

St. James United Church

The Marks of Discipleship

Honouring the Body



March 17, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

181 Portland Street  
Dartmouth  
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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 embodied people.

In all our different shapes, sizes, colours, genders, and abilities.

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

We don't always appreciate our bodies,  
we are created in God's image, all of us!

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 – Take My Life and Let It Be # 506

Prayer of Confession (Together)

**Most loving God,  
you have created us in your own image.  
But sometimes it is hard for us to love what you have created.  
Sometimes we speak and act in ways  
which dishonour and disrespect ourselves and one another.  
Sometimes we have learned habits and attitudes  
which are less than compassionate to ourselves and others.  
We remember before you the ways  
in which we have not honoured or respected  
the divine image in ourselves and others.  
Help us let go of those beliefs and behaviours  
which separate us from our true self and from you.  
Help us receive the gift of your unconditional love.  
May we treat ourselves and all people,  
all creation, as your beloved.**

**Silent Prayer...**

**May we listen to your wisdom.  
Upheld by your love,  
may we venture forth in faith and courage.  
Living out your possibilities,  
may we let go of those habits, prejudices,  
and limiting beliefs which no longer serve us or your world.  
May we find freedom in a full creative life,  
immersed in your love and light and energy. Amen.**

Ministry of Music – Lord, Be With Us On This Day

# LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

An Ancient Word – Mark 14: 3-9

Reflection – Love Poured Out

Reflective Music

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ Hymn – When I Needed A Neighbour # 600

▲ A New Creed – Page # 918

Stories of Mission

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 – Many Are the Lightbeams # 588

▲ 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  
Prayer of Confession – Rev. Jane Doull – Adapted*