

▲ 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 – God’s Abundance

**God’s abundance is for all,  
no one is left outside,  
kin-dom come, all people one  
in trust and love abide.  
in trust and love abide. x2**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

In this world of striving,  
**we feel the yearn to earn.**

The world measures  
our worth in those earnings.

**But Jesus had different ideas.**

When they believed the scarcity narratives  
perpetuated by those in power,  
**he imagined a narrative of selflessness  
that prized humility over hubris.**

When we feel

our own resources are lacking,  
**we can view our lives and practices again  
from the economy of Jesus.  
Come, let us worship!**

▲ We Sing – Be Thou My Vision # 642

Opening Prayer (Together)

**God of Surprising Paradoxes,  
we come to you today,  
lifting to you our feelings of  
powerlessness against empire  
and the rage we feel  
when bad things happen  
to good people.  
In the midst of our confounded  
search for answers,  
remind us of your justice  
that restores dignity  
to those who have been laid low  
and promises an inheritance  
of goodness and grace for all people.**

*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 those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil:  
for thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen**

### LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – Luke 6: 17-26

Stories of Black Experiences  
in Canadian Churches

A Historical Beginning in Nova Scotia:  
Africville, Nova Scotia  
*by Amelia Brohman*

“Confusing Pain”  
*By Amelia Brohman*

Reflective Words

Reflective Music

Ministry of Music  
What Shall I Bring to the Lord

### RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

▲ We Sing – We Are Marching # 646

▲ We Profess – A New Creed  
Page # 918 (Together)

Marking African Heritage Month

Prayers of the People  
Spirit, Open My Heart

**Spirit, open my heart  
to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love,  
in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.**

Invitation to Generosity  
& Prayer of Dedication

### THRESHOLD INTO GOD’S WORLD

Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ We Sing – I’m Gonna Live So # 575

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ We Sing – I am the Light of the World

**‘I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!’  
If you follow and love  
you’ll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.**

**When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the shepherds  
have found their way home,  
the work of Christmas is begun:**

**‘I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!’  
If you follow and love  
you’ll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.**

*Liturgy – Worship Design Studio  
Cover Photo ~ Rev. Catherine MacDonald*

## THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

### This Week at St James – Feb 16-22, 2025

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Hall	11am
Sunday	Worship Committee	Office	11:20am
Monday	Carillon Choir	Hall	7:30pm
Tuesday	Food Bank	Hall	8:30-11am
Tuesday	Tri-Church	Parlour	7 pm
Wednesday	Bible Study	Parlour	10:30am
Wednesday	Workshop Wednesday	Parlour	1:30pm
Wednesday	Leadership Team	Parlour	7 pm

**Six Stone Jars Bible Study** - Join Rev. Catherine on Wednesday mornings in The Parlour from 10:30-12 for an exploration of the upcoming Sunday reading along with the book The Serviceberry. No Bible Study on the last Wednesday of the month due to Wellness Wednesdays.

**Worship Committee** will meet after the service.

**Thank you** to everyone who gave a donation to the Food Bank in honour of Barb Millar's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, it is much appreciated.

#### Readers! Share in worship leadership!

Read scripture and the Minute for Mission. Let Cathy McLeod know when she can schedule you.

### Lent Study – How We Learn to Be Brave

Starts March 12th & 13th  
Wednesdays @ 10:30 am - St. James UC  
Thursdays @ 2 pm - Grace UC

Join us and explore how faith, courage, and community help us navigate fear and uncertainty. Together, we'll reflect on personal and collective bravery, drawing wisdom from

scripture, history, and our own experiences. Let's journey together in discovering what it means to live courageously in faith and love.

The book is available at Chapters and Amazon on-line, Bookmark in Halifax has 6 copies. If you have an electronic device: phone, tablet etc. you can download a free app: Kindle,

Kobo, or Google Books and buy an electronic copy at a much more reasonable cost than the hard copy.

### Annual Reports! It's that time again! Our Annual Meeting will be held March 30,

integrated into Sunday morning worship. This year, we are trying something new. We are asking you to write your reports with our Core Values Statement in mind, so under three headings:

- United in Faith
  - Strengthened by Friendship
  - Building a Community of Love and Justice
- How is your committee/group living out our core values?

Your reports do not have to be lengthy; only key points are necessary; bullet points are encouraged. **Due March 3.**

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

If you would like to be on our weekly email distribution list, please email [st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com](mailto:st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com)



If you would like to contribute to our ministry, there are **offering plates** at the back. This QR code will take you directly to our Canada Helps page. or you can e-transfer to

**stjamesfinancials181@gmail.com**  
**Thank you for your generosity!**

### Directory

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**Food Bank** (Feb 4, 18; Mar 4, 18)

## St. James United Church

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

Marking African Heritage Month



February 16, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

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