

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

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome & Theme Conversation

Acknowledging the Territory

Call to Worship

"Teacher," the crowd asked,  
"What should we do?"

**If you have two shirts, give one away.  
Hold onto hope.**

**Live like we belong to one another.  
Speak the truth.  
Look for God.**

**Do the good that is yours to do.**  
It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.  
**Let us worship our present and active God.**

Candle Lighting Liturgy

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

Where do we start?

**Let us start small.**

**Let us begin  
with what is right in front of us.  
Let us do the good that is ours to do,  
and let us do it with joy!**

Yes, let us begin with joy.  
Today we light the candles of  
hope, peace, and joy.

**May these lights  
remind us of what could be.  
May these lights inspire action.  
May the warmth of these lights  
fill us with joy.**  
May it be so! Amen.

Candle Lighting Song – As We Are Waiting

**As we are wondering what come next.  
As we seek peace and joy.  
We trust your word revealed to us.  
Proclaimed in a baby boy.**

Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness

**Liberating God,  
There are days when the world  
can feel like it's crumbling.  
There are days when I doubt  
that I can make a difference.**

**I ask myself,  
what could these two hands do?  
What could this one voice say?**

**Shake me free  
of my own paralysis and self-doubt.  
Remind me  
that I am not called to fix everything.**

▲ Hymn – There's a Voice in the Wilderness # 18

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – Carillon Bell Choir

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – Matthew 3: 1-12

Reflection – Are You Ready?

Reflective Music

'Twas In the Moon of Wintertime – Carillon Bell Choir

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ Hymn – Do the Good That's Yours to Do  
Tune – Good King Wencelas

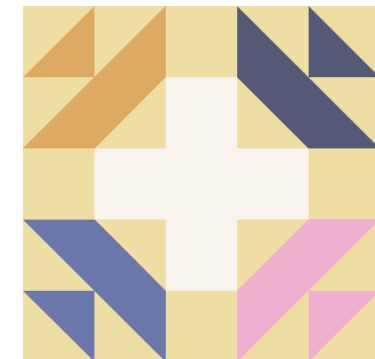
People came from all around  
Just to see the teacher  
Living in the wilderness  
Speaking to the seekers  
He had no pretentiousness  
He would tell you bluntly  
So they sought out his advice  
On how to live justly.

"Tell me, John, what should I do  
As a tax collector?"

"Take only what's yours to take;  
Don't abuse your debtors."

Soldiers, shepherds, fishermen  
Asked him the same question  
John responded all the same,  
"Share all your possessions."

Some are called to offer care  
Some to exhortation  
Some to hospitality  
Some to education  
All our gifts collectively  
Work to bring salvation  
Do the good that's yours to do  
With determination.



▲ Affirmation of Faith

In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we say:  
Do not be discouraged  
by the weight of the world.  
Instead, hold fast to hope.  
Roll up your sleeves.  
Feed the hungry.  
Tend the garden.

If you have two coats, give one away.  
Do the good that is yours to do.  
In doing so, you will see God.  
For this we believe:  
small acts of love  
can make a difference.  
Amen

Sock It To Ya!

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ Hymn – Joy to the World # 59

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ Song of Dismissal – Hope Shines Through MV # 220 x 2

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*

THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY  
This Week at St James – Dec 15-21, 2024

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Hall	11:00 am
Sunday	Christmas Carols and Readings	Sanctuary	2:00 pm
Tuesday	Food Bank	Hall	8:30-11 am
Tuesday	Blue Christmas	Mattatalls	7:00 pm

**Sock It To Ya!** The warm socks collected today will be given to the Dartmouth Street Navigator for distribution over the winter.

Your **Christmas letter** is available for you at the entrance.

**Christmas Poinsettia Project.** These poinsettias are placed in memory and celebration of those we love.

**Blue Christmas Service** Dec 17 at 7pm: The holiday season can be a challenging time for many. Join us for a reflective, inclusive service that offers solace and a sense of connection. In partnership with Mattatalls Funeral home at 217 Portland St.

**Dartmouth Players'** play, "On Air" by Rachel Franco, directed by Joanne Arbuthnott, runs until Dec 22.

**Ekko Music** invites you to a **Community Sing-Along** Monday, Dec. 23rd at St. James, 6-8 pm; pay what you can - suggested donation of \$7. Come as you are! (Cozy sweaters encouraged!)



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!**

Directory

**Minister:** Rev. Catherine MacDonald, cell 902-483-1422  
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St. James United Church

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



December 15, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

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

