

Saint James United Church

August 27th, 2017 – 12th 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

Ushers: Mary Dimock, Ruby MacNabb



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 VU#381 – Spirit of Life

Welcome

Question to Ponder: Who is it in our lives that has saved us?

Call to Worship

Amidst the forces of death and destruction, it takes a village to save us.
Amidst the rivers that would carry us out to sea,
it takes people of real courage to pull us from the water courses of life.

Amidst the fear and hatred in our world,
it takes mercy and compassion to reveal the face of God.

Come! Let us worship!

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DATES TO REMEMBER

August 27	Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
	Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in Board Room	
September 3	Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
	FOOD BANK SUNDAY	
	Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in Board Room	
Sept. 10 th	Sunday School Opening for Fall	

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.*

If you have noticed someone missing from our congregation, please contact them by phone or visit them in person. You may be their "angel."

TODAY'S READINGS

Exodus 1:8-2:10

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶"When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

²¹Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river.

Prayer of Opening

Gracious God, we come this day, to present our minds and bodies to you as a holy and living sacrifice. We seek the blessings that come from the renewal of our minds. May we discern your will and come to know what is good and acceptable and perfect in your sight. Amen.

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Hymn

VU#320 – Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Prayer of Confession

O God, we too often live our Christian lives in the shadows. Called to be salt and light, we have been tasteless and dim. Called to profess our faith publicly, we have been hidden and silent, imperceptible to those around us. Called to champion the voiceless, we have chosen comfort over controversy.

Choosing to take the path of least offence, we have unwittingly offended you, and have cheapened our faith in the eyes of our neighbours. For the many ways we have lived in the shadows, forgive us, O God. Grant us courage, that we might shine like lights in this challenging world. Amen.

(time for silent prayer)

Words of Forgiveness

Hear the good news: God loves us and delivers us from trouble, even trouble of our own making. God who hears our prayers, forgives us, and gives us the ability to renew our lives.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

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Passing the Peace of Christ

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem

Scripture Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124, VU p.848
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Message

Music for Reflection

Hymn VU#644 – I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

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

Loving God, accept our gifts in your holy name. Accept our very lives, as a pledge to pursue what is good and acceptable and perfect in your sight. May our gifts become for the world resources to draw the endangered from the waters of death, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Minute for Mission

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn VU#691 – Though Ancient Walls

Blessing and Sending Forth

Go with the courage of the midwives.
Go with the love of Moses' mother.
Go with the boldness of Miriam, Moses' sister.
Go with the call of God in your hearts, a call as big and as powerful as the call of Moses.

We go in love, for we are the people of God! Amen.

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Choral Amen VU#967 – Amen

Postlude

† † † † † †

DONATIONS

A donation has been made to the Kirk Cemetery Fund in loving memory of Lillian Bull by Ralph Bull.

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Dwayne Black by John and Mary Wheelan.

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Dolly Gunning by John and Mary Wheelan, Carla Opie, Phyllis Robinson, Donna Opie, Jack Gibson, Jolene Caverhill

A donation has been made to the Youth Camp Fund in loving memory of Dolly Gunning by Mary Cox-Price

AN INVITATION: *John Keoughan is retiring and moving back to his hometown in Miramichi. Please join us in a farewell gathering Tuesday, September 5th, at St. Gertrude's Church Mass at 5:00 followed by Pot Luck Supper at the Church Hall. Best wishes only.*

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. Thank you.*

UPPER ROOMS FOR JULY AND AUGUST *have arrived and are located at the back of the church. (Cost 3.00.)*

QUILT SHOW *The congregations of the Sheffield Pastoral Charge, which includes the Sheffield United Church, Lakeville Corner United Church, and Scotchtown United Church are hosting a Quilting Display on Saturday, Sept 9 from 10:00 until 6:00. It will include antique and modern quilting samples for viewing at the Sheffield United Church, 2169 Route 105, Sheffield, New Brunswick, approximately 20 kms. east of Fredericton. This historic church is located on the Saint John River and we are in hopes of receiving your support by donation at the door. Please take this opportunity to travel down our beautiful river, visit our beautiful old church and meet our members. Light refreshments provided. For further information, please feel free to contact Jo-Ann Bridges at 385-2504*

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. Sheet is back on the Bulletin Board to record your kms. The total to date is 1,186.5 Kms. Let's Go!! Keep Walking.

⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.
⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Romans 12:1-8

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us; prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³Now when Jesus came to the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Scripture readings for September 3, 2017

Exodus 3:1-15; Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12:9-21; Mt 16:21-28

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOVE CHILDREN? LOVE GOD?

WANTED: *Men or Women interested in being
Sunday School Teachers*

Nursery Workers

*Classes Ages 5 - 7 yrs.
8 - 12 yrs.*

*At the most you need to prepare for 11 Sundays in 2017 –
Whole People of God Curriculum is being used.
Lessons, crafts etc. suggested and explained for you.*

*With Fall fast approaching we are looking
at a few of our Annual Events.*

*Pie Making, Yard Sale, Regular Programs,
Fall Supper*

***We are currently looking for a coordinator for our
Pie Making Project. We have started to purchase
our supplies and more information will be coming.***

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
August 21st. 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.*