



# St. James United Church

***An Affirming Ministry***

**ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH**

**Weekly Service Bulletin – May 17, 2026**

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*\*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 #37**

*We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade.*

### **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**

*Sing Thanks to Our God (X2)*

Words & Music 2019 – Amy Yea Kyong Lee. Permission is granted for material to be freely used for worship within the United Church of Canada.

Sing, Thanks to our God.

Sing, Thanks to our God.

Sing, Thanks to our God.

Sing, Thanks to our God.

## **GATHERING WORDS** *(responsive)*

One: We gather in this place, open to new wisdom,  
seeking something greater than ourselves.

**All: We gather to worship.**

One: Here, may we find what we need.

**All: Here, in the presence of God, may we all be renewed for the week ahead.**

One: Here, may all feel welcome, included and loved.

**All: Let us worship together.**

## **OPENING PRAYER** *(responsive)*

*"We Are Many, We Are One," by the Rev. Amy Lee and the Rev. Dr. Wenh-In Ng, originally composed for the Sounding the Bamboo gathering; used with permission*

One: We are many, we are one,  
born in this land, or far from afar;

**All: young in age, or full of years,  
steeped in joy or deep in tears.** *(Gong sound with silence in between prayer)*

One: Come meet Jesus in one another,  
let each gift be shared and honoured:

**All: language, culture, home, diaspora—  
each so rich, enriching others.** *(Gong sound with silence in between prayer)*

One: Let's be many, let's be one;  
gathered here, or scattered hence:

**All: heav'n and earth and humanity  
celebrating diversity.** *(Gong sound with silence in between prayer)*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER IN MANDARIN**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaCfbe3TpWQ>

*(Wycliffe South Africa – 2022)*

## **\*HYMN**

*Para, Para, Pitter Pat*

**VU#309**

Words: Ugo Nakada, used by permission of JASRAC, Jasrac House, 7-13 1-Chome Nishishimbashi, Minato-Ku, Tokyo 105, Japan. License No. 9593114-501. English Translation: © 1983 June Nakada Sumida, 4727 Sanford Dr., Culver City, CA 90230, USA. Music: anonymous. Harmony: © 1966 Masao Tomioka, 5-28-2 Kamitakada, Nakanoku, Tokyo 164, Japan.

1. Pa-ra, pa-ra, pit-ter pat, see it rain, see it rain;  
pa-ra, pa-ra, pit-ter pat, tell me why it rains.  
So the gar-den hard and dry will be sof-tened by and by,  
and the flow-ers one by one soon will see the sun.
2. Chi-ra, chi-ra, waft-ing down, see it snow, see it snow;  
chi-ra, chi-ra, waft-ing down, tell me why it snows.  
So the branch-es ev-ery-where will a snow-y blan-ket wear;  
warm and co-sy they will stay, on a win-ter's day.
3. Ki-ra, ki-ra, lit-tle stars, see them shine, see them shine;  
ki-ra, ki-ra, lit-tle stars, tell me why you shine.  
So that oth-ers trav-el-ling, o-ver roads a-dark-en-ing,  
soon will find their path-ways bright, in the star-ry light.

4. Chu – chu, lit-tle bird, hear it sing, hear it sing;  
chu – chu, lit-tle bird, tell me why you sing.  
So that oth-ers lone – ly, lis-tening to my mel-o-dy,  
in their hearts will hear me say, "God loves you to-day."

## **THEME CONVERSATION**

### **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**

**POEM** *I Tell Them Who We Are by Christopher Tse (writer and performing artist)*

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DKNiOGcK5Rg/>

(ACCT Foundation – 2025)

### **ANTHEM**

#### **GOSPEL READING**

*Matthew 22:36-40*

**Jim Feairs**

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

#### **EPISTLE READING**

*Philippians 2:1-5*

**Jim Feairs**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

#### **\*HYMN**

*We Are a Rainbow*

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

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**

**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 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**

**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 Rev. MiYeon Kim

**WE GO FORTH**

**HYMN**

*Never Ending Joy*

**MV#40**

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**Refrain:**

**Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,  
never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy!**

1. God of every tribe, every language, God of every river and sea,  
God of every mountain and island, you bring joy to me. **R**
2. God of every hill, every valley, God of every leaf, every tree,  
God of every cloud, every raindrop, you bring joy to me. **R**

3. God of every song, every story, God of every captive set free,  
God of every dance, every footstep, you bring joy to me. **R**

**Refrain:**

**Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,  
never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy!**

**\*BLESSING**

**\*SUNG BLESSING**

*We Are One*

**VU#402, vs. 2,4**

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2. We are one as we share, as we share brokenness and fear,  
in the touch of a hand there's a sense that God is here.  
We are one as we care, as we heal, we are healed;  
and we share warmth in God's embrace as we pray together in this place.
4. We are one as we hear, as we hear, heart and hand unite;  
in the word we receive there's a sense that God is light.  
We are one as we leave, as we love, we are loved;  
and we seek justice in God's ways as we move together from this place.

**POSTLUDE**