

St. James United Church

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



June 16, 2024 @ 10 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

As we gather this morning, let us pause to remember, that in this region, we live and work and worship on lands that are the un-ceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace with its people.

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Lighting the Candles

Sung Meditation Song – Spirit of Life # 381

**Spirit of Life, come unto me. Sing in my heart
all the stirrings of compassion. Blow in the wind,
rise in the sea; move in the hand, giving life the shape
of justice. Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.**

Call to Worship - Psalm 92:1-15

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to
Your name, O Most High;

**To declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your
faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute
and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.**

For you, O LORD, have made us glad by Your work;
at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.

**The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like
a cedar in Lebanon.**

They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in
the courts of our God.

**In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green
and full of sap, showing that the LORD is upright;
is our rock, and there is no unrighteousness in God.**

▲ Hymn – Sing Your Praise to God Eternal # 244

Opening Prayer

**We give You all thanks and praise, O God, for Your
kingdom grows from the smallest beginnings, and You
have given us all a home in the shelter of Your love.
You created the heavens and the earth, and from
the tiniest seeds, You filled the earth with life.
You called Your people to walk by faith, not by sight, and
You anointed faithful rulers to lead them in Your ways.
Your child, Jesus, came among us sharing stories of your
love and grace and teaching us the mysteries of your
kingdom.**

**He died at the hands of those who take pride in brute
force, and in His death, all have died.
But You raised Him to life for us, and in Him everything
has become new.**

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 – Like a Mighty River Flowing #267

Choir Anthem - Treasure your Life (J. Martin)

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD FOR US TODAY

An Ancient Word
Ezekiel 17:22-24
Mark 4:26-34

Reflection – Mustard and Other Flora

Reflective Music

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

▲ Hymn – In the Bulb There Is a Flower #703

▲ A New Creed – Page # 918 (Together)

Mission and Service Stories

Prayer of Dedication

*In the name and spirit of Jesus, we bring our gifts to You,
O God. Help us to give them with a ready mind, a willing
spirit, and a joyful heart. Amen*

Prayer Requests

Prayers of the People

THRESHOLD INTO GOD’S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ Hymn – You Shall Go Out with Joy #884

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

Song of Dismissal – Go Make a Diff’rence x 3

**Go make a diff’rence, we can make a diff’rence
Go make a diff’rence in the world
Go make a diff’rence we can make a diff’rence
Go make a diff’rence in the world.**

Cover Photo – Rev. Catherine MacDonald

Welcome!

Please join us for coffee and conversation downstairs
following the service.

For the month of **June, the Rev. Judith Perry** will lead our services. St James will worship at Grace United on June 30 and all of July. **August 4th we are back**, and we’ll be hosting Grace United as usual.

We plan to participate in **Open Streets Dartmouth** on Sunday, June 23, 12-4 pm. It was a fun event last year, and we again have the button maker! We are looking for volunteers and cookie donations (store bought or homemade).

Broadview subscriptions are due, price \$30.

Community Events

Dartmouth Players: “The Importance of being Earnest”. Dartmouth Players are rehearsing now for their next production in our hall. Opening night is Friday, June 14, with performances every weekend in June: evenings at 8:00, matinees at 2:00.

If you would like to be on our weekly email distribution list, please email st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com



If you would like to contribute to our ministry, there are **offering plates** at the back, or you can e-transfer to stjamesfinancials181@gmail.com. This QR code will take you directly to our Canada Helps page.
Thank you for your generosity!

Food Bank: Tuesday 8:30-11 (June 11, 25)

Transition Team Update, June 10, 2024

We met on May 21 for our final meeting before a 2 month break while Rev. Catherine is away. Here is a summary of what was discussed:

- Rev. Wendy Kean has stepped down as our Regional Representative on the Transition Team. We appreciate her contributions and moving forward we will be welcoming Rev. Martha Martin, a former Intentional Interim Minister from St. John’s United Church in Halifax.
- Over the summer and into the fall we will be looking at the Church Decline Report by Rev. Shaun Friday and Demographic information based on recent census data that Rev. Catherine compiled. We hope this information will help us develop a blueprint for future programming and a direction for St. James.
- Joan Clark, Deborah Keays-White and Rev. Catherine submitted a grant application to offer a wellness program for Seniors in our church and the community.
- We want to continue to support Rev. Catherine with her creativity in worship and talked about ways we could be intentionally creative and include ways to include children in worship when they attend.
- We are looking into name tags and will offer them to those who would like to wear them on Sunday mornings.
- To support our Affirming Mission, we would like to start offering an LGBTQ2S+ evening service once or twice a year, ensuring we are reaching out to the LGBTQ2S+ community.
- A meeting with the Transition Team and the Property Committee will be set up to solidify a Ministry Plan as we look to future renovations.
- We are still awaiting approval of our new Governance Model from Region. Hopefully this will be in order by the fall and we can move forward with its implementation.
- We resume our monthly meetings August 7.

Submitted by Jen Adams