

# St. James United Church

## Holy Humour!



April 7, 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

### CROSSING THE THRESHOLD INTO 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

On this Holy Humour Sunday,  
we've come to laugh, to giggle,  
and to groan at terrible puns  
as we spend some time pondering  
God's direction for our living.

We need to remember the joyful bubbling of the Spirit  
**even when we are beset by worries,  
by concerns, and by isolation.  
Let that delight bubble up this morning!**

▲ Hymn – Sing a Happy Hallelujah # 224

Opening Prayer (Together)

**Chuckling, chortling God,  
who lifts our hearts when we feel most down,  
who strikes the light of joy  
in the midst of despair's gloom,  
who surprises us with wonder and awe,**

**enter into our hearts this morning, we pray.  
Open our minds to the endless possibilities  
you create for growing closer to you with a giggle.  
Open our eyes to your presence in all things,  
allowing us to respond in joy.**

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 – Take My Life

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, all for thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my giggles, snorts, guffaws,  
moving me to high applause;  
take my laughing,  
daring joy that division you destroy.

Take my anger, ire, and hate in your  
heart to quick abate;  
take my soul and let it rise-  
joyful, loving to comprise.

Take our satire, show us how  
that our chuckling is healing now;  
take your patience then to teach  
humour heals divisive speech.

Take my love: and I will pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be ever,  
only, all for thee.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

An Ancient Word – Luke 10: 38-42

Dialogue – Mary and Martha's Dinner Party

Reflective Music

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### ▲ 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

### ▲ Affirmation of Faith (Together)

**We belong to God,  
We are made in God's image... all of us.  
We bring delight and laughter to the Divine one  
We carry a spark of the divine light.**

**We believe in Jesus.  
The man who worshipped and worked and walked  
alongside so many people.  
Who laughed and loved and raged and sorrowed.**

**We trust in the Holy Spirit.  
Who dances and swirls in and around us.  
Who fills us, inspires us and sends us out  
Into your world to love and serve. Amen.**

Reverse Offering

Invitation to Generosity

Prayers of the People

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

## THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

▲ Hymn – Give to Us Laughter # 624

▲ 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.**

Music Takes Us into the World

*Mary & Martha's Dinner Party – Rev. Brenda Booth  
Take My Life – Additional Verses – Gord Dunbar  
Affirmation of Faith – Catherine MacDonald  
Cover Illustration – Rev. Catherine MacDonald  
Onward Easter People – Rev. Catherine MacDonald*

**Join us next week for our  
Thriving Congregations Series!**

