

(▲ 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 – Let Us Build a House MV # 1 – Verse 1

**Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

We gather today as people called by Love,  
a Love that invites, welcomes, and sends.

**We come with open hearts,  
ready to be shaped into bearers of good news.**

God's Spirit stirs among us,  
calling us to share hope where there is hurt,  
and friendship where there is loneliness.  
**In community we discover the gospel made real.  
In worship we find courage to live it out.**

Come, let us worship the One  
who sends us into the world  
with words of grace and lives of compassion.  
**We worship God with joy and openness.**

Opening Prayer (Together)

**God of Good News,  
you speak life into weary places  
and call us toward hope  
we cannot create on our own.  
Open our hearts so your Spirit  
may take root in us—  
growing compassion, courage, and conviction.**

**Where we have become hesitant to share our faith,  
give us stories worth telling.  
Where we have forgotten the joy of being your people,  
restore our delight.**

**Gather us into your renewing presence, Holy One,  
and send us out as bearers of grace—  
not with pressure or fear,  
but with the quiet confidence  
that your love changes lives,  
starting with ours.  
*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**

▲ We Sing – Great Is Thy Faithfulness # 288

**LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD**

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – John 3: 1-17 & 1 Peter 3: 15, 16

Reflection

Reflective Music

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

▲ We Sing – My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV # 138

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

▲ Hymn to Learn – Are You Lost TLUS # 61

Stories of Mission

Invitation to Generosity

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

## **THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD**

Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ We Sing – Lord, You Give the Great Commission # 512

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ We Sing – What Can I Do? MV # 191

**What can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY  
This Week at St James – Nov 16 - Nov 22, 2025

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Sanctuary	11:00 am
Monday	Carillon Choir	Hall	7:30 pm
Wednesday	Craft Group	Parlour	1:30 pm
Wednesday	Tri-Church	Stairs UC	6:00 pm
Wednesday	Leadership Team	Parlour	7:00 pm

We're delighted to share that on **Anniversary Sunday, Nov. 23, our guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne**, Growth Animator for the Atlantic Region.

It's time for our **Christmas Poinsettia Project**. This lovely tradition was started by the St James UCW. Two large plants will grace the sanctuary in memory or celebration of those we love. Place your dedications and donation in the offering plate or send to the church office by December 11.

**CHRISTMAS MAGIC December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 pm!**

In three weeks, it will be time for Christmas Magic. St James will welcome the community for an afternoon of Fun, Food, Crafts, and of course a Silent Auction. Participation by the congregation has always made this event a success. Here are some ways you can help:

- Silent Auction Items
- Baking
- New to You Christmas Items
- Volunteer for setup, cleanup or helping at the event.

Maybe the most important thing you can do is come to Christmas Magic, invite your family and friends, and share our poster! For further information contact Melanie (902-463-3933) or Bonnie (902-456-0770).

Add our **Christmas Carol and Readings Service** to your calendar, featuring the Carillon Choir and St James Choir, **Sunday Dec. 15, 2 pm.**

**New Year's Eve Potluck (for the Church Year!)**  
Let's ring in the new year — the church year, that is! Advent marks the beginning of a fresh season of hope and anticipation, and what better way to start than with good food and good company? We'll gather for a New Year's Eve Potluck to celebrate the beginning of Advent and the year ahead. Bring a favourite dish to share and your festive spirit - there will be laughter, music, conversation, and some fun ways to get to know our friends from Stairs United, who will be joining us for the evening. Come hungry for both food and friendship as we begin this new season together! **November 29, 6:00 pm, St. James Hall.**

**Nativity Scenes.** As we journey through the Advent and Christmas season, you are invited to help us create a visual celebration of hope, peace, joy, and love in our sanctuary. If you have a nativity scene that you would be willing to lend to the church for the season, please bring it in any Sunday during Advent, or drop it off at the office during the week. Large or small, traditional or unique, handmade or handed down through generations—each nativity scene tells a story of faith and imagination. Together, they will help us create a rich, beautiful display that reflects the diversity and creativity of our community. Please label your nativity set with your name so we can be sure it's returned to you in January. Thank you for sharing a piece of your Christmas tradition with us!

**Kin Club Brunch November 23:** They are looking forward to seeing you at the best Brunch in Metro, next Sunday from 9:30-12:30, at the East Dartmouth Community Centre, 50 Caledonia Rd.



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)

St. James United Church

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



Worship Leader – Rev. Catherine MacDonald  
Music Director – Dean Bradshaw  
Reader – Reid Harrison

November 16, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

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