

# St. James United Church

Atomic Church  
Small Changes... Big Impact!



January 28, 2024 @ 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 Candles

Celebration Song – It Only Takes a Spark # 289

**It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:  
that's how it is with God's love,  
once you've experienced it:  
you spread God's love to everyone,  
you want to pass it on.**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Who are we?

**We are people of God, united by faith.**

What keeps us going?

**We are strengthened by friendship.**

How will we live God's call?

**We will build a community of love and justice.**

**Come, let us worship!**

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer (Together)

**God of breath and hope,  
God of parable and story,  
God of wheat and mustard seeds,  
we thank you for the gift of forgiveness,  
for the gift of love,  
for the gift of your presence among us.  
We give thanks for the old and the young among us,  
for new visions and ancient tales,  
for the songs of the psalmist,  
for the vision of prophets,  
for the teachings of Jesus,  
for the habits of faith, friendship, love,  
community and justice  
that we are trying to build,  
for the courage of those  
who have walked in your ways.**

*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 – Count Your Blessings – Joan Clark

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

A Time of Wondering

An Ancient Word – Mark 4: 1-34

Reflection – What Kind of Soil?

Reflective Music

## **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

▲ Hymn – Through the Heart of Every City # 584 – Tune 703

▲ A New Creed – Page # 918

Stories of Mission

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

# THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

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

▲ Hymn – Come to My Heart # 661

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ Song of Dismissal – May the God of Hope Go With Us # 424

**May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.**

**May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

*Praying, let us work for peace,  
singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

**May the God of healing free the earth from fear,  
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.**

**May the God of love keep our commitment clear  
to a world restored, to human life renewed.**

*Praying, let us work for peace,  
singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

Music Takes Us into the World

*Cover Design – Rev. Catherine MacDonald*

*Call to Worship – Rev. Catherine MacDonald*

*Opening Prayer – Adapted from Calling on God by Peter Bankson & Deborah Sokolove*

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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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