

Saint James United Church

February 28, 2016 Lent 3

120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7MIH1

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

Ministers: Rev. Debra Baker

Music Director and Organist: Amy Anderson

Admin. Assistant: Mary Wheelan C.D. Coordinator: Joan Hall

Reader: Cathy Simister

Ushers: Nigel and Carolyn Drake, Mac Caldwell



Welcome!

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

Call to Worship

O God, you are our God.

We seek you, thirsting for you, as we would for a stream in a scorching desert.

We come to behold your power and glory.

We come to hear of your love – a love that means more than life itself.

We come as guests to your rich banquet.

You are our God. We seek you and are satisfied!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb.28	Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
	Sunday School	
	Soup, Rolls and Fellowship	11:30 a.m.
	Sunshine Singers and Handbells	after church
	Youth Group	7:00 p.m.
Feb.29	Fellowship Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 1	Games	1:00 p.m.
	Pathfinders	6:30 p.m.
	Sparks	6:30 p.m.
Mar .2	Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Mar.2, 2016	3rd week of Lent
Presider	Rev. Debra Baker, St.James,	Jer.8:18-9:6; Ps.81
Reflection	Rev. Wendy MacWilliams, St. Paul's Presbyterian	- Mark 6:13-29
	Quilting Group	1:00 p.m.
	Scouts	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
	Choir	7:15 p.m.
Mar 4	Coffee and Conversation	10:00 a.m.
	World day of Prayer St. Lukes	2:00 p.m.
Mar. 6	Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
	Sunday School	
	Coffee, Tea and Fellowship	11:30 a.m.
	Sunshine Singers and Handbells	after church

LENTEN SERVICES 2016

Lenten services will be held this year at St. Luke's Anglican Hall, 104 Church Street, Woodstock, beginning at 12:05pm and concluding at 12:30pm., followed immediately by a soup luncheon.

Mar.9, 2016 4th week of Lent

Presider Major Sandoval, Salvation Army

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 101

Reflection Rev. Shirley Noseworthy, St. Luke's – Mark 8:11-26

Mar.16, 2015 5th week of Lent

Presider Rev. Wendy MacWilliams, St. Paul's Presbyterian

Jeremiah 25:30-38; Psalm 128

Reflection Rev. Dana Dean, Parish of Richmond - Mark 10:1-16

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.

We come as guests to your rich banquet.

You are our God. We seek you and are satisfied!

(From *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2016*. Copyright © 2015 by Abingdon Press.. Used with permission.)

Opening Prayer

O God of Plenty, you set a banquet before us that is generous and life-giving. You serve us the very best foods – your love and loyalty, your faithfulness and strength, your work that satisfies, your deep wisdom, and your abundant mercy. You call us to this feast: “Everyone who thirsts! Everyone who hungers! Everyone who seeks! Come! Come! Come!”

You promise that this feast will satisfy us as nothing else can. And so we call out to you, O God, for you are near, and we come!

Amen.

(From *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2016*. Copyright © 2015 by Abingdon Press.. Used with permission.)

Lenten Candle Liturgy

Today is the third Sunday of Lent. Lent is a time to think about the things that block us from following God's way of loving and caring for this world and one another. Today we will extinguish our third Lenten candle. This candle represents fear. As the candle is extinguished, let us pray in silence for God to remove fear within us and in our world that stops us from trusting God.

(candle is extinguished followed by silence)

Knowing that God accepts us for who we are, but loves us into who we can be, let us stay seated as we join together in singing:

MV#85 – Take, O Take Me as I Am (2X)

Hymn

VU#356 – Seek Ye First the Kingdom

Children's Time

Prayer of Confession

O God of every blessing, you invite us into a life of deep meaning and purpose, a life of loving goodness and faithfulness. We hear your invitation, but are often distracted by other invitations – invitations to things that don't satisfy, things that waste our energy and our purpose. O God, renew your call within us – your call to all who hunger and thirst for ultimate value in their lives; you call to all who yearn for your powerful presence in their lives. Be merciful to us, forgive our sins, and give us new resolve to answer your invitation. Amen.

(silence for private confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

The prophet Isaiah tells us that we need only return to the Lord our God, for God is merciful, and forgives our sins.

Your love means more than life to us, O God; we praise you!

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WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem Joy Returns in the Morning

Scriptures Isaiah 55:1-8
Psalm 63, VU p.781
Luke 13:1-9

Meditation

Hymn VU#271 – There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

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, in gratitude for your kindness and mercy, receive our thanks and offerings. Accept our hearts into your keeping, that our lives may bear good fruit as we may enter into your glory.

Amen.

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Minute for Mission (printed)

Announcements

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Concern & the Lord's Prayer (VUp.921)

Closing Hymn VU#653 – Come, Let Us to the God of Love

Blessing and Sending Forth

Go. Pray. Serve.

Be persistent in the things of God.

God's blessing goes with you. Amen.

(Written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet. Gathering, Lent/Easter 2016, page 34. Used with permission.)

Choral Benediction MV#215 – Peace Be with You

Postlude

**The bulletin today is dedicated in loving memory of
George Cliff by Mary Cliff and Jolene Caverhill.**

MISSION STATEMENT

The congregation of Saint James United Church strives to be a welcoming, caring, committed family of people from all ages and walks of life who come together in fellowship with each other and our Creator God.

We endeavour to respect each other's differences and abilities, to follow the way of Jesus, and to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in us and through us, for the ultimate enrichment of our faith, our community and our world.

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.*

CALENDAR DATES TO MARK **CHECK BULLETIN BOARD**

CHURCH DIRECTORY----*Universal Studios will be here for family photos March 15-19 to take pictures.*

Check display in the lobby outside the church office.

Universal Studios will be calling directly from the church list starting February 29^h to set up appointments

BOWL FOR KIDS March 19, 2016

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Woodstock Bowlcade

1 Hour can change the life of a child.....FOREVER!!!!

It's easy to participate!! Simply put together a team of up to five friends, family and co-workers. Register to bowl during one of the time slots. Collect pledges, each team member is asked to try to raise \$50, there are prizes for teams and individuals who raise the highest amount!! Come out on March 19th for bowling fun, friends, food and prizes

MARITIME MEN'S SPRING RALLY April 23rd. Amherst, N.S.

See Bulletin Board for Brochure and Information.

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY ANNUAL WALK May 29th

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 55:1-9

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that you do not know shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Luke 13:1-9

¹At that very time there were some present who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?" ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable. "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Scripture readings for March 6, 2016

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 5:1-3, 11b-32

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL available at the church office. Cost \$ 1.50

UPPER ROOMS FOR March and April have arrived and located at the back of the church. Cost is \$ 3.00.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDES are available at the back of the church along with the Upper Rooms.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birth Announcement

Nigel and Carolyn Drake are happy to announce the arrival of a GRANDSON, Lyndon Sean. He was born on February 19th in North Battleford Saskatchewan. Proud parents are Sean and Jane (Drake) Kenny and sister, Emma.

Special Services

March 4th World Day of Prayer Services at 2:00 p.m.
St. Luke's Church

World Day of Prayer Service at
Trinity United Church, Debec

6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Supper

7:00 p.m. World Day of Prayer Service

March 24 Maundy Thursday Service with Communion

March 25th Good Friday Service hosted by Woodstock
United Baptist Church 10:30 a.m.

BIBLE STUDY Rev. Debra will be having a Lenten Bible Study entitled "Near the Cross" beginning February 10th at 10:00 a.m. Please let Rev. Debra know, if you are interested.

BOOK CLUB Our book club will be reading "Blue" by Danielle Steele. Our next gathering will be March 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

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February 28th, 2016 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

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MV#85 – Take, O Take Me as I Am (2X)

Hymn VU#356 – Seek Ye First the Kingdom

Children's Time *Sing-a-long with Dave*

Prayer of Confession

O God of every blessing, you invite us into a life of deep meaning and purpose, a life of loving goodness and faithfulness. We hear your invitation, but are often distracted by other invitations – invitations to things that don't satisfy, things that waste our

energy and our purpose. O God, renew your call within us – your call to all who hunger and thirst for ultimate value in their lives; you call to all who yearn for your powerful presence in their lives. Be merciful to us, forgive our sins, and give us new resolve to answer your invitation. Amen.

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