

## **Saint James United Church**

**November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Reign of Christ/Children's Sunday**

**120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7M1H1**

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

**Email: stjames@nb.aibn.com 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: John McLellan, Ken Nichols, Janet Nichols**

**Readers: Kinley Lafrance and Angela Young**



*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**

#### **Prelude**

#### **Introit**

**We Are Here**

Children: We are here to sing.

**All: We are here to sing.**

Children: We are here to pray.

**All: We are here to pray.**

Children: We are here to learn.

**All: We are here to learn.**

Children: (And) God is here today.

**All: (And) God is here today.**

#### **Welcome**

#### **Call to Worship**

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> Morning Worship Sunday School 10:30 a.m.**  
**Sunshine Singers and Handbells**  
**Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in Board Room**

**Youth Group 7:00 p.m.**

**Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> Youth Centre Booked 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.**

**Games 1:00 p.m.**

**Pathfinders 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Sparks 6:30 p.m.**

**Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> Youth Centre Booked 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Advent Bible Study 10:00 a.m.**

**Quilting 1:00 p.m.**

**Choir 7:15 p.m.**

**Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> Youth Centre Booked 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Presbytery in Stanley**

**Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> Youth Centre Booked 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> First Sunday of Advent Communion 10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday School**

**Sunshine Singers and Handbells**

**Soup, Rolls and Fellowship**

**Ecumenical Service Presbyterian Church 7:00 p.m.**

### **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.*

## ***First Sunday of Advent in Canada---November 27<sup>th</sup>***

*Many Christians in Canada celebrate the beginning of the Advent season on the first Sunday of Advent. It marks the start of the Christian year in western Christianity. Its length varies from 22 to 28 days, starting on the Sunday nearest [St Andrew's Day](#) and encompassing the next three Sundays, ending on Christmas Day.*

### ***Background***

*It is uncertain as to when exactly the celebration of Advent was first introduced in the Christian church. Some sources say that Advent began on November 11 (St Martin's Day) at some time in the fifth century in the form of a six-week fast leading to Christmas. Advent was reduced to its current length at some stage in the sixth century and the fasting was later no longer observed. Advent is originally a time to reflect and prepare for Christmas similarly to how Lent is in preparation for Easter. Advent has sometimes been referred to as the Winter Lent. In recent times the restrictions that Advent brings to Christians have become more relaxed.*

### ***Symbols***

Purple is historically the main color used for Advent because it reflects penitence, fasting, and the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the king (Jesus Christ). The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his first Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his second Advent. Some churches use other colors in recent times. For example, some churches mark the third Sunday of Advent with pink or rose, colors that represent joy. Many Protestant churches use blue to distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent.

Advent wreaths are symbolic of Advent in some countries. They are usually made of fir and decorated with gold and silver ribbons or scarlet woolen threads. Lit wreaths may be displayed on the table where family and friends sit while singing carols and preparing handmade gifts.

### ***Hymn***

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Put it under a bushel, No! I'm gonna let it shine.  
Put it under a bushel, No! I'm gonna let it shine.  
Put it under a bushel, No! I'm gonna let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Won't let anyone (blow) it out; I'm gonna let it shine.  
Won't let anyone (blow) it out; I'm gonna let it shine.  
Won't let anyone (blow) it out; I'm gonna let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

### ***Gathering Prayer***

#### ***Hymn***

VU#679 – Let There Be Light

#### ***Children's Time***

When You Learn to Follow Jesus

### ***Prayer of Confession***

**Gracious God, you have come to be with us but we have rejected you. Jesus showed us how to care for others and we nailed him to a cross. Jesus modeled a new kind of leadership for us but we thought we were better than that. Forgive us, God. Don't give up on us, but teach us to live in your way. Amen.**

*(silence for private confession)*

*Words of Assurance*

God sent Jesus into the world to be our Saviour, our friend. This same Jesus – who even forgave the very people who nailed him to the cross – shows us God’s forgiveness. It is a free gift – ours to accept and receive.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

(From The Whole People of God © Wood Lake Publishing, 2016)

*The New Creed* VU p.918

**WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

*Anthem*

*Scripture* Jeremiah 23:1-6  
Luke 1:68-79, VU p.900  
Matthew 5:14-16  
Luke 23:33-43

*Message*

*Music for Meditation*

*Hymn* MV#145 – Draw the Circle Wide

**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*

**God of light, we thank you for Jesus, who holds the lamp for each of us and shields our lights from flickering and going out. We offer gratitude by these gifts we bring today. May they be used in this place and around the world to continue to let your light shine everywhere.**

(From Age to Age © The United Church of Canada, 2006)

*Minute for Mission*

*Announcements*

*Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern*

*Blessing and Sending Forth*

**We shall go out into the world, community, church, and homes and offer what we can to keep our lights shining.**

God gave each of us a light. Christ’s light shines through every child on this planet. We will keep those lights shining. Let us go out with joy and never let our light go out!

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

(From Age to Age © The United Church of Canada, 2006)

*Choral Benediction* Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

*Postlude*

***The bulletin today is dedicated in loving memory of Phyllis Greer from her children.***

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH**—Fredericton Choral Society & Symphony Orchestra with Sally Dibble, Deantha Edmunds-Ramsey, Cian Horrobin and Paul Bustin.

Wilmot United Church                      Woodstock Baptist Church  
Fredericton                                      Woodstock  
Friday, Dec. 9, 7:00 p.m.                  Saturday, Dec. 10 7:00 p.m.

**See Bulletin Board for availability of Tickets**  
**Adults \$ 20.00, Students \$ 10.00 12 & Under Free**

**2017 CALENDARS** have arrived. Check with the church office.  
Cost \$ 7.00

**LENDING LIBRARY** - On the bookshelf outside Mary's office are lots of Good Reading Material for Adults. Please help yourself and return so others can enjoy. Honour system only.

**ST.GERTRUDE'S ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
**Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.**

The St Gertrude's Bereavement Ministry invites you to attend the upcoming Memorial Service to be held at St Gertrude's Church, Woodstock. 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](mailto: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.

**JUST A REMINDER** Due to many people suffering from allergies, 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.

**Jeremiah 23:1-6 (The Message)**

<sup>1</sup> "Doom to the shepherd-leaders who butcher and scatter my sheep!" God's Decree. <sup>2</sup> "So here is what I, God, Israel's God, say to the shepherd-leaders who misled my people: 'You've scattered my sheep. You've driven them off. You haven't kept your eye on them. Well, let me tell you, I'm keeping my eye on you, keeping track of your criminal behaviour. <sup>3</sup>I'll take over and gather what's left of my sheep, gather them in from all the lands where I've driven them. I'll bring them back where they belong, and they'll recover and flourish. <sup>4</sup>I'll set shepherd-leaders over them who will take good care of them. They won't live in fear or panic anymore. All the lost sheep rounded up!' God's Decree."

<sup>5</sup> "Time's coming" – God's Decree – "when I'll establish a truly righteous David-Branch, a ruler who knows how to rule justly. He'll make sure of justice and keep people united. <sup>6</sup>In his time Judah will be secure again and Israel will live in safety. This is the name they'll give him: 'God-Who-Puts-Everything-Right.'"

**Matthew 5:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

**Luke 23:33-43**

<sup>33</sup>When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup>and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save

yourself!”<sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”<sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”<sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”<sup>43</sup> He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

*Scripture readings for November 27, 2016 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent)*

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

## **ANOUNCEMENTS**

**ANGEL PROJECT** *This year we will be decorating the hall outside the Church office with Angels in memory of loved ones. Please bring your Angel in and we will place them in memory with a place card naming your loved one. Any questions ?? ask Joan.*

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY** *begins Wednesday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. We will be using the book “God Is With Us” by Robin Wilson. Please contact Rev. Deb, as soon as possible, so we can order the books. Cost is \$ 20.00.*

**ADVENT CALENDAR OF DEVOTIONS 2016**

*Cost \$ 3.00 Check at Church Office.*

**COFFEE HOUR** *Each week we are looking for volunteers to look after coffee and tea after church.*

**BOOK CLUB** *The book club will be reading “Brooklyn” by Colm Toibin. Meeting will be announced later in Nov.*

**CHURCH DIRECTORY.** *The church directories have arrived. If you did not have your pictures taken, the cost is \$ 20.00. Thanks!*

**UPPER ROOMS FOR November and December**

*They are located at the back of the church. Cost is \$ 3.00. We will not have large print for November and December. Will start again in January.*

**READERS FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

*Please sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby!*

**Christmas Kettle Volunteers**

**The Kick Off for the annual Salvation Army Kettle** *drive will be on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Sobey's. The kettles will be located at Atlantic Superstore, Canadian Tire, NBLC, Sobey's, and Wal\*Mart. The specific days would be Nov. 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, Dec. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 from 10:00 to 6:00 pm and Dec. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 from 10:00 am. to 8:00 pm. If your busy schedule allows you to man a kettle for more than one or two days, it will be greatly appreciated in our community too. Or if you prefer to match one of the kettles on one specific day of our campaign let us know and we will advise the media in our town. If this is feasible please call the Salvation Army as soon as possible at 328 8276. The Closer to Christmas that you support us, the more successful the campaign! Please notify us ASAP to confirm these arrangements.*

**Turkey Supper and Bake Sale at Forest Hill United Church,** *Kimble Court, Fredericton, from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, 19 November. Prices for the meal are \$12.00 for adults, \$7.00 for those of ages 6 – 12, and those 5 and under, are free. Celiac meals and take-outs will be available. The meal area is wheelchair accessible.*