

# St. James United Church

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



September 24, 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

## **CROSSING THE THRESHOLD**

Lighting the Christ and Pride Candles

Sung Celebration Song

**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 this holy ordinary place,  
with these holy ordinary people,

**God appears.**

In this holy ordinary time,  
in this holy ordinary life,

**God is doing amazing, unexpected things.**

In our holy ordinary hospitality,  
in our holy ordinary laughter,

**God catches us unawares,  
and provides the impossible.**

**Come, let us worship!**

Opening Prayer (Together)

**God of promises and surprises,  
we cannot imagine what you have in mind,  
we can only trust that you remember us,  
you take note of your world and its needs and longings,  
and you will fulfil your promise.**

**As you appeared to Abraham and Sarah  
bearing a message they could hardly believe,  
appear to us again this day and make us ready to receive.**

*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.**

▲ Hymn – I Feel the Winds of God Today # 625 – Cathy McLeod

## **LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD FOR US TODAY**

A Time of Wondering

An Ancient Word – Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

Reflection – Are We Sarah?

Reflective Music

## **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

▲ Hymn – Sing a Happy Hallelujah # 224

▲ A New Creed – Page # 918

Minute for Mission

Sharing Our Gifts

Prayers of the People

# THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community – Please See Insert

▲ Hymn – Give to Us Laughter # 624

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

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

**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

*Liturgy – Rev. Teri Peterson*

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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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