anthem** **“The Garden of Sorrows”**
- Scriptures** Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95, VU p.814, Parts One and Two
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42 *Lenten Talk Show #3*
- Message**
- Music for Meditation**
- Hymn** MV#87 – Water Flowing from the Mountains

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Presentation of the Offering

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 bring our gifts without judgement, loving God – take them and use them for your purposes, that we might be participants in your will for our world. May we reach out beyond the walls of this church to welcome those who feel shunned, pushed aside, and mocked by the world. Amen.

(From *The Whole People of God* curriculum © Wood Lake Publishing 2017.)

Minute for Mission

Announcements

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn VU#577 – I've Got Peace Like a River

Blessing and Sending Forth

Bathe in the river of God's love. Swim in the waters of Christ's baptism. Ride the currents of the Holy Spirit. Share God's living water with a thirsty world and feel the blessings of God well up within you into a spring of eternal life. Go with God.

(From *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017*. Copyright 2016 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.)

Choral Benediction “Irish Blessing”

Postlude

DONATIONS

A donation has been made to the Choir Fund in loving memory of Dick Montgomery by Jean and Debbie Colwell.

A donation has been made to the Choir Fund in loving memory of Don Beattie by Jean, Debbie and Greg Colwell and Families.

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Don Beattie by Keith and Linda Scott, Ruby MacNabb.

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Dick Montgomery by Ruby MacNabb.

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Shirley Kitchen by Ruby MacNabb.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

UPPER ROOMS FOR MARCH AND APRIL have arrived and located at the back of the church. **WE ALSO HAVE LARGE PRINT.** (Cost is \$ 3.00.)

MUSICAL EVENT; Catch four of New England's top bluegrass artists on their only New Brunswick stop at WHS McCain Community Theatre on Friday, March 24th at 7pm. With special guests Layla Cantafio and friends.

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door. Available at Newnham and Slipp Pharmacy or MES Music. Presented by Woodstock Rotary Club and River Valley Arts Alliance (RiVA).

Zink & Company is firmly rooted in the traditions of the early decades of bluegrass and country music. The band can be counted on for their powerful musicianship, heartfelt songwriting and dynamic renditions of some of your old favorite tunes.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES AND HOME ADDRESSES

We are working on updating all our mailing and email addresses in the church office. If you could give Mary a call and let her know your updates, it would be very much appreciated.

Exodus 17:1-7

17¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Romans 5:1-11

5¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

John 4:5-42

⁴So [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest?' But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour."

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

Scriptures for Sunday, March 26, 2017 – 4th Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41