

St. James United Church

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



November 12, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

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



(▲Rise in body or in spirit/Responses in bold)

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome/Acknowledging the Territory/Lighting the Candles

Gathering Song – We Are Circling

**We are circling, circling together
We are singing, singing our heart song
This is family, this is unity
This is celebration, this is sacred**

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

We rejoice in giving God thanks and praise.

▲ Opening Hymn – Let There Be Light # 679

Opening Prayer (Together)

God, you are our hope, we shall not let go.

**You help us seek peace, justice, hope,
and dignity for Palestinians and Israelis,**

**Even as we dream of a time when Israel/Palestine will be a symbol
of hope, peace, and reconciliation,**

help us to be mindfully aware of the volatile present.

Draw close to the multitude of injured and grieving people in the

Holy Land; gather up the hopeless,

and abide with the physically and emotionally oppressed;

**Prepare tables of dialogue and opportunities
for truth-telling around us.**

**Open the hearts of hurting people
so that they may witness small signs of hope.**

**Surely, with your help,
we will continue to seek justice and resist evil,**

**all the days of our lives,
until all are able to live abundantly.**

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.**

Ministry of Music – To Know God

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

An Ancient Word – Hosea 11:1-9

Presentation

Reflective Music

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

▲ Hymn – We Wait for God

We wait for God, creation longs to see a new day dawn.
And though the night is dark and deep, we dare to sing our song.
We wait for God; creation longs, we dare to sing our song.

We watch for God, the earth cries out, “Will violence ever cease?”
The one who saw the signs is seen in ways that make for peace.
We watch for God; the earth cries out for ways that make for peace.

We work for God, the nations need each one to do their part.
The Spirit works through everyone, each hand and head and heart.
We work for God; the nations need each hand and head and heart.

We worship God, the people pray that love will cast out fear.
We wait and watch to work and see the Day of God draw near.
We worship God; the people pray, the Day of God draws near.

Sharing Our Gifts

Prayers of the People

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

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

▲ Hymn – For the Healing of the Nations # 678

▲ Blessing in a Time of Violence – Jan Richardson

Which is to say this blessing is always.	Which is to say there is no moment this blessing refuses to sing itself into the heart of the hated and the hateful, the victim and the victimizer, with every last ounce of hope it has.	from the mouths of us who hope, from the hands of us who act, from the hearts of us who love, from the feet of us who will not cease our stubborn, aching marching, marching
Which is to say there is no place this blessing does not long to cry out in lament, to weep its words in sorrow, to scream its lines in sacred rage.	Which is to say there is none that can stop it, none that can halt its course, none that will still its cadence, none that will delay its rising, none that can keep it from springing forth	until this blessing has spoken its final word, until this blessing has breathed its benediction in every place, in every tongue: <i>Peace.</i> <i>Peace.</i> <i>Peace</i>
Which is to say there is no day this blessing ceases to whisper into the ear of the dying, the despairing, the terrified.		

▲ Song of Dismissal – We Are Circling

**We are circling, circling together.
We are singing. singing our heart song
This is family, this is unity.
This is celebration, this is sacred.**

Music Takes Us into the World