St. James United Church

 September 15, 2013/ Pentecost 17

Minister: Rev. Terrie Burry

Minister of Visitation/MUN Chaplain: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM

Clerk of Session: Susan Pike

Organist/Senior Choir Director: Christine Tiller

Assistant Organist: Gillian Burry

Choir: Senior

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**Organ Prelude:** *Nimrod* Elgar

* Entra Festiva* Lesky

**Welcome**

**Hymn:** *God We Praise You for the Morning*415

**Call to Worship:** (responsive)

One: We come, like Abraham, Sarah, and John the Baptist,

All: people with vision.

One: We come, like Job, Thomas, and the Samaritan woman,

All: people with questions.

One: We come, like Moses, Jeremiah, and Mary,

All: people with self-doubts.

One: We come, like Joshua, Deborah, and Stephen,

All: people with courage.

One: We come, like David, Mary Magdalene, and Paul,

All: people with regrets.

One: We come, like Hagar, Uriah, and the Syrophoenician woman,

All: people with wisdom from the margins.

One: We come, like Rebekah and Samuel,

All: people with a part to play in the story of faith.

 **Opening Prayer:** (together)
Wondrous God: You touch our lives with healing and with justice; new life is Your gift. We praise You for the Good News which is ours through Jesus Christ. May this time of worship nourish us with Your promise of meaning and purpose. May we be empowered to carry Your goodness into the coming week. We pray in Jesus’ name, our Source and Saviour. Amen.

**Time with the Children**

**Hymn:** *Morning Has Broken* 409

**Offertory Invitation:** (together)

In the name and in the spirit of Jesus, we are about to bring our gifts to You, O God. Help us to give with them a ready mind, a willing spirit, and a joyful heart. Amen.

**Organ Offertory:** *Chromhorne sur la Taille* Couperin

 **Offertory Hymn:** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* 541

**Offertory Prayer:** (together)

Through these gifts, O God, may all heed the voice of justice, hear the call to compassion, embrace the way of sharing, and know solidarity with the loving Christ. Amen.

**Life and Work at St. James**

**Prayer for Illumination:** (together)

Eternal God, in the reading of the scripture, may Your Word be heard;

in the meditations of our hearts, may Your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may Your Word be shown. Amen.

 **THE WORD OF GOD**

**First Testament:**Genesis 21: 1-3, 22: 1-14

**Responsive Psalm 40:** *You put a new song in my mouth*  764

**Hymn:** *Faith of Our Fathers* 580 **Gospel:** John 1: 29-42

**Anthem:** *Come to My Heart Lord Jesus*

**Sermon**

**A Time of Prayer**

 **Closing Hymn:** *To Abraham and Sarah* 634

**Blessing & Sending Forth**

**Postlude:** *Great is Thy Faithfulness* arr. Doran

(Prayers adapted from *Feasting on the Word* *Worship Companion, Celebrate God’s Presence*)

**Ushering this week is provided by:**

**Usher in Charge:** Oliver Wellon

**Greeters:** Tom & Maxine Rose

**Ushers:** Baxter Howse, Bruce Hunt, Beulah Riche, Earl Snelgrove

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**A donation has been received for the Mission & Service Fund** in loving memory or Rev. Dr. Wallace Baker from Jim and Sheilah Beckett.

**Our fall programs are up and running!** There is a hard copy schedule of events in the mail box outside the office door. If you wish to have access to view the computer calendar, please talk with SuAn.

**Go Project and Rendezvous meeting** for youth and parents interested in taking part in summer 2014 activities: after church today!

**Rev. Terrie’s Bible Study** on the Book of Revelation: two time options are available, commencing tomorrow, Monday at 10am or Tuesday Sept. 17th at 7pm. If this interests you, just show up!

**The first fall dinner meeting of the Men’s Service Club:** Wednesday September 18th at 5.30pm. Guest: Rev. Terrie

**Comprehensive Review:** A town hall session will be held in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, September 18 at 7:30pm so that our congregation can be included in a church-wide conversation that the [Comprehensive Review Task Group](http://www.united-church.ca/general-council/gc41/comp-review) is leading about our future.  The task group believes God is at work in the world and is calling our church to the threshold of something new.  Where do you see that happening?  What new models, structures, and processes would nurture our vitality as communities of faith?  Our Moderator has invited us to be part of this important conversation which will help shape the recommendations we will build together for the 42nd General Council in 2015.  For more information, please visit [www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org/) and follow the links for **Comprehensive Review Task Group FAQs**and **Comprehensive Review Consultation Questions for Congregational Panels**.

**55th Anniversary Celebrations**: Please mark your calendar for Friday November 15th to come and help celebrate our 55th Anniversary.  More info will follow in the next couple of weeks.

**Burry Heights Day: Next Saturday September 21st:** A day of fun, food, friendship and song. Come for lunch at noon – soup and sandwiches for only $7. The afternoon will be filled with entertainment and a silent auction, followed by a roast beef dinner around 5pm for only $12. Bring your friends!

**Our Friendship Group** will begin their meetings on September 25th at 2pm.

**A Covenanting Service** for our Ministry team will be held on Thursday, Sept. 26th at 7pm. Please join us for this special occasion.

**Infinitely More:** On Friday, September 27th at 7:30pm, the St. James GO Project will host Christian music duo, **Infinitely More**, for a night of inspirational entertainment! Husband and wife duo, Gerald Flemming and Allison Lynn, use guitars and vocal harmonies to create a joyful mix of acclaimed original songs and fresh interpretations of the classics. Blending Gospel, Praise & Worship, Country, Pop, and Jazz, **Infinitely More** wants to create a fresh new sound for the church. Admission is $10.

**Project Grace thanks from Gillian to** Steve Pike, Karen Giannou and Jennifer Bradbury who have volunteered to be on the fundraising committee. *“It would be great to have 2 or 3 more folks! The first meeting will be in the beginning of October.”* If you are interested in being involved, please email Gillian Sheppard at projectgracenl@gmail.com or call 725-4529

**St. James Go Project Youth** presents A *Spirit of Newfoundland Dinner Theatre Fundraiser “Beatles…. Back In The N.F.L.D.”*, an evening of entertainment and food, provided by Spirit of Newfoundland!  October 17th at 7pm, doors open at 6pm; tickets $80 per person ($30 tax receipt) at the Masonic Temple, 6 Cathedral Street. For tickets, please contact Rebecca Pike or the Church office.

**Out and About:** **Benefit Concert:  An evening of gospel music, featuring Angelina Richards, Alabaster, Gordon White and many more,at Park Avenue Pentecostal Church on** Saturday, September 21st at 7 pm **to raise funds to help support Jaxson Slade, a one year old child needing to go to Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto for treatment.  A freewill offering will be taken.**

**The annual Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life** will be held in St John’s at Quidi Vidi Lake on Sunday September 22nd at 2pm. For more information or to get a pledge sheet, please call the AIDS Committee of NL office at 579-8656 or 1-800-563-1575 or by email: jagollop@acnl.net. Everyone is welcome!

**Information Session for Caregivers**: Friday, September 27th at the Mount Pearl Seniors Independence Group, Park Avenue. Please see the flyer outside the office for details.

Are you interested in taking part in a study being conducted by Mercy Winsor, research assistant with the Health Research Unit in the Community Health Division, Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University, titled "**Sustaining information technology used by older adults to promote autonomy and independence:  Newfoundland and Labrador cohort"**?

 Individuals must be living in and around St. John’s; be 50 years or older, have reduced computer use because of problems associated with arthritis/ chronic pain, and be interested in receiving in-home sessions by an experienced tutor to make computer use more comfortable.

If this interests you, please contact Mercy at 777.2098

We have received a letter from United Church of Canada Moderator, Gary Paterson, asking congregations and individuals to support the **emergency appeal for Syrian refugees**, launched by the church on Sept. 6th. There is a copy of the letter in the church foyer and outside the office. Further information on the appeal, a prayer for use in services, a theological statement and a video are all at [www.united-church.ca/syria](http://www.united-church.ca/syria).   For even more information, contact info@united-church.ca

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