

▲Rise in body or in spirit
Responses in bold

Gathering Music

Welcome

Introductions

Theme Conversation

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Lighting the Candles

We Sing – Will You Come and See the Light # 96

**Will you come and see the light
from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright,
though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star,
it will show you who you are;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Come, you who know both joy and sorrow.

Come, you who have loved deeply
and been changed by it.

**We gather in the presence of a love
that is patient and kind.**

A love that does not insist on its own way.

A love that bears, believes, hopes, and endures.

We come carrying our songs and our silences.

Our tenderness and our wounds.

**God invites us to move together
through all that life brings.**

**To be held in love that does not give up
when the music falters.**

So come.

Let us worship the One whose love never ends.

▲We Sing – Come and Find the Quiet Centre # 374

Opening Prayer (Together)

**Holy and faithful God,
we come before you knowing
that love is not always easy or gentle.
We know love can be joyful and fragile,
steady and costly.**

**You teach us a love that is patient and kind.
A love that does not keep score
or turn away in the face of suffering.
A love that endures to the very end.**

**Teach us how to dance this love in our lives.
How to move in step with compassion
when the rhythm is slow or uncertain.
How to stay close to one another when the song
carries grief as well as joy.**

**Hold us in your love when words fall short.
Lead us through all that is broken
toward what is healing and whole.**

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 FOR US TODAY

Ministry of Music – Anthem

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8

Contemporary Words – Leonard Cohen

Reflection – The Courage to Stay in the Dance of Love

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲Hymn – *Loving God's World* – Tune MV # 154

▲A New Creed – Page # 918

Stories of Mission

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲Hymn – Love Divine, All Love Excelling # 333

▲Commissioning & Blessing

▲Song of Dismissal – 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! R

THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY
This Week at St James – Jan 11-Jan 16, 2026

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Sanctuary	11:00 am
Sunday	Worship Committee	Office	11:15 am
Sunday	Oakwood Service	10 Mt Hope	2:30 pm
Wednesday	Craft Group	Parlour	1:30 pm
Thursday	Pastoral Care Training	Parlour	10-11:30am

The flowers in the sanctuary today are in **memory of long-time member Betty Otto**, who died in December, placed there by her family. We send them our condolences.

We'd like to wish **Virtue Tulk** a very Happy Birthday, she's reached a milestone, 95 years.

Worship Committee will meet after the service.

As we continue to renovate, we are forming a **Decor Team** to help make our space warm, welcoming, and reflective of our community. If you enjoy creativity, colour, and helping our church feel like home, we would love to hear from you. Please sign up on the Circles of Service form on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.

Pastoral Care Training

Rev. Catherine continues this ongoing training Thursday mornings 10-11:30: January 15, 22, 29. Pastoral care is not just the work of the minister. It belongs to all of us, in listening, checking in, and showing up for one another.

Let's Talk about MAID - St. James United Church, Jan 29, 2026, 7:00-9:00 pm. Facilitated by Max Meier, NS Health. End-of-life decisions can be deeply personal and often difficult to talk about. Join us for a thoughtful, compassionate conversation about Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), exploring what it is, why it matters, and how we can support one another with care and respect. This event is open to all.

Note: The emergency exit from the sanctuary (next to the piano on the front left) is not to be used. If evacuation is required, please use the main front doors or the staircase on the right leading to the new office space.

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 contribute to our ministry, there are **offering plates** at the back, or you can e-transfer to stjamesfinancials181@gmail.com This QR code will take you directly to our Canada Helps page.
Thank you for your generosity!

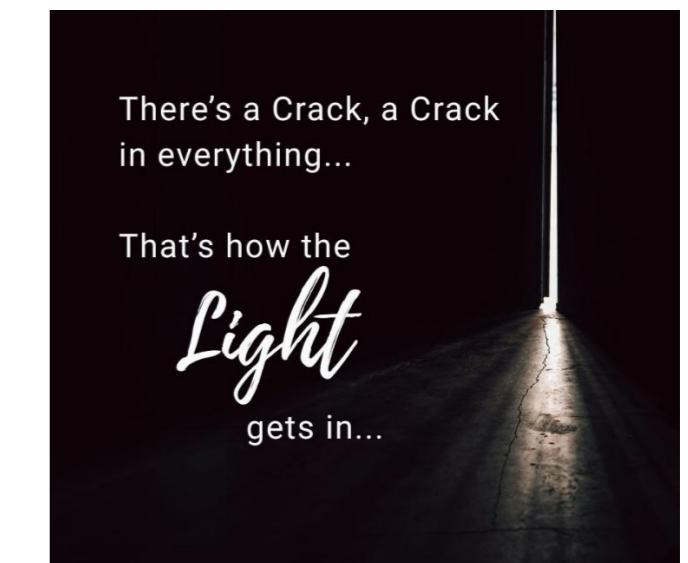
If you would like to be on our weekly email distribution list, please email st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com

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Food Bank (Jan 6, 20)

St. James United Church

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



January 11, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

181 Portland Street
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