

St. James United Church

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



April 14, 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

Theme Conversation

Acknowledging the Territory

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD OF EASTER

Lighting the Candles

Sung Celebration Song– Sing Your Joy # 253

**Sing your joy, proclaim God's glory!
Rise and sing, the morning has come!
Bless our God and praise all creation;
song of the earth, and light from heaven:
God is alive! Hallelujah!**

Call to Worship (Based on Galatians 5)

Welcome to this time of worship.

**We gather with open hearts,
ready to be filled with the Spirit.**

Let us center ourselves in the fruits of the Spirit:
**Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

These are the fruits by which we are known
as followers of Christ.

**Let our lives be gardens
where these fruits flourish abundantly.**

As we enter into worship,
**may we cultivate these fruits
within our community
and share them with the world.**

▲ Hymn – Breathe on Me, Breath of God # 382

Opening Prayer (Together)

**Abundant and generous God,
as we gather before you today,
we lift our hearts in gratitude for the gift of life
and the opportunity to thrive in your presence.
Grant us the courage to embrace the challenges
before us and the wisdom to grow in your grace.
May Your Spirit ignite within us a passion
for abundant living, that we may flourish
in every aspect of our lives
and be a beacon of your love to the world.**

Silent Prayer...

**We turn to you, knowing that you understand us,
forgive us, and love us like a Mother
and so we SING with confidence and faith,
Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth, as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive them who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom
And the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

▲ Hymn – Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus # 661

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

An Ancient Word – Romans 12: 9-18

Reflection – What Does It Mean to Thrive?

Reflective Music

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Dedication of Banner

Statement of Purpose

Prayer

God, you are the giver of all good gifts, it is by your power that all things are made holy. We give you thanks for your marvellous wonders, and for the work of human hands. Be with us now as we dedicate and receive this gift for your ministry here at St. James United Church. We ask for your blessing, may your face shine upon what we do here this day, that all might draw nearer to you and praise you. Amen.

Connecting to Scripture

Presentation of the Gift

Marilyn Harrison & Bonnie Hudson: We dedicate this banner to the ministry of St. James United Church.

Minister: With gratitude, we accept this banner. The work of spinning, weaving and sewing has long been associated with the work of women.

We give thanks for Wednesday Sewing Group who donated the material and the care that went into its making; we will use it for many years to come.

Words of Dedication

In the name of the holy and triune God:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit,

We dedicate this banner to the glory of God.

With gratitude and reverence,

We dedicate it to the glory of God.

For the beauty of this holy place
and for the sake of all God's people,

We dedicate it to the glory of God.

Prayer of Dedication

**Creator God, source of all inspiration and beauty,
we thank you for the gift of this banner
and for the work and care that went into its
fashioning. We thank you for your faithful servants
Marilyn and Bonnie who created it and generously
offer it for the enrichment of your church.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

▲ Let Us Build a House

Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where prophets speak
And words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And a symbol of God's grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat
A banquet hall on holy ground
Where peace and justice meet
Here the love of God, through Jesus
Is revealed in time and space
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place.

▲ A New Creed – Page 918 (Together)

Invitation to Generosity

Prayers of the People

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

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

▲ Hymn – I, the Lord of Sea and Sky # 509

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

Song of Dismissal – Onward Easter People

**Onward Easter people, risen with our Lord.
Loving, caring, sharing, spread his living Word.
Death no longer holds him, we can plainly see.
Christ is resurrected, we have been set free.
Onward Easter people, risen with our Lord.
Loving, caring, sharing, spread his living Word.**



Call to Worship, Opening Prayer,
Onward Easter People, Cover Illustration
– Rev. Catherine MacDonald