

▲ 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 – Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy tried and true;  
with thanksgiving,  
I'll be a living sanctuary for you. x 3**

Call to Worship

We gather today,  
drawn by the desire to connect with God—  
our Creator, our Redeemer, our Sustainer.

Through prayer, we open our hearts,  
trusting that God hears us.

**In prayer, we find comfort,  
in prayer, we find strength.**

God invites us into this sacred space,  
where every whisper, every cry,  
every word we offer is met with love and grace.  
**In prayer, we come as we are—seeking peace,  
seeking answers, seeking God's presence.**

Come, let us worship with hearts open to God's voice,  
knowing that through prayer, we are never alone.  
**We come to connect, to listen,  
and to be transformed in the presence of God.  
Come let us worship!**

▲ We Sing – Now Thank We All Our God # 236

Opening Prayer (Together)

**Loving God,  
we come into your presence with open hearts,  
ready to connect with you through our prayers.  
We know that you are always near,  
listening to every word we speak  
and understanding even the prayers  
we cannot put into words.**

**As we gather in this sacred space,  
draw us closer to you.**

**Let our prayers be a bridge  
that deepens our relationship with you,  
strengthens our faith and guides us in your ways.  
Open our ears to hear your voice  
and our hearts to receive your grace.  
We offer this time of worship to you,  
trusting that you meet us in every prayer,  
every sigh, and every moment.**

**Silent Prayer...**

**We turn to you, knowing that you understand us,  
forgive us, and love us like a Mother,  
and so we pray 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**

Ministry of Music – We Will Give Thanks

A Time of Wondering

Scripture – 1 Samuel 1:1-18

Reflection – What If?

Reflective Music

#### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

***Dedication of Banner***

Statement of Purpose

Prayer

**God, you are the giver of all good gifts,  
it is by your power that all things are made holy.  
We give you thanks for your marvellous wonders,  
and for the work of human hands.**

**Be with us now as we dedicate and receive this gift  
for your ministry here at St. James United Church.**

**We ask for your blessing,  
may your face shine upon what we do here this day,  
that all might draw nearer to you and praise you.  
Amen.**

Connecting to Scripture

Presentation of the Gift

**Marilyn Harrison: I dedicate this banner to the  
ministry of St. James United Church.**

**Rev. Catherine: With gratitude,  
and on behalf of St. James, I accept this banner.  
The work of spinning, weaving and sewing has long  
been associated with the work of women.**

## Words of Dedication

In the name of the holy and triune God:

Creator, Christ, and Spirit,

**We dedicate this banner to the glory of God.**

With gratitude and reverence,

**We dedicate it to the glory of God.**

For the beauty of this holy place

and for the sake of all God's people,

**We dedicate it to the glory of God.**

## Prayer of Dedication

**Creator God, source of all inspiration and beauty,  
we thank you for the gift of this banner  
and for the work and care that went into its  
fashioning. We thank you for your faithful servant  
Marilyn who created it and generously offered  
it for the enrichment of your church.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## ▲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.

## ▲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 – If You Will Trust in God # 286

## ▲Commissioning & Blessing

## ▲Song of Dismissal – We Sing to You Thanksgiving

**We sing to you thanksgiving**

**We sing it loud and clear.**

**We sing it when we're lonely**

**We sing to keep you near.**

**We sing becoming faithful**

**We sing becoming strong.**

**We sing throughout the ages**

**We're singing to belong.**

**St. James United Church**

**United in Faith**

**Strengthened by Friendship**

**Building a Community**

**of Love and Justice**



**October 13, 2024 @ 10:00 AM**

**Thanksgiving Sunday**

181 Portland Street

Dartmouth

B2Y 1J5

902.464.8852



*Cover Photo, Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, We Sing to You Thanksgiving – Rev. Catherine MacDonald*