

St. James United Church

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

EARTH DAY



April 21, 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

Welcome, beloved community,
to this sacred moment of reflection and celebration.
**As we gather, let us embrace the dual spirits of joy
and contemplation that reside within each of us.**

In our moments of joy,
may we find gratitude for the abundance
that surrounds us and let our hearts
overflow with gladness.

**Let us cherish the laughter, the connections,
and the beauty that enrich our lives.**

Yet, in our moments of contemplation, may we also find
solace in silence, seeking the depth of understanding
and wisdom that comes from introspection.

**Let us honor the quiet spaces within ourselves,
where we can nurture our spirits
and find peace amidst life's complexities.**

Together, let us weave these threads of joy and
contemplation into the fabric of our worship, creating a
tapestry of reverence and renewal.

**May this time together awaken us to the joy of
existence and the transformative power of love.**

▲ Hymn – Come and Find the Quiet Centre # 374

Opening Prayer (Together)

**Creator God,
we come before you in a time of crisis.
We know that much of your creation struggles;
we begin to see and acknowledge
the changes around us;
we search for the causes and the cures
and the collaborative ways we can
commit to care for creation.**

**We want to do what's right
but we don't always know what that is
or agree how best to do it.**

**Help us learn what we must,
listening to the diverse voices
of creation itself.**

**Help us understand and love
what you have loved and called "very good."**

**Enliven that understanding, we ask,
to allow ourselves to be moved
to act as we should
and to halt actions that harm.**

**Guide us as we try to discern
how best to truly listen to each other
as well as creation and heed your call.**

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 it is 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 – Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You # 232

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

An Ancient Word – Philippians 4: 4-9

Reflection – Is It Possible to Rejoice Always?

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.

▲ A New Creed – Page 918 (Together)

Mission and Service Stories

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

THRESHOLD INTO GOD’S WORLD

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

▲ 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.**

GAZA CEASEFIRE PILGRIMAGE

When: Sunday, April 28th at 1:00 PM
Where: North Commons at Creighton Fields Gate,
across from the corner of North Park and
Nora Bernard Streets. (Former Cornwallis
Street)

Join us for a prayerful walk to call for a just peace.
Our goal is to have 30 people walk/roll around the
perimeter of the Commons 3 times - which would equal
the length of the Gaza Strip.

The Commons was chosen because there is good
visibility with streets on all sides and yet we don't need to
cross any streets. We will take/send a photo of our group
to Ottawa where it will be part of a display of people of
faith across the country calling for a just peace.

We will ask our MP and the government of Canada to
support our Calls for:

- An enduring and Sustained Ceasefire.
- The immediate flow of life saving food, water, aid,
fuel and humanitarian assistance.
- The release of all hostages – both the Israeli
hostages held by Hamas – and the Palestinian
hostages held in the Israeli prison system.
- The end of occupation so a just-peace can begin.
- We will pray for a just peace at the beginning, along
the way, and at the end of our day's pilgrimage.
- We are walking and praying in solidarity with those
who have been suffering in many ways and whose
lives are at risk now in Gaza.
- Please join the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage in Halifax.
- Please invite others in your community to join the
Pilgrimage.

**Sponsored by the Justice, Mission and Outreach
Committee of Bermuda Nova Scotia Region**

*Call to Worship, Onward Easter People, Cover Illustration
– Rev. Catherine MacDonald
Opening Prayer – Adapted from Cláudio Carvalhaes,*