

* If you are able, please stand where asterisk is shown.



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

Lent 1&2 / Pink Shirt Day

Weekly Service Bulletin – March 1st, 2026

Living fully, intentionally and compassionately

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More Info: affirmunited.ca • united-church.ca

**Please rise in body or spirit*

PRELUDE / WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH / INTROIT

WE GATHER

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Iris Muir

“We respectfully acknowledge that St. James is located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations. Our St. James congregation respectfully acknowledges that these Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.”

Curve Lake First Nation Land Acknowledgement (adapted slightly for use)

CALL TO ACTION

Cora Muir

*A Land Acknowledgement is a single act of reconciliation. As an Affirming Ministry that is part of the United Church of Canada, we commit to learning from, listening to and supporting Indigenous people. One way we can do this is through the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.***

Call to Action #26

We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to review and amend their respective statutes of limitations to ensure that they conform to the principle that governments and other entities cannot rely on limitation defences to defend legal actions of historical abuse brought by Aboriginal people.

***GATHERING SONG** *Here in This Place (sung X3)*

Then Let Us Sing #151

Words and music: Christopher Grundy, 2002. © 2002 Hand and Soil Music. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161.

Holy one, may your presence here

Open our minds

May your Spirit among us

Help us to find

You are rising up now

Like a fountain of grace

From the holy ground

Here in this place

Here in this place

**GATHERING WORDS, CANDLELIGHTING,
CANDLE EXTINGUISHING LITURGY & PRAYER**

Maeve O'Neill

One: Lent is the time when we journey to those shadowed places within us.

We force ourselves to take stock of who we are and why we do the things we do.

As we walk ever closer to Good Friday, we acknowledge the areas we need to grow in our faith and the things that are hindering our relationship with God, and others. Today, the Lenten candle we extinguish speaks to our doubts.

We doubt our own strength. We doubt the faithfulness and loyalty of others.

We doubt that our actions make a difference.

This morning, let us take a moment to offer our prayers and doubt to God - who is love... *(silence as second candle is extinguished)*

Let us pray:

All: God of the Lenten journey, as the brightness of this candlelight fades away, may it take with it all our doubts.

One: Offer us this day a stronger faith: that you are with us even though we doubt and question;

All: that you are with us in love enabling us to face the challenges of this life;

One: that you are with us as we learn and grow through this desert time. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE *Come to Me, O Weary Traveler* **Then Let Us Sing #95, vs. 1&4**
(please remain seated)

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan. Music: Benjamin Brody. © 1991/2017 GIA. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161.

1. Come to me, O weary traveler,
 come to me with your distress,
 come to me you heavy burdened,
 come to me and find your rest.

4. Rest in me, O weary traveler,
 rest in me and do not fear.
 Rest in me, my heart is gentle,
 rest and cast away your care.

***HYMN**

One Bread, One Body

VU#467

Words, Music, Harmony: © 1978 John B. Foley, New Dawn Music, administered by Oregon Catholic Press. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. All rights reserved.

Refrain:

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.**

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
 woman or man, no more. **R**

2. Many the gifts, many the works,
 one in the Lord of all. **R**

3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
 gathered to one, for all. **R**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

THEME CONVERSATION *A Poem for the Quiet Ones by Hannah Berry*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mfbze51-wpE>

(GovernmentofBC – February 2015)

LENTEN SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development 2020

Loving God, help us to work together, to share what we have,

So that everyone has what they need.

Help us to build a better world,

Where each of us becomes the best person we can be. Amen.

WE REFLECT

POEM

God of the Way

Joanne Rorke

Kate Crawford, *Gathering - Lent 2020*

ANTHEM

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:16-21

Joanne Rorke

And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*HYMN

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

VU#633 vs. 1,3

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1. Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.
3. Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.

REFLECTION

WE RESPOND

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

***SUNG OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

For the Fruit of Creation

VU#538

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For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
And the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
We thank you and give you the fruit of our hands,
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

WE GO FORTH

***HYMN**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

VU#664, vs. 1,3

Words: Joseph Medlicott Scriven. Music: Charles Crozat Converse.

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in Prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us? Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness, and we'll find new courage there.

***BLESSING**

***SUNG BLESSING**

As the Sun with Longer Journey

VU#111, vs. 1

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Music: French traditional carol ca. 17th century. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. All rights reserved.

1. As the sun with longer journey melts the winter's snow and ice,
with its slowly growing radiance warms the seed beneath the earth,
may the sun of Christ's uprising gently bring our hearts to life.

POSTLUDE