

▲Rise in body or in spirit/  
Responses in bold

Gathering Music

Welcome & Introductions

Theme Conversation

Acknowledging the Territory

Lighting the Candles

Opening Sung Meditation

**Come and find the quiet centre  
in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter,  
find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter,  
clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter,  
be at peace, and simply be.**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Worship is a place to rest.  
**We breathe deeply here.**  
We still our aching bones.  
**We sit in the quiet.**

We surround ourselves with music.

**Worship is a place to rest.**

Worship is a place to grow.  
**We listen for God's word.**  
We invite it to challenge us.  
**We lean in with curiosity.**  
We ask questions.  
**Worship is a place to grow.**

So come into this space.  
**Come rest and grow here.**  
For where two or more are gathered,  
**God is always there.**

▲We Sing  
~This is God's Wondrous World # 296

Prayer of Confession (Responsive)

Holy God,  
There are days when we fail to rest.  
**We stretch ourselves too thin.**  
**We say "yes" to every invitation.**  
**We run a million miles a minute.**  
**We ignore your command to rest.**

There are also days when we fail to act.  
**We wait for someone else.**  
**We take the easy road.**  
**We find excuses**  
**and justify our inaction.**

God, forgive our imbalance.  
**Remind us that birds rest,**  
**and they also fly.**  
**Show us how to do the same.**  
Amen.

Assurance of Grace (Responsive)

My friends, the good news is that our  
God does not keep score.  
Our God does not hold grudges.  
Our God does not assume  
the worst about us.  
No, our God offers grace,  
and endless second chances,  
and boundless love.  
So join me in proclaiming  
the good news of the gospel:

**God's grace  
is deeper than the ocean.**  
**God's love is wider than the sky.**  
**We are seen. We are claimed.**  
**We are forgiven.**  
**May this realization  
change and inspire us.**  
**Thanks be to God!**  
**Amen.**

Ministry of Music – Carillon Bell Choir  
~ Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

#### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – Luke 13:6-9

Reflection

Reflective Music

Ministry of Music – Carillon Bell Choir  
~ Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

#### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲We Sing – Beneath the Soil

Beneath the soil in the dark  
There's growth too slow to see.  
A transformation not displayed  
In branches, fruit, and leaves.

Remember when the world demands  
More than you can produce.  
We each grow at a different pace  
And growth starts in the roots.

The rest and nurture we receive  
Will turn to fruit in time.  
For God made us to grow and change  
As toward the sky we climb.

In every season of our lives  
The Spirit is at work.  
To nurture us to bear good fruit  
While rooted in the earth.

#### ▲Affirmation of Faith (Together)

**We believe in a God who loves  
and tends to us like a gardener.**  
**We believe that like the trees,  
some seasons are for growth,  
and some seasons are for rest.**  
**Some days require pruning,  
and some require planting.**  
**Fortunately, we believe that  
our green-thumbed God  
sees us and cultivates  
the sweetest fruit.**

**So may we plant roots,  
reach for the sky,  
grow where we can,  
and rest when we need,  
for we believe there is holiness  
in the pruning and  
in the planting.**  
**And we do not grow alone.**  
**Thanks be to God,  
amen.**

Mission and Service Story

Invitation to Generosity  
& Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**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

**THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD**

Life and Ministry

▲ We Sing – In the Bulb # 703

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ We Sing – God Be with You

God be with you till we meet again;  
loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
may the Shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus' feet.  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.

*Liturgy and Beneath the Sky ~ A Sanctified Art*

*Note, our services are livestreamed and photos may be taken. You are welcome to take photos and video.*

**THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY**  
**This Week at St James**  
– Mar 23-Mar 29, 2025

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Sanctuary	11am
Wednesday	Wellness W	Gym	10:30am
Wednesday	Workshop W	Parlour	1:30pm
Thursday	Lent Study	Grace	2 pm

**Wellness Wednesday** at 10:30 am. Join us for chair yoga, lunch, interesting speakers and an opportunity to get to know one another. For this week, the Lent study will be on Thursday only, 2 pm at Grace UC.

**Hospitality — Circle of Service**

Would you be interested in helping with Sunday morning Coffee Time? Volunteering to operate the elevator before and after church or perhaps you would consider greeting people arriving at church? Training available! If any of these areas of service interest you, please see Melanie.

**Maundy Thursday - Potluck Lunch and Service:** Rev. Catherine is wondering if there is interest in having a Maundy Thursday potluck lunch and service on April 17th @ noon. She will design the menu and tell you what to bring. Sign up by April 10th on the Circle of Service on the bulletin board at the back.

**Would you like to learn to make bread?** Join Rev. Catherine on April 5th @ 9:30 and take home a loaf of freshly baked bread. Sign up on the Circle of Service on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.

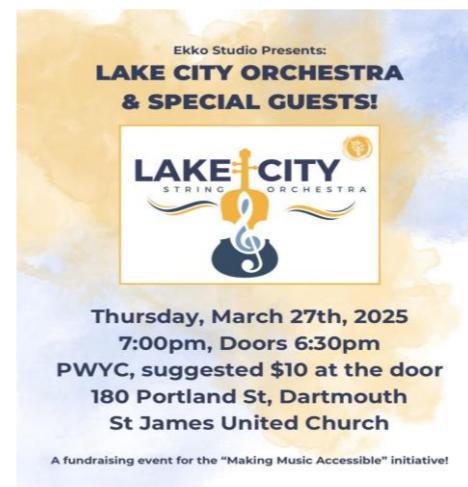
**Reminder, our Annual Meeting will be held March 30,** incorporated into the service.

St. James is looking for an individual to fill in for Doris, our current janitor, who, for health reasons, is unable to work for at least the next 3 to 6 months. This is a temporary position working 15 hours per week - the hours are flexible around the individual's schedule and use of the church facilities. If you know of anyone please speak with them and if they are interested have them contact Joyce: [hiringstjames@gmail.com](mailto:hiringstjames@gmail.com)

This is the **Centennial Year of the United Church of Canada**. Broadview magazine is creating a historic keepsake centennial edition in June. We'll be placing a **bulk order for this special edition on April 1st**. If you would like a copy, let the office know.



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](mailto:stjamesfinancials181@gmail.com)  
**Thank you for your generosity!**



**St. James United Church**

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



March 23, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

181 Portland Street  
Dartmouth  
B2Y 1J5  
902.464.8852

