

# St. James United Church

Marks of Discipleship  
Shaping Community



March 3, 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

### **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 shaped by many things, family of origin,  
the economic circumstances of our parents,  
the colour of our skin, our sexual identity or orientation.

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

We all take part in shaping the communities  
of which we are a part, of shaping **this** community.

What do we want to be known for?

**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)

United in faith,  
Strengthened by friendship,  
Building a community of love and justice.  
**These are words that speak of our identity  
as followers of Jesus.**

United in faith,  
Strengthened by friendship,  
Building a community of love and justice.  
**These are words that speak of our hope  
as followers of Jesus.**

United in faith,  
Strengthened by friendship,  
Building a community of love and justice.  
**These are words that speak of our mission  
as followers of Jesus. Come, let us worship!**

▲ Opening Hymn – Worship the Lord # 401

*Motion # 1 – Election of Chair and Secretary for the Meeting*

*Constitution of the Meeting*

*I constitute this annual meeting of St. James United Church in the name of Jesus Christ.*

***As one body, Jesus is the head of our thinking, the heart of our feeling and the spirit of our life together. We are constituted for all business that may be brought before us this day.***

Behavioural Covenant (Together)

**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.**

*Motion # 2 – Approval of Agenda as Outlined in the Bulletin*

*Motion # 3 – Extension of Vote to Adherents*

*Motion # 4 – Approval of Minutes from Congregational Meetings*

*In Memoriam*

### **CELEBRATING WORSHIP AND FAITH FORMATION**

Even as we gather to worship, O God,  
we recognize our many different needs:  
For some, regular worship is an essential part  
of our weekly routine.

**Others come quietly, tentatively, seeking consolation,  
seeking community, seeking permission to express doubts.**

Many come on special occasions, needing to stay in touch  
if only once in a while, with the worshipping community.

**Take us into this special time of prayer and praise  
and remind us who we are, called to be the church.**

We give thanks for God's faithfulness,  
**and try to act out God's love in our everyday lives.**

For all the volunteers who participate in worship, for the choir and bell choir, the greeters, the coffee time hosts, those who decorate and tech people. We celebrate those who come seeking a deeper faith through study groups and books.

**We give our heartfelt thanks!!**

**Thus we worship together in joy and expectation and hope.**

*Motion # 5 Acceptance of Session, Worship & Faith Formation, Carillon Choir & Choir Reports*

Scripture Reading – Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

Reflection

Hymn – God is Here # 389

### **CELEBRATING INTERIM MINISTRY**

Rev Catherine has been our Intentional Interim Minister all through 2023. We invited her to work with us as we face the challenges and opportunities of being the church in this time and place. The Transition Team is working alongside her and the congregation to lead our church into the future.

**As members of St. James United Church, we promise to respect and care for each other through times of growth and joy and through times of sorrow and challenge. We promise to support one another with constant love, wholesome example, Christian teaching and faithful prayer, ever mindful of the fact that we are all part of the family of God together. We affirm that on those occasions when we fall short, God's ever-living grace will help us re-orient again to love.**

*Motion # 6 Acceptance of Official Board, Minister's & Transition Team Reports*

### **CELEBRATING PASTORAL CARE & MISSION & OUTREACH**

To love and serve others is our mission and our privilege. The Food Bank, F.O.O.D are two ways we live out this aspect of life together. We commit resources to ministry in the wider world through Mission & Service. We send cards, make phone calls, knit prayer shawls and livestream services so that others may know the comfort of your touch. We provide space for young people to learn skills and become engaged adults.

**May we be known for our generosity  
in the wider community.**

May our neighbours know us by our love.

**May those we serve know they are not alone,  
for we walk with them in the name of Christ.**

*Motion # 7 Acceptance of Pastoral Care, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Affirming, Food Bank, F.O.O.D, Scouting, Facebook, Website Reports*

Scripture – Matthew 5: 13-16

Reflection

### **CELEBRATING BUILDING AND PROPERTY**

Our buildings are important to us,  
**for they remind us of special moments in our lives.**

We gather for occasions of celebration and of sorrow.

**This is our place of community,  
a place from which we can reach out to others,  
and a place of sanctuary.**

Many people are involved in the maintenance  
and care of our building; those who clean and move pews,  
those who set up tables and chairs,  
those who ensure we are safe and secure.

We cannot begin to name the tasks  
nor thank the individuals enough.

**O God, may this building stand as a cornerstone in our  
community. May it stand firm in Jesus' name.**

And even as we celebrate this place, let us be reminded  
that the church is not the building.

**The church is God's people.**

*Motion # 8 Acceptance of Property & Facilities Reports*

▲ Hymn – The Church is Wherever VU # 579

### **CELEBRATING GENEROSITY**

We are thankful for each person who shares their time,  
talent and treasure to support the mission  
and ministry of our church!

**As we allocate resources and plan spending programs in our  
congregation, we are invited to share what we have,  
our time, our talent, our spiritual gifts and our financial  
resources, to create a community that focuses on being:**

**United in Faith**

**Strengthened by Friendship**

**Building a Community of Love & Justice.**

We want to nurture our faith community  
**and reach out beyond our faith community.**

May our offerings include the hopes of our hearts, the excitement  
of our dreams and the depth of our caring.

**We pray in Jesus name. Amen**

*Motion # 10 Acceptance of the Stewards, Facilities,  
Fundraising, Financial & Trustees Reports*

Scripture Reading – 1 Corinthians 12: 12-17

Reflection

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

*Motion # 11 Election of Representatives to the Region.*

*Expressions of Appreciation and Thanks*

*Act of Covenant with Bermuda Nova Scotia Region*

*Today, as we gather, we are reminded that we are all part of the larger body of The United Church of Canada. Christ's body is composed of many parts. Christ has many ministries. Some are easy, others are difficult. Some bring honour, others bring reproach. Some are suitable to our natural inclinations and temporal interests; others are contrary to both. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us.*

*Let us share this Covenant together:*

***We the people of St James United Church, Dartmouth, renew our covenant of mutual responsibility with Bermuda Nova Scotia Region of the United Church of Canada.***

***We will seek after God in all we say and think and do and live in communion with God and each other. We will search for what God wants through prayer, in scripture and by fellowshiping with each other as we listen to God through many media.***

***We will celebrate God's Presence in worship, music, life passages, and sacraments. We will invite others to join us in our journey with God. We will do all things for the glory of God and the good of God's World.***

***We give ourselves to God and rededicate ourselves to live in covenant as the people of God and the Living Body of Christ. To God be all glory, praise, honour and thanksgiving, now and forever, Amen.***

## 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

### **THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY This Week at St James – Mar 3 - Mar 9, 2024**

<b>Day</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Time</b>
Monday	Carillon Choir	Hall	7:30 pm
Tuesday	Food Bank	Hall	8:30-11 am
Tuesday	Study Group: Thriving Churches	Parlour	6:30 pm
Wednesday	Study Group: Thriving Churches	Parlour	10 am
Wednesday	Craft Group	Parlour	1:30 pm

Palm Sunday - We are doing 'A Walk Through Holy Week' and need 8 readers, including 3 men. We will have a rehearsal sometime that week. Let Rev. Catherine know if you would like to participate.

March 17<sup>th</sup> following worship: Mid-Term Check In – Join the Transition Team and the Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett as he leads the congregation through a process at the halfway point of Rev. Catherine's appointment. One again LUNCH will be provided.



If you would like to contribute to our ministry, there are **offering plates** at the back, or you can e-transfer to [stjamesfinacial181@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesfinacial181@gmail.com). This QR code will take you directly to our Canada Helps page.  
**Thank you for your generosity!**