

Saint James United Church

April 2, 2017 – 5th Sunday in Lent

120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7M1H1

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Minister: Rev. Debra Baker

Music Director and Organist: Amy Anderson

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

Ushers: Bob and Bonnie Stokes, Peter and Janet Clark

Reader: Cathy Simister



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

In the midst of life, we are in death. But in the face of death, God's Spirit comes to bring us life. Can dry bones live? Can life emerge from death? Only God knows. And yet, God promises just such a miracle through the power of God's Holy Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Prelude

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

Welcome

DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | | |
|--------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Apr. 2 | Morning Worship
Covenanting Service for Elders
Sunday School
Handbells and Sunshine Singers
Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in Board Room | 10:30 a.m. |
| Apr. 4 | Games
Sparks / Pathfinders | 1:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. |
| Apr. 5 | 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. |
| Apr. 6 | Staff Meeting
Unity U.C.W. Group Pot Luck | 11:00 a.m.
12:30 p.m. |
| Apr. 9 | Palm/Passion Sunday
Sunday School
Handbells and Sunshine Singers
Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in Board Room
Meet and Greet Syrian Newcomers Tea | 10:30 a.m.
2:00 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.

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

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

The Lord's Prayer

VU#960

Hymn

VU#382 – Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Blessing and Sending Forth

Let those who were languishing and dying rejoice.

We go forth with the promise of life.

Let those who have lain in the shadows of despair take heart.

We go forth with the promise of light.

Let those who have known the separation of loneliness feel union in life with the Spirit.

We go forth revived by the Spirit to proclaim the glory of God.

Amen.

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

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

Call to Worship

Our God breathes new life into hopeless situations. Loving God,
breathe your Spirit into us, and make us new.

Our God offers forgiveness to all who have done wrong. Loving God,
breathe your Spirit into us, and make us new.

Our God longs to be a part of us, to live within us. Loving God,
breathe your Spirit into us, and make us new.

Our God untangles the chaos of our lives, and sets us free to new life.
Loving God,

breathe your Spirit into us, and make us new.

Come, let us worship the God of resurrection, of new life, of new hope!

Amen.

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

Opening Prayer

We come before you, loving God, with a sense of awe. When we thought life was over and there was no hope, you breathed new life into us and made all things new. Breathe your Spirit into us once again, O God, and fill us with new life. Amen.

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

Covenanting of Elders (Session members)

Let us hear the message of scripture:

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. Christ is like a single body which has many parts. If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness. All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.
(1 Corinthians 12)

Friends, we celebrate with joy and gratitude that you have been called by God, and chosen by the people of Saint James United Church congregation for leadership in the church. This ministry is a blessing, an honour, and a responsibility. It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among us, with us, and on our behalf.

We thank you and challenge you to offer your best to God, and to all God's people.

As you come to assume the duties of your office, let us make a covenant before God and with one another.

To the elders:

As a disciple of Jesus Christ, will you continue to live out your faith with praise and thanksgiving? Will you carry out your responsibilities and duties in this congregation with integrity and joy?

I will, God being my helper.

To the congregation:

Will you, the members of Saint James United Church honour the leadership of these people? Will you assist them through daily prayer, generous support, and personal example, so that, together, we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ?

We will, God being our helper.

Prayer

Loving God, you have called these people to serve you. Send your Holy Spirit upon them and upon us all that we may keep the promises we have made today. Help them to fulfill their responsibilities. May their leadership help us all to reflect your love and grace always. Amen.

Declaration

In the name of God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit, we recognize and affirm you in your ministry as elders of Session.

Hymn VU#375 – Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Children's Time

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Scriptures

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130, VU p.853
Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45 *Lenten Talk Show #5*
featuring musical guests "The Choir"

Message

Music for Meditation

Hymn

VU#376 – Spirit of the Living God

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 new life, your Spirit fills us with joy and thanksgiving, and so we bring these gifts to you in a spirit of thanksgiving for all you have done for us. We offer these gifts to you that, through your church, new life might come to those who need it most. Amen.

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

Minute for Mission

Announcements

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Scriptures for Sunday, April 9, 2017 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a;
Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

Ezekiel 37:1-14

³⁷¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

Romans 8:6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give you life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

John 11:1-45

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

¹⁶Thomas, who was called the twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.)

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

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.

DONATIONS

A memorial donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Shirley Kitchen by R.V. Thompson Insurance, Bruce and Lillian Montgomery, Glenn and Vivian Cummings.

A memorial donation has been made to the Building Fund in loving memory of Shirley Kitchen by Mary Dimock, Andrea Dimock.

A memorial donation has been made to the Sunday School Fund by Angela and Blair Young in loving memory of
Judy and Bill Scott Don Beattie
Shirley Kitchen Dick Montgomery

YARD SALE ATTENTION: *It is now time to gather your items to be donated to Saint James Spring Yard Sale which is being held on May 4th and 5th.*

MEET AND GREET SYRIAN NEWCOMERS TEA

Join at 2:00 p. m. on Sunday, April 9th to meet our Syrian Families in Woodstock.

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!!*

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 26th 374Km. We are still travelling over the Atlantic Ocean.*

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.*

CONFIRMATION AND MEMBERSHIP *Anyone interested in becoming a member of Saint James Untied Church, either through confirmation or transfer of Membership, please let Rev. Deb know.*