



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

Worship Leader: Jane Huggins

Weekly Service Bulletin – August 23rd, 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

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 #48

We call upon the church parties to the Settlement Agreement, and all other faith groups and interfaith social justice groups in Canada who have not already done so, to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms, and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation. This would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:

- 1. Ensuring that their institutions, policies, programs, and practices comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*
- 2. Respecting Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination in spiritual matters, including the right to practise, develop, and teach their own spiritual and religious traditions, customs, and ceremonies, consistent with Article 12:1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*
- 3. Engaging in ongoing public dialogue and actions to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*
- 4. Issuing a statement no later than March 31, 2016, from all religious denominations and faith groups, as to how they will implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

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

Come in, Come in and Sit Down

VU#395

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Refrain:

Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family

We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family

1. You know the reason why you came, yet no reason can explain;
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain, for we are part of the family **R**
2. God is with us in this place, like a mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace, for we are a part of the family **R**
3. There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;
we are the branches, Christ is the vine
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine, but we are a part of the family **R**
4. There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small
So come in and worship and answer the call, for we are a part of the family

GATHERING WORDS *(responsive)*

One: Let us enter in this place of joyful welcome to worship God.

All: Let us join together to receive the great story of the One who brings love and compassion.

One: Let us open our hearts, minds, spirits and souls to experience this good news in
song, word, reflection, and liturgy. Let us pray...

OPENING PRAYER

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**Come Find the Quiet Centre*****VU#374**

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1. Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are free:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be
2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun
3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

THEME CONVERSATION *Kindness Boomerang*

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

(LifeVestInside – August 2011)

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**SCRIPTURE READING****Shirley Rolufs**

Ecclesiastes 7:9

Do not be quick to anger, for anger lodges in the bosom of fools.

Ephesians 4:31-32

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

MUSIC MINISTRY**REFLECTION*****HYMN*****Fairest Lord Jesus*****VU#341**

Words: from the German. Translated by Church Chorals and Choir Studies. Music: Silesian folk melody in Schlesische Volkslieder. Harmony: © Estate of James Hopkirk, c/o Richard C.L. Armstrong, 131 Brenda Cres., Scarborough, ON M1K 3C8. Used by permission of the Executor.

1. Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down:
thee will I cherish, thee will I honour, thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown
2. Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the troubled heart to sing

3. Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and fair the twinkling, starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast
4. All fairest beauty heavenly and earthly, wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;
none can be nearer, fairer or dearer than thou, my Saviour, art to me

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 John Birch of Faith & Worship (faithandworship.com)

WE GO FORTH

***HYMN**

I The Lord of Sea and Sky

VU#509

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1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart**

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? **R**
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? **R**

***BLESSING**

***SUNG BLESSING**

Go Now in Peace

VU#964

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Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you everywhere,
everywhere you may go.

POSTLUDE