

## **Saint James United Church**

**October 1, 2017 – 17th 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: Ray Kierstead, Mike Connell, Glenn MacDonald**



*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** MV#2 – Come All You People (2X)

**Welcome**

**Question to Ponder:** Can you think of a time when you felt God's presence? What was that like?

**Call to Worship**

Long ago, God led the Israelites through the desert – by fiery pillar at night, and by cloud during the day.

**We come to worship today, searching for God, wondering if the Holy One is among us or not.**

God split the rocks open in the wilderness, causing water to flow down like rivers to save the people from thirst.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Oct. 1
- Morning Worship (Communion) 10:30 a.m.
  - Sunday School
  - Coffee Tea and Fellowship in Board Room
- Oct. 2
- Yard Sale Set Up
- Oct. 3
- Yard Sale Set Up
  - Games 1:00 p.m.
  - Pathfinders and Sparks 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 4
- Yard Sale Set Up
  - Quilting 1:00 p.m.
  - Choir 7:15 p.m.
- Oct. 5
- Yard Sale 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 6
- Yard Sale Clean-up
- Oct. 8
- Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
  - Sunday School
  - Coffee Tea and Fellowship in Board Room

### **ATTENTION! ATTENTION!**

**YARD SALE, YARD SALE**  
**Donations accepted tomorrow until Wednesday.**  
**HELPERS NEEDED**

### **DONATIONS**

*A donation has been made to the Kirk Church in loving memory of Lorna Cluff by Blair and Angela Young.*  
*A donation has been made to the Youth Camp Fund in loving memory of Rev. H. G. MacKenzie by Mary Cox-Price.*

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

***Matthew 21:23-32***

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

† † † † † †

***Scripture readings for October 8, 2017***

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

**We come hungry and thirsty for compassion, wondering if anyone cares about our lives.**

Jesus said that outcasts and sinners would be welcome in heaven, because they believe the good news of God’s love.

**We come today, longing to believe.**

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***Prayer of Opening***

**Holy Giver of life and love, you work in us and around us and through us. As you travelled among the Israelites on their way from slavery to freedom, you gave them water from the rock when they were thirsty. As you walked among the people in Jerusalem, you healed the sick and taught through parables and stories.**

**As you move in and through our worship today, you offer yourself to us and to all the world. Unite us in love and service, that we may bless the world in the name of Jesus, who teaches us what it means to do your will. Amen.**

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***Hymn***            VU#245 – Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet

***Prayer of Confession***

Holy Teacher of humility and grace, you emptied yourself of divinity and came to live among us as a simple, human being.

**Forgive us, Holy One, when we take pride in our accomplishments, and look for applause and praise from those around us.**

You walked among us healing and telling stories, pouring out your life for the sake of those in need.

**Forgive us, Gentle Servant, when we guard our time and our money afraid that someone will take advantage of our good nature.**

You ask us to do your work and to be the living body of Christ for the sake of a hurting, broken world.

**Forgive us, Gracious God, when we focus all our time and effort on what will please ourselves.**

## TODAY'S READINGS

*(time for silent confession)*

### **Words of Forgiveness**

The Spirit of God works within us and around us and through us. God gives us water when we are thirsty, and rest when we are weary.

**In the name of Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

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## WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

### **Anthem**

**Scripture** Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 78, VU p.792, Parts One and Two  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

### **Report on Congregational Survey**

## 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**

**In humility and obedience, we offer these gifts as signs of our willingness to do your will in all things. Amen.**

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### **Minute for Mission** *(printed)*

### **Announcements**

### **Exodus 17:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>From 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. <sup>2</sup>The 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?" <sup>3</sup>But 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 our livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The 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. <sup>6</sup>I 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. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

### **Philippians 2:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>If there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

*MINUTE For MISSION*

*Communion Hymn* VU#469 – We Gather Here

***SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION***

Here is the table of Christ – open, inviting, welcoming. And here we are, gathered around it. There's a place at the table for you. There's food at the table for you: food to fill an inner hunger, food to satisfy a longing or yearning, food that will help us to know the love and care of God, which knows no bounds. Here is the table of Christ – please come, for you are all welcome.

Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is a right, good and joyful thing always and everywhere, to give our thanks to you, who brought the Israelites from slavery to freedom, giving them water from the rock and leading them through the wilderness.

We give thanks for your presence among us – flickering like fire in the changing colours of leaves, glimmering like golden fish gliding below the surface of a stream, fluttering like doves in the beating of our hearts.

We give thanks for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, who taught us to live for the sake of others, and to put aside all thought of personal gain and earthly prestige.

And so, with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and holy is your son, Jesus, who emptied himself of divinity and walked among us, teaching and healing and giving himself up for the healing of the world.

On the night in which he gave himself up, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: “Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, offered thanks and gave it to the disciples, saying: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my life in the new covenant poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ, present with Christ’s love for the world. God of water and wilderness, God of clouds and rocks and fire and smoke, God of humility and compassion, we praise and thank you for all that you have done.

And now we gather the prayers of this community and those deep in our hearts into that prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, as we say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven ....**

**Amen.**

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Jesus Christ, the bread of life.

Jesus Christ, the cup of love.

The gifts of God for all God’s people.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Prayer after Communion*

**For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted, for the Spirit in which we live, we thank you, God of all love! May this burst of flavour be on our lips and in our hearts, so we can share you love with your world. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn* MV#144 – Like a Healing Stream

*Blessing and Sending Forth*

No longer outcasts and sinners, but children of the living God, let us pour out our lives like living streams. May we fill the world with the water of your grace, spreading the good news of God’s love in the name of Christ, who is ever at work in us.

**Amen.**

*Choral Benediction* MV#215 – Peace Be with You

*Postlude*

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*If you have noticed someone missing from our congregation, please contact them by phone or visit them in person.*

*You may be their “angel.”*

**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.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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. See sign up sheet. Thank you.*

**UPPER ROOMS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER** *The large print did arrive but we are still waiting for the small print. (Cost 3.00.)*

### **ALZHEIMER SOCIETY SUPPORT GROUP**

*This support group meets at Saint James the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. The next meeting will be from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on October 16<sup>th</sup>. 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.*

**SIGN-UP SHEETS:** We have placed sign-up sheets on our bulletin board in the lobby for volunteers for:  
**Readers, Sunday School Teachers and Helpers, Yard Sale, etc.**

### **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. A sheet is back on the Bulletin Board to record your kms. This week we travelled 562 kms. The total to date is 2,897.2 kms. We are in the Mediterranean Sea. Let's Go!! Keep Walking.*

## **ANNUAL ELLEN'S COUNTRY KITCHEN**

Hillcrest United, Graveyard Hill, Stanley:

11:00 - 1:00 For reservations (10 or more) call Geraldine at 440-7896 or leave a message at church office 367-2288.

Mon., Sept. 25 Turkey Dinner (apple, pumpkin pie)

Tues., Sept. 26 Roast Beef (lemon, coconut cream pie)

Wed., Sept. 27 Potato Scallop, Ham, Baked Beans (apple crumble, butterscotch pie)

Thurs., Sept. 28 Roast Chicken Breast (cheesecake)

Fri., Sept. 29 Roast Pork (strawberry shortcake)

PLUS

Sat., Sept. 30, 3:30 - 5:30

Turkey Dinner (assorted pies)

Available daily: - drumstick pie, rice pudding

- sale of homemade preserves

**All meals: \$14**