



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

Worship Leader: Rev. Lynda Hodgins

Celebrating 118 Years of St. James!

\$118 for 118 Stewardship Campaign

Weekly Service Bulletin – October 25th, 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 #57

We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Maeve O'Neill

One: On this day that commemorates the 118th anniversary of St. James becoming a congregation, on this day of profound celebration; on this day that marks our continued journey of learning, love, welcome, and community,

All: Jesus' light and the Rainbow candle's light shines - in our hopes, in our hearts, in our actions, in our visions.

GATHERING SONGCome, You Thankful People, Come***VU#516**

Words: Henry Alford 1844. Music: George Job Elvey 1858. Public domain.

1. Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of the harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
safe before the storms begin;
God, our maker, does provide
for our needs to be supplied:
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of the harvest home
2. All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown,
here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
Harvest giver, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be
3. For our God, one day, shall come,
and shall take his harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the weeds to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner ever more
4. Even so, God, quickly come
to your final harvest home!
Gather all your people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there forever purified,
in your presence to abide:
come, with all your angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home

CALL TO CELEBRATION *(responsive)*

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

One: We gather this morning as joyful people, lifting our hearts and voices in song, in prayer, in praise.

All: We gather this morning as thankful people, thankful for this place, for our rich history spanning 118 years, for our individual and collective journeys,

One: for the United Church of Canada, for Affirming ministries, 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.

One: Come, let us worship together.

OPENING PRAYER

Eric Hebert-Daly, Gathering – Pentecost 2, 2023 (adapted for use at St. James United Church)

One: It is in knowing that we can find ourselves in loving community that we gather,
O God.

All: It is in singing together that we discern how to best serve you and one another.

One: It is in praying and in holding space for one another that we are healed from our wounds and our weariness.

All: It is in marking 118 years of life and ministry that we remember your love and faithfulness from generation to generation.

One: Gather us close so that we may feel the warmth and comfort we seek, and the deep love you have for us. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, and we say together the prayer that he shared with his disciples and friends...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

VU#288

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1. Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator; there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

all I have needed thy hand hath provided — great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love **R**
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide **R**

THEME CONVERSATION *What is the Church?*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rms6KePjIZ8>

(LifeKids – March 2015)

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

Joyce Hodson

Psalms 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.

Isaiah 42:1-4

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

***HYMN**

Psalms 90 – O God, Our Help In Ages Past

VU#806

Words: Isaac Watts 1719, alt. Music: Attributed to William Croft 1798. Descant: © 1995 Frances P. Macphail, 165 Powell Ave., Ottawa, ON K1S 2A2.

1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
2. Under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure,
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defence is sure
3. Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same
4. A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun
5. Time like an ever-rolling stream soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day
6. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home

REFLECTION *Winds of Change*

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

Joyce Rupp, *Out of the Ordinary*, 2000 – adapted for use at St. James United Church

WE GO FORTH

***HYMN**

Take 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

***BLESSING**

One: Today we have offered God our memories, our gratitude, our words, our prayers,
and our songs.

**All: As we go from this place, we know that just as God has done for generations
past, God blesses us with love.**

One: God blesses us with presence and guidance. God blesses us with joy, hope, and
peace.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

***SUNG BLESSING**

You Shall Go Out with Joy

VU#884

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You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap, clap),
the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap, clap),
the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap, clap) while you go out with joy.

POSTLUDE