

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome

Introductions

Theme Conversation

Acknowledging the Territory

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Lighting the Candles

We Sing – Love Our Neighbour – Tune # 460

**In this world of strife and anger
In this world of doubt and pain.
Jesus joins us on the journey
Daring us to live God's reign.
Love our neighbour, love one another.
Love our God, this is the way.
Love abundant, love expanding
Love is more than words to say.**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

We are people of the twenty-first century,
far removed from the upper room.

**“Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have come to believe.”**

We have put away the festive trumpets,
the fancy clothes,
the chocolate bunnies of Easter Sunday.

Must the message of Easter
be put away for another year?

**“Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have come to believe.”**

We still seek the One who offers victory over death,
whose love conquers evil.

Come, let us worship!

▲ We Sing – Thine Is the Glory # 173

Opening Prayer (Together)

God, we gather as people on a journey.

**We believe & we have doubts,
we do good & we fall short.**

**We are imperfect humans,
and still beloved by You.**

Love and grace. Hope and faith.

These are Your essence as the One who created us.

**We seek forgiveness & grace from
the One and from those we've harmed.**

**Assured of that grace,
we are ready to grow again.**

**We yearn for a new way,
a new perspective,
and a clear path.**

**Full of trust and full of doubt,
we are here.**

**Speak to us, God!
Continue creating us!
Inspire our hearts.
Enlighten our minds.
Guide our actions.**

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 – John 20:19-31

Reflection – Honest Doubt, Honest Faith

Reflective Music

Ministry of Music - Prayer

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ We Sing – When Thomas Heard from Jesus
(Tune – The Church's One Foundation)

When Thomas heard from Jesus,
"Now come and follow me,"
He surely went with gladness,
for there was much to see.
He witnessed Jesus' teaching
and saw his healing touch;
He found a faith to guide him,
a friend he loved so much.

When Jesus spoke of heaven,
bold Thomas dared to say,
"We don't know where you're going!
How can we know the way?"
He wanted understanding
of what he could not see.
Then Jesus reassured him,
"The way is here — through me."

When crowds began to murmur
and leaders raised their cry,
Brave Thomas spoke out firmly,
"Let's go with him and die."
He ate at Jesus' table,
partaking wine and bread;
Yet later with the others,
he saw the cross and fled.

What joy on Easter evening

when many saw the Lord!
Yet Thomas was not with them
and would not trust their word.
When Christ appeared before him,
his doubts were quickly gone;
He gladly knew that evening
the joy of Easter dawn.

That man of faith saw Jesus
at breakfast by the sea;
At Pentecost he witnessed
so others would believe.
O Lord, may we — like Thomas
— keep growing day by day;
Increase our faith and guide us,
for Lord, you are the Way.

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

Mission and Service Stories

Invitation to Generosity

& Prayer of Dedication (Together)

**Generous and surprising God,
when we thought that death
had claimed your only Son,
you amazed us with the resurrection.
Surprise us again with your ability
to turn our humble offerings
into gifts that will transform the world
through our witness to your love.
We lay our very lives at your feet, O God,
knowing that you will use us
to proclaim and embody the gospel. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ We Sing – Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus # 661

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ We Sing Onward Easter People

**Onward Easter people, risen with our Lord.
Loving, caring, sharing, spread his living Word.
Death no longer holds him, we can plainly see.
Christ is resurrected, we have been set free.
Onward Easter people, risen with our Lord.
Loving, caring, sharing, spread his living Word.**

*Call To Worship — Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009, ©
2008 Abingdon Press. Posted on the Worship Elements page of the
Ministry Matters website.*

*Opening Prayer Adapted from a prayer written by Tim Graves and posted
on LiturgyBits. <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>*

*Offertory prayer ~ written by Laura Jaquith Barlett, and posted on Ministry
Matters. [http://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/2528/worship-
elements-april-12-2015](http://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/2528/worship-elements-april-12-2015)*

*When Thomas Heard From Jesus
~ Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*

Photo – Rev. Catherine MacDonald

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



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St. James United Church

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



April 27, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

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

