

(▲ 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)

Come, people of God,  
from many places, with many stories.  
**We gather, not to gatekeep grace,  
but to remember a love  
that breaks down every barrier.**

Come, beloved of God,  
you who have been excluded, questioned, or hurt.  
**You are seen. You are welcome. You are whole.**

Just as the early church listened and grew,  
we open our hearts to voices long silenced.

**Let us worship the One  
who calls us to widen the circle.  
and live in the freedom of grace.**

▲ We Sing – Let Us Build a House MV # 1

Opening Prayer (Together)

**Holy One,  
you spoke through the apostles,  
not to bind your love with rules,  
but to remind your people that your grace is for all.**

**On this day, when we mark the  
International Day Against Homophobia,  
we name the harm the church has caused by closing  
doors instead of opening hearts.**

**Let this be a place  
where all are welcomed in their fullness—  
queer and straight, binary, questioning and certain,  
just as they are, beloved by you.**

**Give us the courage to be like Peter and James—  
to listen, to change,  
to defend the freedom of your Spirit.**

*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**

Ministry of Music – Open Sky – Poppy Mason

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – Acts 15:1–18

Reflection – DEI... Part of God's Unfolding Plan

Reflective Music

Ministry of Music – Love Over Hate

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ We Sing – Draw the Circle Wide MV # 145

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

Who Are the People in Our Neighbourhood?  
Lauren Cullen & Kayla Heisler  
MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

## THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ We Sing – Though Ancient Walls # 691

▲ 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.**

*Liturgy/ Opening & Closing Songs/Photograph ~ Rev. Catherine MacDonald*

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 – May 18 – May 24, 2025

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Sanctuary	11 am
Monday	Carillon Choir	Hall	7:30 pm
Wednesday	Leadership Team	Parlour	7 pm
Saturday	Tri-Church Meeting	Hall	8:30 am

Today we welcome our neighbours **Poppy Mason, Lauren Cullen and Kayla Heisler.**

**Worship Committee** will meet on May 25, after the service.

**Broadview** subscriptions will be due soon. Did you know *Broadview* is the only media organization in Canada dedicated to covering progressive Christian news and views? Consider subscribing!

Have you got your house to colour, paint, etc.? Little wooden houses are available at the back of the Sanctuary. Help us create a neighbourhood on the communion table for our **Who Are the People in the Neighborhood** series.

**St. James is still 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 10 hours per week - 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)

In The Community

**Downtown Dartmouth Waterfront Revitalization Project:** You are invited to attend and participate in a public engagement session to share your ideas and vision for the Downtown Dartmouth Waterfront. Two sessions are scheduled; everyone is welcome. Both sessions will provide

the same presentation and information. Please attend one session at the time of your choice.  
Wednesday, May 21, Alderney Landing Theatre  
(2 Ochterloney Street, Dartmouth, NS)  
Session #1: 2:30 - 4:30 pm  
Session #2: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

**Free Music Workshop for Kids!**  
Accents Music is offering a FREE piano and singing workshop for kids ages 5-10! This engaging class will include group singing, playing at the piano, musical activities and making new friends.  
Where: St. James United Church Hall  
When: Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am - 11:30am  
Drop-off event: Just for the kids! Space is limited-reserve a spot today!



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](mailto:stjamesfinancials181@gmail.com). This QR code will take you directly to our Canada Helps page.  
**Thank you for your generosity!**

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)

Directory

**Minister: Rev. Catherine MacDonald**, cell 902-483-1422  
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**Facebook (Live 10am Sunday)** [St-James-United-Church](https://www.facebook.com/St-James-United-Church)  
**Website:** [stjamesdartmouth.ca](http://stjamesdartmouth.ca)  
**Food Bank** (May 27; June 10, 24)

St. James United Church

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



May 18, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

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