



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

9th Affirm Anniversary Celebration

Welcome Andrea Dunkley from Community Care!

Weekly Service Bulletin – May 31, 2026

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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 #40

We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.

LIGHTING OF THE JESUS, RAINBOW AND PEACE CANDLES

Maeve O’Neill

Let the light of Jesus and the flame of the rainbow candle draw us together as we ready ourselves for worship - with the assurance that we are not alone, and all are welcome.

May our hearts be filled with peace, and may we share this peace with the world.

Dora White, **Easter Gathering, 2021** (adapted for use at St. James United Church)

***GATHERING SONG**

We Are a Rainbow

Words and Music: David Kai Gathering - Pentecost 1, 2018, used with permission Tune: SLOCAN

We’re the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,
We’re a candle on a stand proclaiming light,
We will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel anymore,
We will shine a ray of hope that’s burning bright.

Refrain:

**We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.**

We're a coat of many colours, sewn from many different threads,
Covering all in warmth, in welcome and in grace,
God said, "Let there be light", created every varied shade,
In the rainbow each of us can find a place. **R**

We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day,
We are peace in a world that's torn apart,
We are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face,
We are love that blooms and grows in every heart. **R**

When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone,
For our God will be with us on the way,
Hand in hand, side by side, we won't be frightened anymore,
As the mourning night of tears breaks into day. **R**

GATHERING WORDS (*responsive*)

One: We gather this morning as joyful people,
Lifting our hearts and voices in song and in prayer.
We come for community, we come to learn.
We come for wholeness of body, mind and spirit.

**All: We gather this morning as thankful people –
Thankful for this place, for our rich history spanning 118 years,
for our 9th anniversary as an Affirming congregation,
for our individual and collective journeys,**

One: for the United Church of Canada – celebrating 101 years of faithfulness,
for the gift of this time, for the gift of one another,

**All: here to share our joys and burdens,
here to walk the road of faith and life together.**

One: Come, let us worship. Let us pray...

Bob Root, Gathering – Summer 2009 (adapted for use at St. James United Church)

OPENING PRAYER (*responsive*)

One: God of welcome, God of the stranger – on this day of great celebration,
We know your warm welcome is for all.

**All: We come as those called to welcome and inclusion –
and pray that we may have an abundance of kindness,
compassion and generosity with everyone we meet along the way.**

One: Jesus, who saw every human being as a beloved child of God,

All: challenge us with your radical example of love;

One: stretch us to engage the way you engage;

All: humble us to receive and be.

One: We offer this prayer in Jesus' name, and we say together a paraphrase of the prayer
that he shared with his friends and disciples...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*a paraphrase - Celtic Version*)

Holy One beyond all names
Eternal Wellspring
May love rise again in us today
With food for every table
Shelter for every family
And reverence for every life.
Forgive us our failings in love
And free us from all falseness
That the light of our souls may shine
And the strength of our spirits endure
For Earth and all its people
This day, tonight, and forever. Amen.

***HYMN**

Spirit, Open My Heart

MV#79

Words: Ruth Duck, 1994. Music: traditional melody, Ireland; arr. Arthur G. Clyde, 1997. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. All rights reserved.

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

1. God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. **R**
2. Write your love upon my heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. **R**
3. May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. **R**

THEME CONVERSATION

Why Be Kind?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCCb85TgeEU>

(3 See Films – January 2017)

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Loving God,
We give thanks for the great diversity of people that you created.
We pray that every person we meet will experience your love through our actions.
We celebrate that each person is made in your image and carries your light.
Help us to treat everyone with care, respect and kindness.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

WE REFLECT

MUSIC MINISTRY

BIBLE READING

Luke 10:25-37 (NRSVUE)

Marney Horton

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.

So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

***HYMN**

My Love Colours Outside the Lines

MV#138

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1. My love colours outside the lines,
exploring paths that few could ever find;
and takes me into places where I've never been before,
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

Refrain:

**We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown,
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.**

2. My Lord colours outside the lines,
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places where I've never been before,
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines. **R**
- 3&4. My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before,
Throw open doors to worlds outside the lines. **R**

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Carolee Awde

REFLECTION

Andrea Dunkley

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

A Prayer for Inclusion

By Rabbi Edie Menscher and Rabbi Rick Jacobs (adapted for use at St. James United Church)

WE GO FORTH

HYMN

Draw the Circle Wide

MV#145

Words and music: Gordon Light, 1994; arrangement: Michael Bloss, 1998; French translation: Denise Soulodre, 2006
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Refrain:

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

1. God the still point of circle, round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms. **R**
2. Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call. **R**
3. Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before,
let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door. **R**

***BLESSING**

***SUNG BLESSING**

Though I May Speak

VU#372

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1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
2. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

POSTLUDE