

Mission Statement

# Seeing and Sharing Jesus

Unifying Vision

We envision St. James becoming a congregation whose total activities and resources are devoted to seeing and sharing Jesus.

## THE SCRIPTURAL BASIS FOR OUR VISION

**Hebrews 12:2** Let us **fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**John 1:29** The next day John **saw** Jesus coming toward him and said, "**Look**, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

**Acts 4:20** For we cannot help speaking about what we have **seen and heard**."

**John 12:21** They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "**We would like to see Jesus**."

**Acts 26:17** I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them<sup>18</sup> to **open their eyes** and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

**Matthew 9:35** Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.<sup>36</sup> When **He saw** the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.<sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.<sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

**Matthew 28:19** Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations, baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**Psalms 17:8** **Keep me as the apple of Your eye**; hide me in the shadow of your wings

<sup>NIV</sup> **Matthew 5:16** In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may **see** your good deeds and praise **your Father in heaven**.

**Matthew 25:31** "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.<sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.<sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.<sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,<sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'<sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer him, '**Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something**

to drink?<sup>38</sup> **When did we see you** a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?<sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'<sup>40</sup> "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, **whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.**'

**Ephesians 3:20** Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,<sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

**Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Philippians 3:7** But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.<sup>8</sup> What is more, **I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus** my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ<sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.<sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,<sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.<sup>13</sup> Brothers, **I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.** But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,<sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

**1 John 3:2** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for **we shall see Him** as he is.

### **Congregational Prayer Based on our Congregational Mission – Seeing and Sharing Jesus**

P. Holy & Gracious God, thank You for opening our eyes through Baptism, Your Word and Your Supper, so that we might see the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.

**C. As we run life's race help us to make Your Word and Sacraments our first priority, so that Your Word would dwell richly among us and we would never lose sight of Jesus and the forgiveness and the life that is ours in His life, death, resurrection and ascension.**

P. Through Your Word and Spirit open our eyes so that when we look at each other or those in need we may see Jesus. May the way we worship together, live together and work together be pleasing in Your sight.

**C. Help us to see others as You see them, with compassion. Open our eyes to see the great harvest and open our hearts to work in the harvest fields.**

P. Help us to be good stewards of the time, resources and opportunities You provide.

**C. Remembering each day who we are and Whose we are, may we let our light shine so that others may see You, Your glory and Your love.**

P. Bless our efforts and through them open the eyes of those who do not believe and turn them from darkness to light, so that they may receive the forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified.

**C. Improve our eyesight daily so that we may never see ourselves as those who have completed our work, but as those who keep straining toward what is ahead. Keep us awake, prepared and eager for that day when we will see You with our own eyes.**

P. Until that day help us to fix our eyes on Jesus, Who reveals to us both Your glory and Your love and Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and is now seated at Your right hand in victory.

**C. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Other possible passage to include:

**1 Peter 2:2** Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation

**The Word must be central to all that we are and do. The Word is the source of our spiritual growth.**

**Galatians 4:19** My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,

**Our goal is to grow in Christ and in Christ likeness.**

<sup>NIV</sup> **Acts 2:42** They **devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching** and to the **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer**.<sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.<sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common.<sup>45</sup> Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.<sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,<sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

We are a people who should be devoted to God, His Word and each other.

<sup>NIV</sup> **Colossians 1:10** And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, **growing** in the knowledge of God

<sup>NIV</sup> **Ephesians 4:15** Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things **grow** up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

<sup>NIV</sup> **2 Peter 3:18** But **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

<sup>NIV</sup> **Acts 20:32** "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his **grace**, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

<sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 1:16** I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

<sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 6:14** For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under **grace**.

<sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 6:15** What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under **grace**? By no means!

<sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 11:6** And if by **grace**, then it is no longer by works; if it were, **grace** would no longer be **grace**.

<sup>NIV</sup> **2 Corinthians 8:9** For you know the **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

<sup>NIV</sup> **Ephesians 1:6** to the praise of his glorious **grace**, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

<sup>NIV</sup> **Colossians 4:6** Let your conversation be always full of **grace**, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

<sup>NIV</sup> **2 Timothy 1:9** who has saved us and called us to a holy life-- not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and **grace**. This **grace** was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

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