

St. James United Church

The Marks of Discipleship

Testimony



March 10, 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

Acknowledging the Territory

Theme Conversation

## **CROSSING THE THRESHOLD**

Lighting the Lenten Candles

Lent is a journey of deepening reflection and renewal,  
an opportunity to affirm the marks of discipleship.

**We are people of the journey, followers of Jesus.**

We are Public, Intentional and Explicit that our church  
and all of its offerings are open to everyone,  
no matter sexual orientation or gender identification.

No matter your age or stage of life,  
no matter your country of origin or economic status.

**We are people of the journey, followers of Jesus.**

All of us love pie!

But we are less sure about being  
Public, Intentional and Explicit about our faith!

**We are people of the journey, followers of Jesus..**

We light these candles to signify how Jesus' passion, purpose and  
promise shone ever brighter on that journey.

**We are people of the journey, followers of Jesus.**

Opening Sung Meditation – Today We All Are Called # 507 V 1

**Today we all are called to be  
disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free,  
make ploughshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Let us declare our identity as followers of Jesus:  
**United in faith, Strengthened by friendship,  
Building a community of love and justice.**

Let us declare our hope as followers of Jesus:  
**United in faith, Strengthened by friendship,  
Building a community of love and justice.**

Let us declare our mission as followers of Jesus:  
**United in faith, Strengthened by friendship,  
Building a community of love and justice.  
Come, let us worship!**

▲ Hymn – This is God’s Wondrous World # 296

Opening Prayer (Together)

**Gracious and Loving Creator,  
we gather here today with hearts full of gratitude  
and spirits eager to embrace your love.  
As we celebrate National Affirming Day,  
we ask for your guidance in creating a world  
that reflects your inclusive love and boundless grace.**

**We are reminded, O God,  
that each of us is beautifully and wonderfully made in your image.  
Help us to see your reflection in each face we encounter,  
honouring the diversity and uniqueness you have lovingly  
bestowed upon us all.**

**Lord, grant us the courage to be publicly affirming,  
to stand in solidarity with those who feel marginalized and  
unheard. May our actions and words be a beacon of your  
unconditional love and acceptance.**

**Bless us with intentionality, O God,  
that our efforts to include and affirm  
may be deliberate and meaningful.  
Open our hearts and minds to understand  
the varied journeys and experiences  
of our brothers and sisters. Amen**

Ministry of Music – Just As I Am, Lord

# LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

An Ancient Word – John 1: 1-9

Reflection – Embracing PIE in the Public Square

Reflective Music

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ Hymn – Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness # 375

▲ A New Creed – Page # 918

Stories of Mission – Pie Day Video

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

## THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

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

▲ Hymn – I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me # 575

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ Song of Dismissal – Today We All Are Called # 507 V 4

**May we in service to our God  
act out the living Word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod  
till all have seen and heard.**

**As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be  
disciples of the Lord.**

Music Takes Us into the World

*Call to Worship & Candle Lighting – Rev. Catherine MacDonald  
Opening Prayer – Shane Goldie - Adapted*