

St. James United Church

United by Faith  
Strengthened by Friendship  
Building a Community of Love and Justice



Orange Shirt Day/Treaty Day  
October 1, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

181 Portland Street  
Dartmouth  
B2Y 1J5  
902-464-8852



▲ Rise in body or in spirit/Responses in bold

Gathering Music

Welcome & Introductions

Acknowledging the Territory

Lighting the Christ and Pride Candles

**CROSSING THE THRESHOLD**

Sung Meditation Song – God of the Sparrow # 229

**God of the sparrow,  
God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe?  
How does the creature say Praise?**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

In the presence of Creator,  
**we gather this day in a spirit of gratitude.**  
Gratitude for all the gifts of Creation,  
the air, the water, the land,  
the change of seasons as we move into fall.  
**Gratitude for all the creatures that walk,  
swim, fly, and crawl on this earth.**  
We gather seeking wisdom  
to help us live a generous and compassionate life.  
**We gather seeking wisdom  
to help us live together with respect and humility.**  
We gather seeking hearts and minds  
that are open to new possibilities and new beginnings.  
**Come, Let us worship!**

▲ Opening Hymn – Let There Be Light # 679

Words of Assurance

Opening Prayer of Confession (Together)

**Sometimes it seems as if we have no options.  
That there is nothing we can do about our situation,  
much less issues as big as hunger, war,  
climate change or Treaty rights.  
Then we learn the stories of our ancestors in the faith,  
we discover that they were just like us: scared, confused,  
loving, kind, angry, oppressed and oppressing.  
And we remember that we are not alone...**

*Silent Prayer...*

**We turn to you, knowing that you understand us,  
forgive us, and love us like a Mother,  
and so we pray with confidence and faith,  
“Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**LISTENING FOR GOD’S Word FOR US TODAY**

A Time of Wondering

**SMUDGING CEREMONY**

An Ancient Word – Exodus 3: 1-5

Reflection – Holy Ground, Burning Bush, God’s Presence

Reflective Music

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### The Sacrament of Communion

#### The Invitation

Sharing the Peace of Christ

▲ Hymn – As We Gather at Your Table # 457

May Creator be present with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to Creator.**

Let us truly give thanks to Creator our God.

**It is right to give God thanks & praise.**

God of life, you nurture and sustain your people.

**You bless us with abundance;**

**you gift us with your graciousness;**

**you know our every need.**

In the birthing forth of creation you call us into being.

**You gift us with health and wholeness;**

**you sustain our every endeavour.**

You feed your hungering people.

**You call us to work for justice,**

**to share our table with all creation,**

**to feed the needy at our door, to see nobody left in need.**

Creator, we give you thanks

**for all that you are and**

**all that you bring to us within your creation.**

In Jesus, you placed the Gospel in the Center  
of the Sacred Circle through which all creation is related.

**You show us the way to live a generous  
and compassionate life.**

**Give us your strength to live together with respect  
and commitment as we grow in your spirit.  
Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!**

O Great Spirit, God of every people and every tribe,  
we come to you as your many children,  
**to ask for your forgiveness and guidance.**

Forgive us for the colonialism that stains our past,  
**the ignorance that allowed us to think  
that we could claim another's home for our own.**

Heal us of this history.  
**Remind us that none of us were discovered  
since none of us were lost,  
but that we are all gathered  
within the sacred circle of your community.**

Guide us through your wisdom to restore the truth of our heritage.  
**Help us to confront the racism that divides us  
as we confess the pain  
it has caused to the human family.**

Call us to kinship.  
**Mend the hoop of our hearts  
and let us live in justice and peace,  
through Jesus Christ, the One who came  
that all people might live in dignity.  
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Telling the Story...

Prayer for Transformation

Sharing the Bread and Wine

## Prayer Following Communion

**Loving God, we give you thanks  
for creating all people in your image,  
and for calling us together this day in humble hope  
that our offerings, witness, prayers, songs and stories  
may serve to heal, transform and bind us together  
in your compassionate wisdom and love.**

**As we leave this Sacred Circle,  
may we carry away the memory of this time together  
so that we may continue in the risen life of Christ,  
the one who comes that all people might live  
with dignity and in peace.**

**Amen.**

### **THRESHOLD INTO THE WORLD**

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ Hymn – Grounded – Tune # 104

**God, we wonder where to find you;  
should we turn our eyes above?  
How can people understand you?  
Is your love a distant love?  
Do our songs rise up to heaven?  
Does that language still ring true?  
In this world of joy and suffering,  
God, we wonder: Where are you?**

**God, we wonder at our calling;  
is it only in the church?  
We may struggle with tradition;  
where are you, God, in our search?  
We are taught that you are gracious;  
can we find you in new ways?  
Could there be some brand new places  
where you challenge and amaze?**

**We are grounded in creation—  
in the water, dirt and sky,  
And we find the Spirit's presence  
as we hear creation's cry.  
For we see in life's beginning  
what is now and always true:  
We're at home in what you've given,  
called to care for earth for you.**

**We are grounded in our neighbors,  
in our loved ones, in our towns,  
And in daily, loving labors,  
where your signs of grace abound.  
Here in Christ we love each other,  
and we care for the oppressed;  
Spirit-filled, with one another,  
we are grounded! We are blessed!**

**God, we trust that you are with us,  
dwelling in the here and now.  
When we struggle to live fully,  
your compassion shows us how.  
As we work to bring your justice,  
as we seek your peaceful way,  
As we put our faith in practice,  
may we find you, God, today.**

**▲ Commissioning & Blessing**

**▲ Song of Dismissal – You Shall Go Out With Joy! Page 884 x 3**

**You shall go out with joy. And be led forth with peace  
The mountains and the hills, will break forth before you  
There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field  
Will clap, will clap their hands**

**And all the trees of the field will clap their hands. (Clap, clap)  
The trees of the field will clap their hands. (Clap, clap)  
The trees of the field will clap their hands. (Clap, clap)  
While you go out with joy.**

## Music Takes Us into the World

*Call to Worship – Debbie Hubbard*

*Opening Prayer – Catherine MacDonald*

*Communion Liturgy adapted from*

<http://www.apostleschurch.org/liturgyforindigenousepeoplesday/>

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*Please note, our services are livestreamed  
and photographs may be taken.*

*You are also welcome to take pictures and video.*

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The design on the front of the bulletin is called the **The Survivors' Flag** and is an expression of remembrance, meant to honour residential school Survivors and all the lives and communities impacted by the residential school system in Canada. Each element depicted on the flag was carefully selected by Survivors from across Canada, who were consulted in the flag's creation.

You can read all about it here:

<https://nctr.ca/exhibits/survivors-flag/>