

▲ 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, you who are weary from the week behind you.

Come, you who are hopeful for the week ahead.

Come, for God has prepared a place at the table.

**We come, wondering if there is room for us.
We come, carrying our joys and burdens.
We come, longing for welcome and grace.**

Jesus tells stories of invitations and feasts,
of unexpected guests and open doors.

**So we gather from many places and many walks of life.
We gather to hear God's invitation again.**

Come to the feast of love and justice.
Come to the table where all are welcome.
Let us worship God.

▲ We Sing – For Everyone Born

Opening Prayer (Together)

**God of wide open doors,
you call us to your table
again and again.
You invite the lonely,
the busy, the hesitant,
the joyful, the wounded
and the hopeful.**

**In a world that draws lines
and builds fences,
you prepare a feast
where strangers
become neighbours
and all are treated
with dignity and grace.**

**Open our hearts this day.
Help us hear your invitation
not as obligation, but as gift.
Help us make room for others,
just as you have made room for us.**

**As we worship, stir within us
a deeper hunger for compassion,
a stronger commitment to justice,
and a greater trust in your abundant love.**

**We pray in the spirit of Jesus,
who welcomed all to the table.
Amen.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – Luke 14:15–24

Reflection – Room at the Table

Reflective Music

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

▲ Passing of the Peace

▲ We Sing – Bread of Life MV # 194

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Loving God,
you created a world of abundance and beauty.
You formed the earth and called it good.
**You breathed life into humanity
and called us into community with one another.**

When fear and selfishness divided us,
you continued to call your people back
to lives of justice, mercy, and compassion.
**Through prophets and poets,
through unexpected voices and courageous people,
you reminded the world
that your dream is one of welcome and peace.**

And in Jesus,
you came among us sharing meals,
breaking bread with saints and sinners alike,
revealing your love through hospitality and grace.
**Therefore we join with all creation, singing:
Holy, holy, holy God,
Power of life and love,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Telling the Story

So in this meal, we remember Jesus' life,
death, and resurrection.

We remember his welcome,
his courage, and his compassion.

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Over the Bread and Cup

*Communion will be served in the pews,
please wait till everyone is served
before eating and drinking.
Our bread is gluten free.*

*As we share in the gifts of bread and wine,
We will sing Eat This Bread # 466*

*Eat this bread; drink this cup;
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread; drink this cup;
trust in me and you will not thirst.*

Prayer After Communion

**Generous God,
we thank you for this feast of grace.
At this table, you have reminded us
that your love is wider than our fears
and stronger than our divisions.
Send us now into the world
to share what we have received:
welcome for the excluded,
companionship for the lonely,
justice for the overlooked,
and hope for all who hunger.
May our lives become invitations
to your banquet of love.
Amen.**

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ We Sing – Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus # 661

▲ 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

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.

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

St. James United Church

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



The Joy in the Great Banquet

May 17, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

181 Portland Street
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