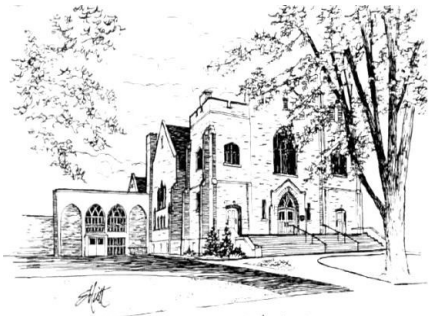
If you are able, please stand where asterisk is shown.



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR)

Worship Leader: Carolee Awde

Welcome Affirm Guest Speaker: Achint (PARN)

Weekly Service Bulletin –November 15th, 2026

Living fully, intentionally and compassionately

221 Romaine St, Peterborough, ON K9J 2C3 ● 705-742-2222 ● stjamesunitedchurch.ca
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 #60

We call upon leaders of the church parties to the Settlement Agreement and all other faiths, in collaboration with Indigenous spiritual leaders, Survivors, schools of theology, seminaries, and other religious training centres, to develop and teach curriculum for all student clergy, and all clergy and staff who work in Aboriginal communities, on the need to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right, the history and legacy of residential schools and the roles of the church parties in that system, the history and legacy of religious conflict in Aboriginal families and communities, and the responsibility that churches have to mitigate such conflicts and prevent spiritual violence.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES **Maeve O'Neill**

One: The Jesus candle reminds us that the light of Jesus shines on the road to equality and illuminates us as we travel.

All: We light the Jesus candle with gratitude in our hearts.

One: The rainbow candle reminds us that we are loved and cherished by God, and that God's heart soars when we can fully be ourselves.

One: On this Transgender Day of Remembrance, we light a candle to remember and honour the lives of trans and gender diverse people who have been murdered as well as those who have died by suicide in the past year.
All: We light this candle with great sadness in our hearts and pray for love, acceptance, equality, and welcome for all people.

***GATHERING SONG** *Queerly Beloved* **TLUS#31**

Words and music: Amanda Udis-Kessler, 2019, after I John 4:18. Arrangement: Jason D. Locke, 2024. Words and music © 2019 Amanda Udis-Kessler. Arrangement © 2024 Jason D. Locke. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-723161.

1. Queerly beloved, we have assembled,
   joining in wonder, singing in praise
   Lifting our hearts, raising our voices,
   trusting in hope, in love, and in faith
   Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, God is great!

2. Queerly beloved, we have been hated,
   treated as outcasts, ragged and rough
   Still we persist, joyous and grateful,
   trusting that grace is ever enough
   Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, God is love!

3. Queerly beloved, we have discovered
   love that is perfect, ending our fear
   There is a truth waiting to claim us
   There is a call so strong and so clear
   Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, God is here!

GATHERING WORDS *(responsive)*
(Don Uhryniw, adapted for use at St. James United Church)
One: Each one of us is lovingly crafted in the image and likeness of God.
All: This day we remember that there are those who choose violence instead of affirmation, judgment in place of acceptance, ignorance instead of conversation, and we pray for radical transformation.
One: We remember those transgender people who have been mocked, bullied, and beaten.
All: We lament that the sacred beauty of each and every person, regardless of gender expression, has been violated.
One: May we have the resources and tools to bring about your dream of love and welcome.
All: May our hope, and God's light fuse to make the world a safe place for all people.
One: As we gather, we remember all transgender people who died this year.
All: We also remember transgender individuals who were somehow made to feel less than the beautiful soul they are, and we commit anew to doing our part to help God's dream of making the world a better and equal place a reality.
One: Each one of us is lovingly crafted in the image and likeness of God. Let's celebrate this as we worship together.

OPENING PRAYER
(A prayer by Ruth Wood, from the worship service “Speaking Our Truth” for the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia)

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(in unison)*
(Transliteration from Syriac-Aramaic by Neil Douglas-Klotz)
O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere!
Release a space to plant your Presence here.
Imagine your possibilities now. Embody your desire in every light and form.
Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.
Untie the knots of failure binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' faults.
Help us not forget our Source, and free us from not being in the Present.
From you arises every Vision, Power and Song from gathering to gathering. Amen.

THEME CONVERSATION *It Feels Good to be Yourself by Theresa Thorn & Noah Grigni*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bxv20WMrKJA
(Story Time With Ms. Jay – July 2022)

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.

***HYMN** *I Am a Child of God* **MV#157**
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1. I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God’s new creation
   I am a child of God, I am a child of God

2. I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation,
   I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer

3. I am an angry voice, I am compassion and consternation,
   I am an angry voice, I am an angry voice

4. I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication,
   I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace

5. I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,
   I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy

WE REFLECT

MUSIC MINISTRY

SCRIPTURE READING **Carolee Awde**
Matthew 25:31-40
‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

1 Thessalonians 5:6-11
So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

***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 **Achint**

WORDS OF THANKS **Lesllie Potts**

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 Rabbi Reuben Zellman)

WE GO FORTH

***HYMN** *We Are Pilgrims* **VU#595 v.1, 3, 4, 5**

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1. We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
   we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
   I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear

4. I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
   I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through

5. When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
   born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony

***BLESSING**

***SUNG BLESSING** *Peace for the Children* **MV#149 v.1, 2, 5, 6**

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1. Peace for the children, peace, peace
   Peace for the children, we pray
   Following the path of One of peace
   We work for healing, we work for peace
   Peace for the children today

2. Peace for all people, peace, peace
   Peace for all people, we pray
   Following the path of One of peace
   We work for healing, we work for peace
   Peace for all people today

5. Peace for all creatures, peace, peace
Peace for all creatures, we pray
Following the path of One of peace
We work for healing, we work for peace
Peace for all creatures today

6. Peace for our planet, peace, peace
Peace for our planet, we pray
Following the path of One of peace
We work for healing, we work for peace
Peace for our planet today

POSTLUDE