

▲ 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 have wandered far  
and all who have stayed close by.  
**We come, seeking home.**

Come, you who carry joy and you who carry regret.  
**We come, longing to be welcomed.**

The Holy One runs to meet us,  
not with judgment, but with open arms.  
**We come to a love that will not let us go.**

There is music and dancing in the heart of God.  
**We come to join the celebration.**

Let us worship the God who calls us beloved.  
**Let us worship in joy and gratitude.**

▲ We Sing – Draw the Circle Wide MV # 145

Opening Prayer (Together)

**Gracious and welcoming God,  
you meet us on the road,  
whether we are returning after a long journey  
or standing quietly,  
unsure of our place.  
You see us as we are  
and call us beloved.**

**In a world that measures worth  
and keeps score,  
you throw open the doors  
and set the table wide.  
You invite us into joy,  
into mercy, into new life.**

**So soften what is hardened within us.  
Heal what is broken.  
Quiet the voices that tell us we do not belong.**

**And when we struggle to welcome others,  
teach us again the rhythm of your grace.**

**Gather us into your embrace this day,  
and make us a people who know how to rejoice  
when any one of your children comes home.**

*(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, 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 them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil:  
for thine is the kingdom,  
And the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Reflection – Welcome Home!

Reflective Music

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ We Sing – I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry # 644

▲ A New Creed – Page 918

Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

### THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

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

▲ 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  
Photo – Cparks - Pixabay*

**THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY  
This Week at St James – Apr 26 - May 2, 2026**

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Sanctuary	11:00 am
Tuesday	Food Bank	Hall	8:30-11 am
Tuesday	Book Club	Parlour	7:00 pm
Wednesday	Wellness	Gym	11:00 am
Wednesday	Craft Group	Parlour	1:30 pm

**Book Club Tuesday, 7:00 pm.** This month we are discussing “Paris Express”, Emma Donoghue. Next month join us for “When the World Fell Silent”, Donna Jones.

**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.

**Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> is Red Dress Day:** If you have a red dress, bring it in and we will place it on the railings by the pulpit. You can also wear red. This day honours missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2 spirited people.

**Soup Lunch May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Plan to attend; we will do an Interim Ministry evaluation at this time.

We welcome **Dianne Cleveland as part of the leadership team;** she has joined as Congregational Connector – Mission and Community Engagement, replacing Jackie Clark, who is now our secretary. We thank Kathy Ibel for her service as secretary over this past year.

**In The Community**

**Kin Club Brunch today, 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.

**Faith & the Common Good Presents: Empowering Faith Communities - From Fundraising to Faith-Raising.**

A 6-Part Online Workshop Series with expert facilitator Mikhael Bornstein. This practical six-week series is built for Canadian faith leaders, board members, stewardship committees and volunteers across all traditions, helping communities move from awkward fundraising asks to a genuine culture of stewardship. Mikhael will guide participants through everything from crafting a stewardship message rooted in your tradition's values, to major and legacy gifts, capital campaigns, digital giving, grant writing, and CRA compliance. **Faith & the Common Good** is a Canadian interfaith, non-sectarian, charitable network dedicated to assisting and inspiring religious congregations and spiritual groups of all backgrounds to take collective action in creating more sustainable communities. **Site:** faithcommongood.org  
Thursdays, May 21-June 25; 1:00-2:30 pm ET. Cost: \$100.

**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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**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



Spotting Joy!

April 26, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

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