



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

Weekly Service Bulletin – June 28th, 2026

A Celebration of Ministry for

St. James United Church & Rev. Julie van Haften

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

Janet McCue

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

INTROIT

River in Judea

St. James Choir

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 #44

We call upon the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Faith Morales

One: We are here on this day of celebration, 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.

(Light the Christ candle)

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. *(Light the rainbow candle)*

May the peace candle inspire us to strive for peace in our hearts, in our homes and communities, and in our world. (*Light the peace candle*)

May the light of the friendship candle shine brightly to show us that even when we cannot be all together, our love for one another remains strong.

(*Light the friendship candle.*)

***HYMN**

Let's Go Together (Welcome)

TLUS#138

Words: Laura Zelman, 2007. Music: Mark A. Miller, 2007. © 2006 Abingdon Press (admin. Music Services). BMI. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-723161. All rights reserved.

1. Let's go together for a while and ask where we begin
To build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in
To be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace

Refrain:

Singing welcome

Welcome to this place.

You're invited to come and know God's grace

All are welcome, the love of God to share,

'Cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place

2. Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
Where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
And joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray **R**
3. Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
Where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice **R**

DUET *True Colors*

Eric Feldcamp & Natalie Dorsett

GATHERING WORDS (*responsive*)

One: We gather with amazement at the presence of God -
for we live in God and God lives in us.

All: We gather with gratitude for life and for this time together.

One: We gather with hope for new beginnings for St. James.

All: We gather with courage for the days of uncertainty that lie ahead.

One: We gather with conviction to do what is life-giving and Spirit led.

All: We gather with anticipation - ready for all that is beautiful and transforming.

One: We gather with openness to deeper truth and meaning.

All: We gather with desire for continued transformation.

One: We gather with compassion for one another and for the hurting ones in the world.

All: We gather with the grief we carry in our hearts, naming that change is hard.

One: We gather with a sense of kinship with everyone gathered here,
for we are chosen family.

All: We gather with respect for one another, and we celebrate our differences.

One: We gather with willingness to help one another in this time of transition.

All: We gather with trepidation about what the future holds.

One: We gather with happiness, knowing we are created in God's image
and invited to live life fully.

All: We gather with thanksgiving for the past 17 years.

One: We gather with love for one another and for Jesus - our companion on life's journey.
Let us pray...

OPENING PRAYER *(responsive)*

One: Loving God, we give thanks that we are not alone.

You companion our every path:
you treasure our minutes and days.
You clothe us in love.

All: We give thanks that we are not alone.

One: Beloved ones from our past and present brighten and enrich our lives;
trusted ones ground us on the challenging days;
spirited ones strengthen our laughter and songs.

All: We give thanks for the gifts we share with one another.

One: We give thanks for this special day, and for each person gathered here -
and we give thanks for our St. James family and friends.

**All: Fill our hearts with delight and our time with meaning
as we celebrate the blessing of 17 years
of shared ministry between St. James and Reverend Julie.**

One: We offer our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

MUSIC *Landslide (Fleetwood Mac)* Iris Muir & Waverly Porter, w/Tim Moody on guitar

***HYMN**

We Are a Rainbow

TLUS #30, vs. 1-3

Words and Music: David Kai Gathering - Pentecost 1, 2018, used with permission Tune: SLOCAN

1. We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,
We're a candle on a stand proclaiming light,
We will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel anymore,
We will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright

Refrain:

**We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.**

2. We're a coat of many colours, sewn from many different threads,
Covering all in warmth, in welcome and in grace,
God said, "Let there be light", created every varied shade,
In the rainbow each of us can find a place **R**
3. We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day,
We are peace in a world that's torn apart,
We are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face,
We are love that blooms and grows in every heart. **R**

THEME CONVERSATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING *Psalm 78:1-7 (responsive)*

Rev. Jim Feairs

Everyday Psalms – The Power of the Psalms in Language and Images for Today by James Taylor

One: If I say, "Once upon a time", everyone knows a story is starting.
I do not know the meanings of my stories;
I merely pass them on as they were passed to me.
Only you can decide what they mean to you.

All: This is our story. This is where we came from.

One: When you hear this story, you must also tell it,
So that others may also know where they came from.

All: Our story is not limited to our own lives.

One: We belong to a long line of travelers, snaking in single file through history;

**All: we bear with us the beliefs, the convictions, the experiences bequeathed to us
by those who passed this way before.**

One: From Abraham and Sarah, from Rachel and Jacob, from David and Bathsheba,
from Mary and Jesus, we learn our family story.

All: Only by knowing where we have come from can we know where we are going.

One: Only by knowing who we are can we know that God is with us.

TRIO

You Raise Me Up

Fred Batley, Brian MacDonald, Eric Feldcamp

WE REFLECT

POEM

Eileen Stanbury

***HYMN**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

VU#288, vs. 1&3

Words, Music: Thomas O. Chisholm © 1923, renewal 1951 Hope Publishing Company. Descant: © 1995 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. CCLI License No. 1918298. All rights reserved.

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!

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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 36:5-10 (responsive)

Rev. Jim Feairs

Everyday Psalms – The Power of the Psalms in Language and Images for Today by James Taylor

(Adapted for use at St. James United Church)

One: Your door is always open, God.

All: You stand at your door, and welcome all who come to it.

One: Entry to your home is not limited to your friends, your associates, your social class.

All: You extend your welcome to everyone and everything:

One: the marginalized and the oppressed, the oppressors, the powerful, and everyone in-between.

All: the unhoused and those living with food insecurity, the sick and the healthy.

One: From creatures unknown and unseen living in the very depths of the sea to eagles soaring in the clouds – you make them all welcome.

All: All of creation is your household, God.

One: All can live together in peace and harmony under your roof.

All: In your kitchens they are fed;

One: In your living room, they are seen and appreciated, celebrated and uplifted.

All: For you are life itself.

One: Continue to give us life, oh Lord.

All: May we live in love and harmony in your home.

SOLO

Justin Hiscox

REFLECTION

***HYMN**

Draw the Circle Wide

MV#145

Words and music: Gordon Light, 1994; arrangement: Michael Bloss, 1998; French translation: Denise Soulodre, 2006

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide**

1. God the still-point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;
Nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms. **R**
2. Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call. **R**
3. Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before,
let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door. **R**

WE RESPOND

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

Danny & Joanna Bronson

***SUNG OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *What Can I Do?*

MV#191

Words and music copyright © 2005 Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy. Arrangement. copyright © 2005 Alan C. Whitmore.
Reprinted under Licensing Online #623941.

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**

DUET

The Prayer

Lyndele Gauci & Brian MacDonald

WE GO FORTH

***HYMN**

One More Step

VU#639, vs. 1-4

Words and Music: Sydney Carter 1971 © 1971 Stainer & Bell Ltd. Used by permission of Hope Publishing Company.
Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. CCLI License No. 1918298. All rights reserved.

1. One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new, keep me travelling along with you:

Refrain:

And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me travelling along with you

2. Round the corner of the world I turn, more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see you'll be looking at along with me: **R**
3. As I travel through the bad and good, keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go you'll be telling me the way I know: **R**
4. Give me courage when the world is rough, keep me loving though the world is tough,
leap and sing in all I do, keep me travelling along with you: **R**

***BLESSING** (*responsive*)

One: God is the gatherer of all memories.

The spirits of many ancestors have joined us in this sacred place.

This morning we have given thanks for the memories of many years,
for our relationship and for the ways we have shared love, time and space with one
another and with our broader community through partnerships born out of common
values and kinship.

All: God is a companion for each one of us:

**every grandparent, every parent, every child, every sibling,
every person we meet along the way!**

God is our breath of life and our source of hope.

One: We give thanks for this time of celebration, and for endings and new beginnings.

All: We give thanks for 17 years of shared ministry

One: We give thanks for our opportunities to learn, and grow, and discern together.

**All: We give thanks for our faith, and for this safe place to worship, and to
experience friendship and community.**

Our: Our souls have been nurtured, our hearts have been opened wide and filled, and our
minds have been inspired to share the great news of respect, honour, dignity and
celebration for every person.

**All: May we leave here filled with joy, with hearts open to sharing love,
and celebrating life with one another and the world.**

One: Go from this place with peace and joy and hope. Amen.

***SUNG BLESSING**

You Shall Go Out with Joy (x2)

VU#884

Words: Steffi G. Rubin. Music: Stuart Dauermann. Words and Music: © 1975 Lillenas Publishing Company, administered by
The Copyright Company - obo, P.O. Box 128139, Nashville, TN 37212-8139, tel.: 615-321-1096, fax: 615-321- 1099. All rights
reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

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 (**please be seated*)

Danny Bronson & Albert Moher