

# St. James United Church

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



*We worship this Sunday with the oceans of Earth,  
all designed by the Wisdom of God. We join the Psalmists  
and call the sea to roar with songs of praise.  
We sing with the swirling seas and celebrate  
with the wondrous creatures of the watery deep.  
With our Creator, we rejoice with whales,  
dolphins and other 'sea monsters.'  
With the Spirit we groan with species  
that are suffering from human acts of pollution.*

September 15, 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 – O God, Send Out Your Spirit x 3

**O God, send out your Spirit;  
Renew the face of the earth.  
O God, send out your Spirit;  
Renew the face of the earth.**

Call to Worship

We invite the oceans to worship with us.  
**The deep sea currents and coral reefs,  
the mountain peaks on the ocean floor.**

We call the surging seas to celebrate with us.  
**The icebergs that break off from the South Pole,  
the calm waters that caress the equator.**

We join all ocean life in songs of praise,  
**Whales and dolphins dancing on the surface,  
and choirs of angel fish assembled below.**

We summon the seashore to magnify the Lord,  
**The pelican, the stingray, the silver gull,  
the white caps and waves that splash in praise.**

Oceans, seas and watery deeps,  
**Celebrate with all that lives within you,  
and roar in praise with us today.  
Come, let us worship!**

▲ We Sing – Song of the Waters  
(Tune: Praise My Soul # 240)

Watch once more the windswept storm clouds;  
Suddenly the sky has wings!  
God has come to rain among us,  
Giving hope to all dry things.  
Sing a song of splashing waters,  
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

Taste the moisture of the morning,  
Smoother than the best red wine;  
Toast the lifeblood of the planet:  
Here's to God's wild wet design!  
Sing a song of flowing waters,  
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

View anew the dark blue ocean,  
Whales cavorting, spraying foam;  
God at play with deep sea monsters,  
Feeling very much at home.  
Sing a song of laughing waters,  
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

Feel the breath of God move softly,  
Gentle mists that brush the skin;  
Earth is breathing God's own spirit,  
Life renewed from deep within.  
Sing a song of living waters,  
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

## **Remembering**

We remember the sea with amazement.  
**We remember the splash of waves on our feet,  
the sand between our toes  
and the mystery of an endless horizon  
stretching out across the ocean.**

We remember and rejoice.  
**Thank you, God, for the oceans,  
living waters that are part of who we are.**

## Confession

As we remember the saltiness of the ocean,  
we remember and confess  
that we have become alienated from Earth  
and viewed this planet as disposable,  
a source of endless resources,  
a mere stopping place enroute to heaven.

**We are sorry.**

**We have polluted Earth's waters with toxins,  
We have turned our greed into global warming.  
We have helped cause arctic regions to melt.  
We have loved progress more than the planet.  
We are sorry. We are sorry.**

## Absolution

Christ hears our confession  
and forgives our sins against Earth.  
**Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home  
and the planet as a precious sanctuary.**

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

A Time of Wondering

An Ancient Word – Job 38: 1-18

Reflection – Who Are You?

Reflective Music

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ We Sing – Called by Earth and Sky

Refrain

*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high  
This is our sacred living trust,  
treasure of Life, sanctified  
Called by earth and sky*

Precious these waters endless seas, deep ocean's dream  
Waters of healing, rivers of rain

The wash of love again. R

Precious this gift the air we breathe, wind born and free  
Breath of the Spirit blown through this place  
Our gathering and our grace. R

Precious these mountains ancient sands, vast fragile land  
Seeds of our wakening rooted and strong  
Creation's faithful song. R

Precious the fire that lights the way, bright dawning day  
Fire of passion sorrows undone  
Our faith and justice one. R

▲ We Profess – Affirmation of Faith (Together)

**We believe that God creates all things,  
renews all things and celebrates all things.**

**We believe Earth is a sanctuary,  
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,  
a home for us to share with our kin.**

**We believe that God became flesh and blood,  
became a piece of Earth,  
a human being called Jesus Christ,  
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,  
suffered and died on a cross.**

**We believe that the risen Jesus  
is the Christ at the core of creation  
reconciling all things to God,  
renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.  
We believe the Spirit renews life in creation  
groans in empathy with a suffering creation,  
and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.**

**We believe that with Christ we will rise  
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.**

Mission and Service Stories

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People – The Lord's Prayer

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

## THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

▲ We Sing – There's a Wideness in God's Mercy # 271

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ Song of Dismissal – I'm Gonna Live So # 575

**I'm gonna live (*work, pray, sing*) so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna live (*work, pray, sing*) so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

*Liturgy adapted from  
<https://seasonofcreation.com/worship-resources/liturgies>  
Cover Photo: Rev. Catherine MacDonald  
Song of the Waters - Norman Habel 2001*

*Please note, our services are livestreamed, and photographs may  
be taken. You are welcome to take photos and video as well.*

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