

▲ Rise in body or in spirit/Responses in bold

Gathering Music

Welcome/Introductions

Theme Conversation

### CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Lighting the Candles

▲ We Sing – Sing Hallelujah!

#### *Refrain*

**Hey now, Singing Hallelujah!**  
**Hey now! The morning has come!**  
**Hey now, Singing Hallelujah!**  
**The tomb was empty at the rising sun.**

**Jesus loved people**  
**and he made them friends.**  
**Hey now, the tomb was empty.**  
**He called to the children**  
**and the women and the men.**  
**Hey now, the tomb was empty. Refrain**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Come, all who are weary or hopeful,  
all who carry questions or quiet joy.

**We come to listen for a word that can take root.**

A sower went out to sow, scattering seeds far and wide.

**Some fell on rocky ground,**  
**some among thorns, some on good soil.**

God's word is still being sown among us today.

**May our hearts be ready to receive it.**

Come, let us open ourselves to the seeds of hope and joy.

**We come to worship, to listen, and to grow.**

▲ We Sing – For the Beauty of the Earth # 226

Opening Prayer (Together)

**Sowing God,**  
**you scatter grace with a generous hand,**  
**not measuring where it lands,**  
**but trusting that something will take root.**

**In our lives there are places**  
**worn down and hardened,**  
**places crowded with worry,**  
**and places still open and ready.**  
**Meet us in each of these spaces.**

**Break open what has become closed.**  
**Clear away what chokes out hope.**  
**Nurture what is ready to grow.**

**Plant within us your seeds of hope and joy,**  
**that they may take root deeply,**  
**rise up with courage,**  
**and bear fruit in love for the world.**

**We come to listen,**  
**to receive, and to be changed.**  
**In the spirit of Christ, we pray.**

*(Silent prayer)*

**We turn to you,**  
**knowing that you understand us,**  
**forgive us, and love us like a Mother,**  
**and so we sing with confidence and faith,**

**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come, your will be done**  
**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**  
**and deliver us from evil,**  
**for the kingdom,**  
**the power and the glory are yours,**  
**now and for ever.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – Matthew 13:1–23

Reflection – Sowing Seeds of Hope & Joy

Reflective Music

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ Hymn – We Plough the Fields # 520

▲ A New Creed – Page 918

Stories of Mission

Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

### THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ Hymn – For the Fruit of All Creation # 227

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ Song of Dismissal – You Shall Go Out with Joy # 884

**You shall go out with joy.**  
**And be led forth with peace.**  
**The mountains and the hills.**  
**Will break forth before you.**  
**There'll be shouts of joy.**  
**And all the trees of the field.**  
**Will clap, will clap their hands.**

**And all the trees of the field.**  
**Will clap their hands.**  
**The trees of the field, will clap their hands.**  
**The trees of the field, will clap their hands.**  
**While you go out with joy!**

Liturgy – Rev. Catherine MacDonald

THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY  
This Week at St James – Apr 19 - Apr 25, 2026

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Sanctuary	11:00 am
Monday	Carillon Choir	Hall	7:30 pm
Tuesday	Transition Team	Parlour	6:30 pm
Wednesday	Craft Group	Parlour	1:30 pm

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the Yard Sale on Saturday!

**Kin Club Brunch next Sunday, April 26!** They are looking forward to seeing you at the best Brunch in Metro. 9:30-12:30, at the East Dartmouth Community Centre, 50 Caledonia Rd, Dartmouth.

**Camp Kidston Benefit Dinner: Beans, Bread & Blessings.** Saturday, April 25, 4 pm. Bethany United Church, Halifax. \$25, limited seating. Ticket sales from their church office. More info at 902-455-0521.

Reminder for Wellness Wednesday, **Apr 29, Last Wednesday of the Month:** join us for chair yoga, lunch (free!), and a chance to get to know one another.

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

*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](mailto:st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com)

Directory

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**Facebook (Live 10am Sunday)** [St-James-United-Church](https://www.facebook.com/St-James-United-Church)  
**Website:** stjamesdartmouth.ca  
**Food Bank** (April 28: May 12, 26)

St. James United Church

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



Earth Day - Spotting Joy!

April 19, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

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



*Wellness Wednesdays for Seniors*

**Last Wednesday of the month @ 11:00 AM**

**Chair Yoga**  
Stretch and strengthen your body, yoga is adaptable for all ages and fitness levels.

**Lunch & Speaker**  
Enjoy a healthy lunch while listening to a speaker and an opportunity to ask questions.

**Games & Social Time!**  
There will be games and puzzles available or if you just want to sit and chat, that's okay too.

**FREE! NO CHURCH CONNECTION NEEDED!**

902-464-8852  
183 Portland Street, Dartmouth  
www.stjamesdartmouth.ca

**ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH**  
**THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**