



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

National Indigenous Peoples Day

Messy Church & Welcoming People to the Family

Pride Month & Indigenous History Month

Weekly Service Bulletin – June 21st, 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 #43

We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.

CHRIST, RAINBOW & PEACE CANDLELIGHTING

Maeve O’Neill

One: We gather together surrounded by the promises of faith,
and open to opportunities yet to be experienced.

May the light and life of Jesus guide us in everything we do.

May the light of the rainbow candle remind us that we are all tenderly

created in the image and likeness of God and that there is a place for everyone here at St. James. May the peace candle inspire us to strive for peace in our hearts, in our homes and communities, and in our world.

*GATHERING SONG

With Open Hearts

Words and music by Mary-Ellen Kish, Copyright 2008, www.mekishmusic.com

Refrain:

**With open hearts, open arms, open minds there is welcome in this place,
there is welcome in this space, there is welcome with embrace, with open hearts.**

1. A place of caring and acceptance, openness and trust, actions that are just,
all are welcome here, a place of belonging. **R**
2. A place for risking and affirming, radical and bold, no one fits the mold
All are welcome here, a place of inclusion. **R**
3. A place for healing and releasing, brokenness and pain, hurt that's been sustained.
All are welcome here, a place for receiving. **R**
4. A place to question and to wonder, liberating views, relevant and new.
All are welcome here, a place for engaging. **R**

GATHERING WORDS *(responsive)*

One: In the presence of Creator, we gather:

**All: People carrying burdens we may not know about looking for comfort;
people needing their spirits refreshed.**

One: We draw together hoping for that touch that will enliven us,
longing to be embraced in arms of love and understanding.

**All: Help us to put aside our differences and see the earth as you see it,
boundary-free.**

One: You call us all: babies, toddlers on unsteady feet, school-age children with curious
minds, teens with questing spirits, full of youthful confidence one moment and like
frightened children the next.

**All: We are called, as adults trying to take good paths watching out for the next
generations, and those easing into their winter years passing on our
teachings.**

One: We are all kin in this meeting place whether we gather in person or through
technology, our spirits joining to say meegwetch for all that we have been blessed
with.

All: Thanks be to God for the goodness in our lives. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER *(responsive)*

One: Let us give thanks to our Creator
for the Creator is always with us.

**All: God is with us in the call of a loon
and in the flight of an eagle.**

One: Our Creator is with us in the changing of the seasons.

**All: God is with us when we gather together
and when we are alone.**

One: Our Creator is with us in our giftedness
and in our search for new understandings of ourselves,
new visions of our communities.

All: Let us give thanks to God, our Creator. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN NINE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s74ZanAteW4>

(PAOC – September 2021)

WELCOMING NEW PEOPLE TO THE FAMILY & BAPTISM

*HYMN

Mother Earth, Our Mother Birthing

MV#39

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1. Mother Earth, our Mother birthing every creature from the ground.
Jesus too was flesh and breathing, kin to all that's green and brown.

Refrain:

Celebrate with all creation: God has formed the web of life;

Celebrate with all creation God has formed the web of life.

2. Sister Air, our Sister lifting every creature born with wings;
Jesus shared the breath of forests, breath that makes our spirits sing. **R**
3. Brother Water, Brother pulsing deep through every vein and sea,
Jesus drank the very raindrops for our wine and in our tea. **R**
4. Father Fire, our Father burning with the sacred urge to live.
Jesus' death completes the cycle, bringing life beyond the grave. **R**

THEME CONVERSATION *Mohawk Story About the Creation of Turtle Island*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gE183rBKRpM>

(CBC Kids – June 2025)

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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Paraphrase of Psalm 106:1–5

Peggy Fillier

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Praise our Creator!

O Meegwetch give thanks to the Maker, for Turtle Island nurtures us;
love lives forever in ancestors dancing in the aurora borealis.

Who can truth talk the mighty doings of the Creator or drum all their praises?

Joyful are those who observe justice, who work for right relations at all times.

Remember me, O Great Spirit, when you show honour to your people.

Help us when you lead us into places of protection.

We see the grateful hunting of creatures, generous gathering,

and abundant harvest and prosperity of our kin, that we may dance in the ceremonies
of our nation's people, that we may glory in your ancestry. All my relations.

HYMNTeach Me, God, to Wonder***VU#299**

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1. Teach me, God, to wonder, teach me, God, to see;
let your world of beauty capture me.

Refrain:

**Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.**

2. Let me, God, be open, let me loving be;
let your world of people speak to me. **R**
3. Let me, God, be ready, let me be awake,
in your world of loving my place take. **R**
4. Teach me, God, to know you, hear you when you speak,
see you in my neighbour when we meet. **R**

REFLECTION *Colouring Sheets, Word Search, Turtle Craft, Beaded Bracelets and Necklaces & Trivia*

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*WE GO FORTH****HYMN***Travel On, Travel On***VU#647, vs. 1-3**

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1. Travel on, travel on, there's a spirit that is flowing,
a spirit that is flowing night and day.
Travel on, travel on, with the spirit that is flowing,
the spirit will be with us all the way.
Travel on, travel on, with the river that is flowing,
the spirit will be with us all the way.
2. Travel on, travel on, there's a spirit that is growing,
the spirit grows like flowers night and day.
Travel on, travel on, with the spirit that is growing,
the spirit will be with us all the way.
Travel on, travel on, with the flower that is growing,
the spirit will be with us all the way.

3. Travel on, travel on, there's a spirit that is playing,
the spirit plays like music every day.
Travel on, travel on, with the spirit that is playing,
the spirit will be with us all the way.
Travel on, travel on, with the music that is playing,
the spirit will be with us all the way.

***BLESSING**

Embers – One Ojibway's Meditations by Richard Wagamese (adapted for use at St. James United Church)

***SUNG BLESSING**

When You Walk from Here

VU#298

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When you walk from here
When you walk from here
Walk with justice
Walk with mercy
And with God's humble Care

POSTLUDE