

▲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)

We come before God with open hands and honest hearts.

**If it be your will, we are listening.**

We bring our voices and our silence,  
our questions and our trust.

**If it be your will, shape our worship.**

We come not claiming certainty,  
but offering ourselves as we are.

**If it be your will, lead us in your ways.**

We gather in hope that love still speaks,  
even in a weary world.

**If it be your will, let love guide us.**

Come, let us worship God.

**We come, ready to listen and respond.**

▲We Sing – Spirit, Open My Heart MV # 79

Opening Prayer (Together)

**Holy and loving God,  
we come before you with  
open hands and open hearts.  
We bring what we know  
and what we do not understand,  
our longing to serve,  
and our weariness from trying.**

**If it be your will,  
open our eyes to see your light  
in places of hunger, injustice  
and quiet faithfulness.  
If it be your will,  
loosen what binds us  
and soften what has grown hard within us.**

**Teach us to walk in your ways,  
to act with compassion,  
and to trust  
that even small acts of love matter.**

*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**

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – Psalm 36: 5-9 & Isaiah 58: 6-10

Contemporary Words – Leonard Cohen

Reflection – Rags of Light

Reflective Music

Ministry of Music – If It Be Your Will

#### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲Hymn – When We Are Living # 581

▲A New Creed – Page # 918

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

#### THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲Hymn – I, the Lord of Sea and Sky # 509

▲Commissioning & Blessing

▲Song of Dismissal – I am the Light of the World # 87

**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**

## If It Be Your Will

If it be your will  
That I speak no more  
And my voice be still  
As it was before

I will speak no more  
I shall abide until  
I am spoken for  
If it be your will

If it be your will  
That a voice be true  
From this broken hill  
I will sing to you

From this broken hill  
All your praises they shall ring  
If it be your will  
To let me sing

From this broken hill  
All your praises they shall ring  
If it be your will  
To let me sing

If it be your will  
If there is a choice  
Let the rivers fill  
Let the hills rejoice

Let your mercy spill  
On all these burning hearts in hell  
If it be your will  
To make us well

And to draw us near  
And bind us tight  
All your children here  
In their rags of light

In our rags of light  
All dressed to kill  
And end this night  
If it be your will  
If it be your will

Call to Worship, Opening Prayer ~ Rev. Catherine MacDonald

## THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY This Week at St James – Jan 18-Jan 24, 2026

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Sanctuary	11:00 am
Monday	Carillon Choir	Hall	7:30 pm
Tuesday	Food Bank	Hall	8:30-11 am
Tuesday	Transition Team	Parlour	6:30 pm
Wednesday	Craft Group	Parlour	1:30 pm
Wednesday	Leadership Team	Parlour	7:00 pm
Thursday	Congregational Care Training	Parlour	10-11:30am

We are forming a **Decor Team** to help make our space warm, welcoming, and reflective of our community. Please sign up on the Circles of Service form at the back of the sanctuary.

**Congregational Care Training** continues Thursday mornings 10-11:30: January 22, 29. Anyone may attend.

**Let's Talk about MAID** - St. James United Church, Jan 29, 2026, 7:00-9:00 pm. Facilitated by Max Meier, NS Health. Join us for a thoughtful, compassionate conversation about Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID). This event is open to all.

**Annual Reports for 2025 are due!** They do not have to be lengthy; bullet points are encouraged. How did your group live out our core values in 2025?

**Note: The emergency exit from the sanctuary (next to the piano on the front left) is not to be used.** For evacuation, please use the main front doors or the staircase on the right.



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



January 18, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

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

