

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome & Theme Conversation

Acknowledging the Territory

Call to Worship

In this weary world,
we sing of joy.

In this fragile world,
we lift each other up.

In this beautiful world,
we look for God.

In this tender world,
This is the invitation of faith.

So in this time of worship,
may we sing, lift up, look for,
and hold onto our with-us God.

With hope in our hearts, amen!

Candle Lighting Liturgy

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

Let us begin with tenderness.

**Let us begin
with our hearts on our sleeve.**
Let us begin
from a place of vulnerability
and hope.

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

**May the warmth of these lights
Be our cornerstone.**
**May the truth in these lights
help us begin again.**
May it be so! Amen.

Candle Lighting Song – As We Are Waiting

**As we are welcoming to Christ.
When he is born anew.
We trust your word revealed to us
Today and all year through.**

Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness

**Gracious God,
You paint pictures of what could be,
but we declare those visions impossible.**

**You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb,
but we spout skepticism and uncertainty.**

**You dream of a more just day,
but we poke holes in the plan,
unable to fathom that horizon.**

Forgive us for losing sight of hope.

**Forgive us for assuming
that what we see is all there is.**

**Open up our hearts
to see the world as you see it.
Open up our hearts to risk hope,
to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either.
With gratitude we pray, amen.**

▲Hymn – Hope Is a Star # 7

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

Ministry of Music – Pieta

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – Matthew 1: 18-25 & Luke 1: 46-55

Reflection – The Risk of Hope

Reflective Music

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲Hymn – My Soul Cries Out MV # 120

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight
And my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!*

Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be
Your very name puts the proud to shame
And to those who would for you yearn
You will show your might, put the strong to flight
For the world is about to turn. R

From the halls of power to the fortress tower
Not a stone will be left on stone
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne
The hungry poor shall weep no more
For the food they can never earn
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed
For the world is about to turn. R

Though the nations rage from age to age
We remember who holds us fast
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp
This saving word that out forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God
Who is turning the world around. R

▲Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God
who gives us reason to hope,
a God who fills our nights with stars,
who follows winter with spring,
who dwells with and among us.
We believe that this God has dreams for creation,
dreams of justice like a mighty stream
and swords that will be beaten into plowshares.

Therefore, we push cynicism aside.

We risk vulnerability.

We hold onto hope,

and we declare:

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

THRESHOLD INTO GOD’S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

Carol Sing

▲Commissioning & Blessing

▲Song of Dismissal – Hope Shines Through 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 & Artwork – A Sanctified Art

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

THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

This Week at St James – Dec 22-28, 2024

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Hall	11:00 am
Tuesday	Christmas Eve, Children	Sanctuary	4:00 pm
Tuesday	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary	7:00 pm

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

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

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!)

Potluck Breakfast Worship: Join us December 29 at 10 am.

Reminder: Have your donations in by **December 31** to be included in 2024 charitable tax receipts.



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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Music Director: Dean Bradshaw

beforethursday@hotmail.com

Office (464-8852): Cathy McLeod

st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com

Facebook (Live 10am Sunday) [St-James-United-Church](https://www.facebook.com/St-James-United-Church)

Website: stjamesdartmouth.ca

Food Bank re-opens on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 8:30 -11

St. James United Church

United by Faith

Strengthened by Friendship

Building a Community of Love and Justice



December 22, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

181 Portland Street
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