

St. James United Church  
United in Faith  
Strengthened by Friendship  
Building a Community of Love and Justice



July 30, 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 INTO WORSHIP**

Lighting the Christ and Pride Candles

▲ Sung Celebration Song – Come, O Spirit # 198 V1 (Tune # 559)

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,  
come with pentecostal power;  
give the church a stronger vision,  
help us face each crucial hour.  
Built upon a firm foundation,  
Jesus Christ, the cornerstone,  
still the church is called to mission,  
that God's love shall be made known.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

We come in faith.

**We come in friendship.**

We persevere through teamwork.

**We rejoice in community.**

We come, thankful for kindness.

**We come, delighted to be together once again.**

**Come, let us worship!**

Opening Prayer

God of Grace, grateful that your commitment to us is unwavering, we pull away from the activities, thoughts, and distractions of our life and our world for a moment of respite. We come this day to pause and devote our attention to the whisperings and niggings from you. Open us fully, Loving One, so that we may receive your message, so that this respite becomes the foundation of our day, so that day by day, your love for us becomes the foundation of our lives and our world, and so that when we leave this sacred space, we become sowers of your seeds of love.

... *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...**

▲ Hymn – For the Beauty of the Earth # 226

Ministry of Music – Home – Anna Greer, soprano

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

Readings – Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Reflection

Reflective Music

## **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

▲ Hymn – Seek Ye First the Kingdom # 356

▲ A New Creed – Page # 918

We are not alone;  
we live in God’s world.

We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Minute for Mission

Prayers of the People

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

## **THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD**

▲ Hymn – Guide Me O, Thou Great Jehovah # 651

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ Song of Dismissal – Come, O Spirit # 198 – V2 (Tune # 559)

We would raise our hallelujahs,  
for the grace of yesteryears;  
for tomorrow's unknown pathway,  
hear, O God, our humble prayers.  
In the church's pilgrim journey,  
you have led us all the way,  
still in presence move before us,  
fire by night and cloud by day.

Music Takes Us into the World