

St. James United Church

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

We trust in our belovedness...



January 14, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome & Acknowledging the Territory

Lighting the Candles

Sung Meditation – Will You Come and See the Light # 96 – V1

**Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star,
it will show you who you are;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

Call to Worship

There are some days
when I need the reminder
that I belong to God.
Do you ever feel that way?

Yes. We do.

**The world can be a harsh place;
we often need that reminder.**

Well then, let us care for one another.
Let us speak the truth we each need to hear.
Church, you belong to God.
You are God's beloved.

**Friend, you belong to God.
You are God's beloved.**

Let us worship the God who knows our names.
Let us worship the God who calls us beloved. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession & The Lord's Prayer (Together)

**Loving God,
From the very beginning,
you breathed life into us and called us good.**

**However, somewhere
along the way we replaced “good” with “not enough.”
Somewhere along the way we turned
the volume up on that phrase
and began to doubt our own self-worth.
Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us.
For when the world tells us we are not enough,
you call us beloved.
Show us how to return to that truth.
Show us how to let go of our weariness and
rest in that good news.**

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

An Ancient Word – Mark 1:1-12

Reflection

Reflective Music

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Ritual of Healing and Reconciliation

Statement of Purpose

Prayer (Together)

**God of Peace, we come to you
recognizing that the people whom you love
have not always been faithful to you.**

**In the wilderness,
in foreign cities,
in Jerusalem, the Promised Land,
and right here at**

St. James United Church:

**it has always been difficult for your people
to live in peace with one another.**

**Yet, your will for us is the peace that passes all
understanding,**

the peace that only you can give.

Be with us now.

Help us hear your voice,

And feel your peace in our time and place. Amen.

▲ Hymn – I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry # 644

Scripture

Invitation to Acknowledge Communal Brokenness

Confession of Communal Brokenness

Holy One, Look at our brokenness.

**We know that we have
strayed from the Sacred Way.
We know that we are the ones
who have been divided,
and we are the ones
who must come back together
to walk in the Sacred Way.**

**Holy One,
in your compassion forgive our sins,
both known and unknown,
things done and left undone,**

(especially those we name silently now . . .)

**Forgive us.
Uphold us by your Spirit
that we may truly live in your presence,
walking closer with you
and in deeper harmony with one another. Amen.**

Profession of Faith

Do you believe in God, Source of love; in Jesus Christ,
God's love made human; and in the Holy Spirit,
the power of God's love?

We do, by the grace of God.

Trusting the gracious mercy of God, will you turn
from the forces of evil, and renounce their power?

We will, God being our helper.

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

We will, God being our helper.

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

We will, God being our helper.

Pouring Water

Invitation to Dip Hands in the Waters of Baptism



Declaration of Hope

Do you believe that God is willing to forgive our sins?

We do.

Do you resolve to forgive those who have offended and hurt you?

We do.

Do you resolve to seek the forgiveness of those you have hurt or offended?

We do.

Do you resolve to keep yourself open to the Holy Spirit, so that you may resist what is wrong and do what is good?

We do.

Words of Assurance

The amazing truth of faith is this:
God hears our prayers, receives our cries, and forgives our sins.
Live as pardoned and liberated people.

Hallelujah!

**We are released from the burden of sin.
Thanks be to God!**

Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the Community

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

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

▲ Hymn – Your Hand O God, Has Guided # 274

▲ 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

Liturgy – Adapted from A Sanctified Art & Celebrate God's Presence



St. James United Church Behavioural Covenant

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



As members of St. James United Church, an Affirming Congregation, we promise to pray for one another, be kind and act in a Christian manner by:

1. Seeking to discover what is best for St James as a whole, not just individuals.
2. Being mindful that differences of opinion are normal and natural.
3. Promising to have respectful relationships with one another, our staff and our leaders.
4. Calling to account discriminatory speech and behaviour, including the use of real or perceived power to harass, bully or intimidate.
5. Maintaining confidentiality in personal and professional issues, while being transparent regarding decisions and plans for the church.
6. Praying for each other.

During meetings, it is our goal to demonstrate clear communication by:

1. Offering opinions with clarity.
2. Listening respectfully with an open mind to the opinions, ideas and concerns of others.
3. Responding respectfully and thoughtfully.
4. Focusing on issues, not on personalities.
5. Voting in accordance with your own conscience.
6. Respecting the decisions of the body, despite personal views.
7. Supporting the leaders and committees in their efforts to follow through with plans.

It is recognized that it is each person's responsibility to uphold and remind others of the covenant.