



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

Worship Leader: Lynda Parker

Weekly Service Bulletin – August 2nd, 2026

Living fully, intentionally and compassionately

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

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

PRELUDE / WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

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 #45

We call upon the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, to jointly develop with Aboriginal peoples a Royal Proclamation of Reconciliation to be issued by the Crown. The proclamation would build on the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and the Treaty of Niagara of 1764, and reaffirm the nation-to-nation relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown. The proclamation would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:

- 1. Repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius.*
- 2. Adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.*
- 3. Renew or establish Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.*
- 4. Reconcile Aboriginal and Crown constitutional and legal orders to ensure that Aboriginal peoples are full partners in Confederation, including the recognition and integration of Indigenous laws and legal traditions in negotiation and implementation processes involving Treaties, land claims, and other constructive agreements.*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Maeve O'Neill

One: We gather together surrounded by the promises of faith,
and open to opportunities yet to be experienced.
May the light and life of Jesus guide us in everything we do.
May the light of the rainbow candle remind us that we are all tenderly
created in the image and likeness of God and that there is a place for everyone here
at St. James. May the peace candle inspire us to strive for peace in our hearts, in
our homes and communities, and in our world.

*GATHERING SONG

Spirit of Life

VU#381

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Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*

(Gathering – Summer 2008, Allan Warren)

One: We come from places of rest. From summer cottages, summer holidays,
lazy days of summer - to begin again.

**All: As God can be seen in the beauty of creation, the glory of starry nights,
and the gentle summer breeze that rocks the hammock, so God can be seen in
this place.**

One: We come to reconnect. We come to see the face of God in the face of others. Help
us in our search, O God, so that you may be known in our lives, in this place, and in
the world that you have made.

All: Come, let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

(Gathering - Summer 2008, Allan Warren)

Gracious God, we thank you that you desire to live in relationship with us.

Bless us as we gather to worship you.

**Open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts,
that we may hear again the story of your love for us
and for all that you have made.**

**Bless us, heal us, and transform us, so that we might know that we are
loved and cherished. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

VU#921

**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 forever and ever. Amen.**

HYMNI've Got Peace Like a River***VU#577**

Words: African-American spiritual. Music: African-American spiritual. Public Domain.

1. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.
2. I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.
3. I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.
I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

THEME CONVERSATION*A Little Seed*

https://youtube.com/shorts/X_YUx2sUEpk

(Advento Kids – December 2025)

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Teach us faith, teach us caring. Teach us love, teach us sharing.
Help us love your whole creation. Make our lives a celebration. Amen.

WE REFLECT**MUSIC MINISTRY****SCRIPTURE READING***Matthew 13:1-9, 19-23*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.

HYMNFor the Fruit of All Creation***VU#227**

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1. For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God
2. In the just reward of labour, God's will is done
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done
3. For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God

REFLECTION**WE RESPOND****OFFERING AND OFFERTORY MUSIC*****SUNG OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *What Can I Do?***MV#191**

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What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

OFFERTORY PRAYER*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Written by John Birch of Faith & Worship (faithandworship.com)

WE GO FORTH***HYMN***Walk With Me***VU#649**

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Refrain:

**Walk with me, I will walk with you and build the land that God has planned
where love shines through.**

1. When Moses heard the call of God he said, "Lord, don't send me."
But God told Moses, "You're the one to set my people free." **R**
2. Now Peter was a most unlikely man to lead the flock;
but Jesus knew his holiness and he became the Rock. **R**
3. Young Mary Magdalene was sure her life could be much more,
and by her faith she dared to let God's love unlock the door. **R**
4. And when you share your faith with me and work for life made new,
the witness of your faithfulness calls me to walk with you. **R**

***BLESSING**

***SUNG BLESSING**

Go Now in Peace

VU#964

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Go now in peace, go now in peace.

May the love of God surround you everywhere,
everywhere you may go.

POSTLUDE