

**If you are able, please stand where asterisk is shown.*



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

Weekly Service Bulletin – March 15th, 2026

Lent 4 / Welcome Reverend Darren Liepold

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

Living fully, intentionally and compassionately

**Please rise in body or 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 #28

We call upon law schools in Canada to require all law students to take a course in Aboriginal people and the law, which includes 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 antiracism.

***GATHERING SONG** *Here in This Place (sung X3)*

Then Let Us Sing #150

Words and music: Maria Case, 2008. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-723161.

Here in this place, the breath of God,
My soul finds repose;
Holy space, the heartbeat of God,
My soul finds a home

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING LITURGY & PRAYER LENTEN CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

Maeve O'Neill

One: Lent is a time when we are invited to reflect on our faith and our lives.
We follow the example of Jesus, who went off to the wilderness,
the mountain and the boat to pray and prepare himself.

**All: Each week, as we extinguish a candle, we recall a part of his life and ours
and give thanks for divine wisdom and grace.**

One: The events of Lent and our own personal reflections constantly remind us
that no matter where we are or what has happened, God is with us in love and care.
Today, we hear Jesus talking about his upcoming suffering, rejection, death and
resurrection - very openly and with great vulnerability.
Jesus spent his life embracing the pain of others, and he and those touched by his
care and healing knew God's presence in their moments of distress
and brokenness.

All: We extinguish this week's candle giving thanks for God's unconditional love.

SUNG RESPONSE *Come to Me, O Weary Traveler* **Then Let Us Sing #95, vs. 1&4**
(please remain seated)

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan. Music: Benjamin Brody. © 1991/2017 GIA. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-723161.

1. Come to me, O weary traveler,
 come to me with your distress,
 come to me you heavy burdened,
 come to me and find your rest.

4. Rest in me, O weary traveler,
 rest in me and do not fear.
 Rest in me, my heart is gentle,
 rest and cast away your care.

GATHERING WORDS *(responsive)*

One: As we journey ever closer to the cross,
 we are invited to come in from the stresses and strains of life.

All: We come in for respite and for restoration.

One: Come in from the worries and the wanderings of life.

All: We come in for certainty and for sanctuary.

One: Come in from the tears and the trembling of life.

All: We come in for healing and for wholeness.

One: Come in that the Spirit may touch you.

All: We come in at the invitation of Jesus.

OPENING PRAYER *(responsive)*

One: Loving God, gather us together in your love.

All: We feel weary from life's challenges, and we need your sustaining touch.

One: Speak to our hearts that we might continue to love.

All: Speak to our ears that we might continue to listen.

One: Speak to our eyes that we might continue to discern.

All: Speak to our lips that we might continue to proclaim.

One: This we pray in Jesus' name - who taught us to pray, saying...

Gord Dunbar, *Gathering - Lent 2005*

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

Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

VU#108, vs.1-4

Author: James Gertmenian © 1993, Hope Publishing Co. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-723161.

1. Throughout these Lenten days and nights

we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter day.

2. The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his rising hour.

3. We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the feast of life.

4. And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on
through Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming dawn.

THEME CONVERSATION

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development 2020

Loving God, help us to work together, to share what we have,
So that everyone has what they need.

Help us to build a better world,

Where each of us becomes the best person we can be. Amen.

WE REFLECT

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING*1 Samuel 16:1-13***Joyce Hodson**

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."

Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."

Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here."

He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

HYMNSpirit, 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**

REFLECTION**Rev. Darren Liepold**

WE RESPOND

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

***SUNG OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *For the Fruit of Creation*

VU#538

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For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
And the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
We thank you and give you the fruit of our hands,
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

These gifts we bring – our best, ourselves, we offer now,
asking your blessing on all that we give and all that we do.
Help us to notice your love and give us strength and courage
to live in your way, today and always. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE GO FORTH

***HYMN**

Psalm 92 – On Eagle's Wings

VU#808, vs. 1-2

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1. You who dwell in the shelter of our God, who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust." **R**

Refrain:

**"And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand."**

2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear:
under God's wings your refuge, God's faithfulness your shield. **R**

***BLESSING**

***SUNG BLESSING**

As the Sun with Longer Journey

VU#111, vs. 1

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Music: French traditional carol ca. 17th century. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. All rights reserved.

1. As the sun with longer journey melts the winter's snow and ice,
with its slowly growing radiance warms the seed beneath the earth,
may the sun of Christ's uprising gently bring our hearts to life.

POSTLUDE