



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

Worship Leader: Rev. Lynda Hodgins

World Communion Sunday / \$118 for 118 Years

Stewardship / loose \$ to Benevolent Fund /

Guest musician: Albert Moher

Weekly Service Bulletin – October 4th, 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 / 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 #54

We call upon the Government of Canada to provide multi-year funding for the National Council for Reconciliation to ensure that it has the financial, human, and technical resources required to conduct its work, including the endowment of a National Reconciliation Trust to advance the cause of reconciliation.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Maeve O'Neill

One: On this World Communion Sunday we light these candles recalling that we are part of the worldwide body of Christ. We celebrate the diversity of that global body of faith. We light these candles giving thanks for the unity and love they represent for us.

GATHERING SONGTake Time to Be Holy***VU#672**

Words: William D. Longstaff. Music: George C. Stebbins. Public domain.

1. Take time to be holy, speak oft with your Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.
2. Take time to be holy, let him be your guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.
3. Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
you soon shall be fitted for service above.

CALL TO CELEBRATION *(responsive)*

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God reminds us we are one worldwide family in Christ,

All: and so today we gather at the table to be nourished as part of that family and to remember our covenant with God.

One: Let us gather our hearts and minds;

All: Let us worship.

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

All: We gather today as God's people, as a community of Christ followers.

We think of our brothers and sisters in faith who gather around our world today; in great cathedrals and humble shacks, people of differing skin colours speaking in many different languages and representing many different denominations.

May we be open to your Spirit as we worship today. 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.

HYMNWe Come Now to Your Table***MV#192**

Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop Music: St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932-2013. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-723161. All rights reserved.

We come now to your table Lord, you are the Living Bread

We come now to your table Lord, let every soul be fed

You are the Living Bread, let every soul be fed:

And now may every soul be fed with Living Bread

THEME CONVERSATION *What Does That Love Look Like?*

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: On this day, Christians around the world gather at the table, one family sharing one meal. We focus our attention on a global gathering of which we are a part; a gathering that happens every time we share the cup and the loaf in Jesus' name.

Let us join together as we share the words of the United Church Creed:

All: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

One: The Lord is with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: It is right and our great joy to give you thanks, loving God, creator of all of life. You created us in your image to care for your creation. You fed your people in the wilderness and lead them to a land of opportunity. You gave them a covenant and promised to be faithful. You spoke through prophets who called us to live with justice and peace. You sent Jesus as the living bread to be a new covenant, a covenant of love.

Therefore we praise you and joining the faithful in every part of the globe today we say:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

One: We give thanks that Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread and after giving thanks to you he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying; Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Then taking the cup he gave you thanks then said to his friends, this is the new covenant offered for the forgiveness of sin. Whenever you drink it, remember me.

Remembering all that God has done for us in Jesus, we share this meal of love and grace. Great is the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

One: Gracious God, pour your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. By your spirit make us one with Christ and one with all who share such a meal around this world today. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, O God. Amen.

Sharing at the Table

Prayer After Communion

All: We give thanks, O God, for our faith, for the covenants that bind us together with you in love, for our nourishment of spirit at this table.

Strengthen us as we strive to live as faithful disciples of Jesus in our often conflicted and broken world. Amen.

WE REFLECT

MUSIC MINISTRY

SCRIPTURE READING

Jane Huggins

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.”

“You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.”

“Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour’s house; you shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, ‘You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.’ Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.’”

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

***HYMN**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

VU#602

Author: John Fawcett. Public domain.

1. Blest be the tie that binds
 our hearts in Christian love;
 the unity of heart and mind
 is like to that above
2. Before our Maker's throne
 we pour our ardent prayers;
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
 our comforts and our cares
3. We share each other's woes,
 each other's burdens bear;
 and often for each other flows
 the sympathizing tear
4. The glorious hope revives
 our courage on the way;
 that we shall live in perfect love
 in God's eternal day

REFLECTION *Covenants Old and New*

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 *(responsive)*

One: We pray for the people of the world; in Africa, Asia, South America, Europe, the Middle East, and in North America.

All: May they be strengthened in faith, hope and justice.

One: We come giving thanks for the promises you have made, O God, to be our God and to love us, guide us and remind us of your vision of a human family that lives on this earth in harmony and peace, a kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

All: May we be strengthened in faith, hope and justice.

One: As we leave this time of worship today may we each take with us the knowledge that we go held in your love. May we be strengthened through the sharing and nourishing we have received at your table today, and the reminder of your covenant of faithfulness.

All: May we go as your hands and feet in this world doing what we can to heal and love our neighbours. We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

One: Go in peace to love the Lord your God with heart and soul and mind and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself.

All: May God walk with us on our journey. Amen.

WE GO FORTH

***HYMN**

Just As I Am

VU#602

Author: Charlotte Elliot. Public domain.

1. Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come
2. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come
3. Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come
4. Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

***SUNG BLESSING**

Hey Ney Yana

MV#217

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Refrain:

**Hey ney yana,
hey ney yana,
hey ney yana,
hey ya hey yo,
hey ya hey yo**

1. I walk in beauty, yes I do, yes I do,
I talk in beauty, yes I do, yes I do,
I sing of beauty, hey ya hey yo,
hey ya hey yo **R**
2. I leave in beauty, yes I do, yes I do,
I sleep in beauty, yes I do, yes I do,
I dream of beauty, hey ya hey yo,
hey ya hey yo **R**

POSTLUDE