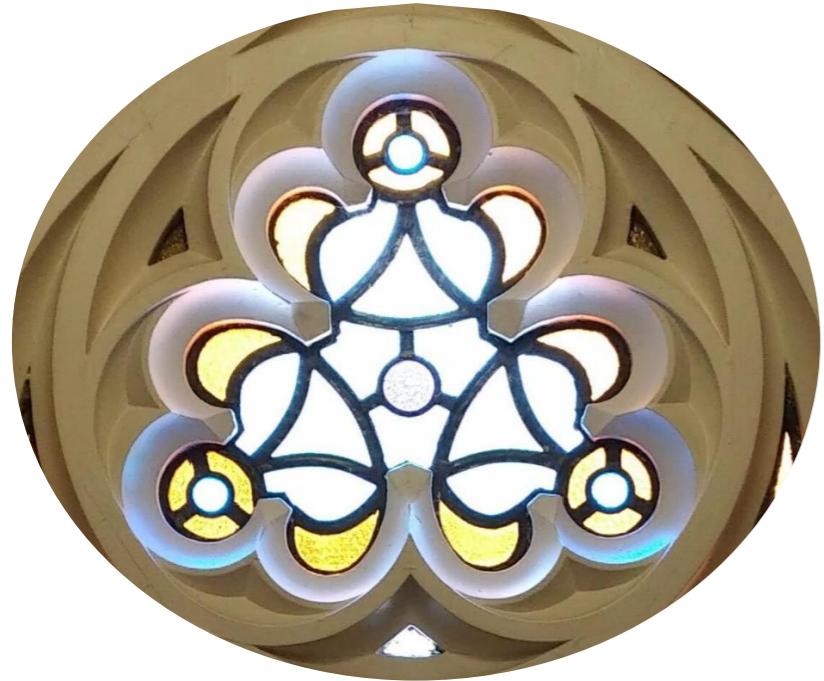


# St. James United Church

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



September 1, 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

Lighting the Candles

We Sing – God Is Here # 389

**God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.**

Call to Worship

We gather today, bringing with us the fullness of our lives—

Stories of love and hate, joy and pain,  
Struggles with addiction, battles with abuse,  
Moments of neglect and the resilience to persist.

**We come as we are,  
with our wounds and our worries,  
Seeking a place  
where grace abounds and healing begins.**

In a world marked by poverty and division,  
We search for hope and redemption,  
Trusting in a God who turns our trials into triumphs,  
And our brokenness into beauty.  
**We come seeking transformation,  
Believing that even in the darkest moments,  
God's love shines through, redeeming and restoring.**

Come, let us lay down our burdens,  
Let us lift up our hearts,  
And worship the one who knows our struggles  
And walks with us on the path to healing.

**With open hearts and open hands,**

**We come to worship  
the God of love and redemption,  
Who brings hope out of despair  
and light into our darkness.**

**Come, let us worship God together!**

▲ We Sing – Praise to the Lord # 220

Opening Prayer (Together)

**Loving God,**  
We come before you today,  
acknowledging the complexities of our lives  
and the many burdens we carry.  
In a world where love and hate, hope and despair,  
light and darkness coexist,  
we bring all that we are into this sacred space.

We know you see our struggles,  
our pain, our deep wounds.

**We know you are a God  
of healing and redemption.  
You do not leave us in our suffering  
but walk beside us,  
offering us comfort, strength, and hope.**

**You call us from darkness  
into your marvelous light,  
transforming our wounds into wisdom  
and our pain into purpose.**

**Help us to lean on one another,  
finding strength in community  
and solace in shared faith.**

**May we reflect your love in all we do,  
showing kindness, mercy,  
and understanding to all we meet.**

**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

#### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

##### A Time of Wondering

Scripture – Galatians 5: 1, 13, 14  
Romans 8: 18, 22, 23  
John 8: 31, 34-36

##### Reflection – Families and How to Survive Them

##### Reflective Music

#### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

##### ▲ We Sing – Spirit, Open My Heart

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.

Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word and deed,  
may my living bring you glory.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.

May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.

##### ▲ We Profess – 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

##### ▲ We Sing – Amazing Grace # 266

##### ▲ Commissioning & Blessing

##### Song of Dismissal – Go Make a Difference 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, Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Loving God's World – Rev. Catherine MacDonald*

#### Welcome!

Please stay for some refreshments  
at the back of the sanctuary.

If you would like to be on our weekly email distribution list,  
please email [st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:stjamesfinancials181@gmail.com).  
This QR code will take you directly to our Canada Helps page.  
**Thank you for your generosity!**

#### DIRECTORY

**Minister:** Rev. Catherine MacDonald,  
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beforethursday@hotmail.com

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[st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com](mailto:st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com)

**Facebook (Live 10am Sunday)**  
St-James-United-Church  
**Website:** [stjamesdartmouth.ca](http://stjamesdartmouth.ca)

**Food Bank:** Tuesday Sept 3, 17; 8:30-11 am

Chair of Session	Rev. Catherine	483-1422
Clerk of Session	Brian McLeod	463-4206
Chair of Stewards	Jackie Clark	999-1117
Chair of OB	Ralph Settle	478-0186
Secretary OB	Cathy McLeod	463-4206
Chair of Trustees	Wayne Cochrane	429-9009
Envelope Steward	Cathy McLeod	463-4206
Chair M & P	Shauna MacDonald	829-4042
Chair of Property	Dale Hudson	456-9720