

(▲Rise in body or in spirit
Responses in bold)

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome

Theme Conversation

Acknowledging the Territory

Call to Worship (Responsive)

God says,
“Do not be afraid.”

God says,

“I have called you by name.”

God says,

“I will be with you.”

God says,

**“You are precious and honoured
in my sight.”**

At the beginning of this season,
at the start of this week,
at the top of this hour,

may we wrap ourselves in these words.

May we begin again.

Let us worship our Holy God!

Candle Lighting Liturgy (Responsive)

In a weary and worn world,
how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us begin with the good news!

**Let us begin by trusting
that we are a blessing,
loved by a gracious God.**

Let us begin with music and singing!

Let us begin with warmth and welcome.

Let us begin with hope.

Yes, let us begin with hope.
**Today we light the candle of hope
to shine a light
in a worn and weary world.**

**May this be our foundation.
May this be our fresh start.
May this be our new beginning.**
May hope flow forth from here. Amen!

Candle Lighting Song
As We Are Waiting – Tune # 75

As we are waiting for a sign
As we long for Christ's birth.
We trust your word revealed to us
Is hope for all the earth.

Call to Confession

**Affirming God,
Your first words to creation
were words of love.
You looked at this earth and said,
“It is good.”**

**You spoke affirmations
through the prophets.
You spoke blessings over Mary.
You spoke belonging through Christ.**

**At every turn,
you have reiterated
that we are a blessing,
made in your image, held in your love.**

**Forgive us for forgetting this truth.
Forgive us for measuring our worth
by society's measuring stick
instead of yours.
We believe.
Help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray,
amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

▲Hymn – In Case No One Ever Told You
(Tune – Praise to the Lord # 220)

In case no one ever told you
or you have forgotten
You are a blessing
and have been since you were begotten
Fashioned from love
Sent to the earth from above
You're nothing short of a godsend.

You are the masterpiece
born of God's imagination
Even the parts that are crying out
for restoration
All that you are
Born out of stardust and scars
Reflects God's perfect creation.

You are uniquely created
for love and belonging
Forcing yourself to be someone
you're not is exhausting
You are a gift
There is no box you must fit
Let your belovedness blossom.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

Ministry of Music
Hope, Joy, Peace and Love

Ancient Words – Luke 1:26-38

Reflection – And Mary Said Yes!

Reflective Music

▲Hymn
To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary # 14

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

LITURGY FOR ADULT PROFESSION OF FAITH

Statement of Purpose

Presentation of Candidate

Clerk of Session Brian McLeod: On behalf of
St. James United Church, I present
Kathy Ibel who seeks to renew the faith
proclaimed in her baptism.

Profession of Faith & Promises

Do you believe in God,
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
and who works in us
and others by the Spirit?
I do, by the grace of God.

Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
resisting oppression and evil,
seeking justice,
and witnessing to God's
love for all creation?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?
I will, God being my helper.

Will you join with your brothers and sisters
in this community of faith
to celebrate God's presence,
live with respect in creation,
and love and serve others?
I will, God being my helper.

▲ Congregational Commitment

**We will continue to support you,
walk with you, and grow with you.
With God's help,
we will live out our baptism
as a loving community in Jesus Christ:
nurturing one another in faith,
upholding one another in prayer,
encouraging one another in God's work.**

Laying On of Hands

Declaration

Presentation

Prayer for the Candidate

**Gracious God, giver of life,
you have called us by name,
and pledged to each of us
your faithful love.**

**We pray today for your blessing on
Kathy, watch over her and guide her
as she continues to grow in faith.**

**Remind us of the promises
of our own baptism,
and renew our trust in you.**

**Strengthen us to do your will,
and to serve you with joy,
through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Covenanting with the Leadership Team

Statement of Purpose

Scripture Reading – 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7

Questions of Commitment

Will you strive to serve this congregation
with faith, humility, and dedication, using
your gifts to support our mission, encourage
growth, and work for justice and peace?
We will, with God's help.

Will you be open to the movement
of the Spirit,
listen deeply to the voices
within this community,
and seek wisdom as you discern
what is best for our church in each season?
We will, with God's help.

And to you, the congregation:
Will you support these leaders in their roles,
offering encouragement, prayers,
and a spirit of cooperation as we work
together in love and service?
We will, with God's help.

Prayer of Installation

**Loving God,
we give thanks for these leaders
who have stepped forward to serve.
Strengthen them
with wisdom and courage,
filling their hearts
with compassion and grace.**

**May they feel your Spirit
guiding their decisions
and may they be open
to the needs of our community,
listening to both the still, small voice
within and the voices of those they serve.
Bless this entire congregation
as we journey together.
May our actions
reflect your love in the world
and may we grow in
faith, justice, and unity. Amen.**

Commissioning

**In the name of Christ, we commission
you to this ministry. May the Holy Spirit
bless your work and grant you joy and
fulfillment in all you do. Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

**▲Hymn
God, the Spirit, Guide and Guardian # 514**

▲Commissioning & Blessing

▲Song of Dismissal Hope Shines MV # 220

Hope shines as a solitary star,
Faith is the inner light,
You and I together
Mirror the Light of Lights,
And illumine the pathway home.

Music Takes Us into the World

*Liturgy, Hymn and Artwork – A Sanctified Art
Candle Lighting Song – Rev. Catherine MacDonald
Adult Profession of Faith – Celebrate God's Presence
Installation of Leadership Team – Rev. Catherine MacDonald*

Please note, our services are livestreamed
and photographs may be taken.
You are also welcome
to take pictures and video.

St. James United Church

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



December 1, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Advent 1

181 Portland Street
Dartmouth
B2Y 1J5
902-464-8852

