

St James United Church
400 Burnhamthorpe Road, Etobicoke M9B 2A8 416-622-4113
www.stjamesunitedchurch.com

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – August 23rd, 2020

Welcome to this second, joint worship service with our friends from Bloordale and Richview United Churches! We are glad you joined us. May you feel the warmth of God's presence.

Our Mission:

To live God's love through our actions: Seek, Serve, Challenge.

Reflection Question:

"How have your values and Christian faith been formed in community?"

WE GATHER AND APPROACH GOD

Welcome and Announcements – Karen Munday

Lighting the Christ Candle:

One: The risen Christ is here and gifts us with the Spirit.

All: **Come Holy Spirit and light up our lives.**

Opening Hymn: M.V. 1 "Let Us Build a House" vs 1, 2 & 5

Cantor: Bill Price, baritone choral lead

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

**1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are
strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.**

**Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: Refrain**

**5. Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from roof to rafter: Refrain**

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Call to Worship:

One: In a world of conflict and suffering,

All: We trust in God.

One: In a time of dispute and confusion,

All: We trust in God.

One: In this place of peace and understanding,

All: We trust in God.

One: Come, let us worship together...

Prayer of Approach:

One: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

**All: O God, open the windows of our hearts that we may breathe in
deeply of your Spirit. Enable us to hear words of life we have never heard
before, and see visions of hope we never thought possible, so that we
might more fully become the people you have called us to be as your
disciples and your church. Amen.**

Musical Offering: "Be Still, My Soul" Jean Sibelius, arr. J.-C. Coolen

Soloist: Bill Price, baritone

Piano: J.-C. Coolen

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Reader: Rev. Linda Maw

Psalm 124 V.U. 828

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side -- let Israel now say --
if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,

when our enemies attacked us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone the raging waters.
Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.
We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Matthew 16:13-20

The stories of Jesus' Galilean ministry lead to this pivotal moment when Jesus asks his disciples a direct, personal question: "Who do you say I am?" The answer brings a sign of blessing and promise for God's people.

Sermon: "Called to be God's People in the World"
- Rev. Kerri Hagerman

Hymn V.U. 601 "The Church of Christ in Every Age" vs 1, 2 & 3

Tune: TRURO VU 158

Cantor: Bill Price, baritone choral lead

Trumpet: Albert Conforzi

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 The church of Christ in every age,
beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.**

- 2 Across the world, across the street
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live until they die.**

- 3 Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

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RESPONDING TO GOD

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession
The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: V. U. 686 "God of Grace and God of Glory" vs 1, 2 & 4

Cantor: Bill Price, baritone choral lead

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.**

- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.**

- 4 Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee.**

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Commissioning and Benediction – Rev. Kerri Hagerman & Karen Munday

Congregational Benediction: "Prayer of Dedication" –Don Besig

Cantor: Bill Price, baritone choral lead

Descant: Kathleen Wells, soprano choral lead

Piano: J.- C. Coolen, Minister of Music

**Go with us, Lord, as now we depart,
Calming the fears that trouble each heart.**

**Keep us all in your grace
Until we come, again, to this place.**

**Now we will walk in peace with the Lord,
Living in faith and teaching His word.
Share His love every day,
For He has surely shown us the way! Amen.**

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Welcome once again to Rev. Kerri Hagerman, our guest minister this morning. Rev. Kerri was ordained in 2003 and served congregations outside of Winnipeg and in Brampton. In 2012 she received a Master of Theology in Pastoral Studies with a focus on preaching at Emmanuel College in Toronto. Currently, Kerri works for the Peel District School Board as a Resource Teacher supporting Guidance and Career Education through the promotion of apprenticeship in the skilled trades. She has a son and daughter ages 17 and 20 who attend Kingsway-Lambton United Church in Etobicoke.

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Thank you to J.- C. Coolen, Bill Price, Albert Conforzi and Kathleen Wells for their enriching music ministry; to Gord Burrell for creating the audio recording; to Rod Lord for his camera and tripod and coordinating Sunday worship by telephone; to Karen Munday for Presiding this morning and for creating the slides and to Don Munday for creating and producing our audio-visual virtual worship experience and for reading the “All” portions of the congregational responses.

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The sympathy of the St James congregation is extended to the family of Bud Old who passed on Aug 13, 2020 at Milton Hospital. Bud sang in the Senior choir for a number of years. Due to CoVid restrictions funeral plans will be private. Donations may be made in Bud's name to The Canadian Lung Association or The [Canadian Cancer Society](#).

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Happy Birthday to our St. James family who celebrate their birthdays this coming week. We are glad you were born and give God thanks for your lives: Catherine Barrett August 23, and David Maw August 26. Please note: anyone submitting the names of people celebrating birthdays needs the permission of those individuals first.

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2020 St James Office Summer Hours:

Matty DeCarolis, St James' Office Administrator, will be in the office:

Monday and Tuesday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The rest of the week she will usually be working from home but in contact with the office.

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Bloordale U. C. Office will be closed from Aug 17th until Aug 28th opening again on Aug 31st. However, voicemail, email and regular mail will be checked on a daily basis.

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Bloordale U. C. Pastoral Care: Should any pastoral care concerns arise between Aug 10 - 25 inclusive while Rev. Brian McIntosh is on holidays, please contact Rev. Nelsona Dundas (416-620-4098).

For **St James and Richview United pastoral care** emergencies and concerns please contact Rev Linda Maw (416-620-9508).

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The Final Joint Summer Service next Sunday, Aug 30th, will again be a virtual service hosted by St James and available to watch Sunday morning and onwards via links found at St James' website www.stjamesunitedchurch.com Our guest minister on Aug 30th will be Rev Debbie Johnson.

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A change in starting dates. Rev Maya Douglas will be beginning her ministry with St James on Sept. 14th rather than on Sept 1st. This change was initiated by St James' Ministry and Personnel Committee not Rev Maya in order to provide her with some much needed vacation time. Rev Debbie Johnson has agreed to continue as our guest minister for the first two Sundays in Sept. Rev Maya will be in the pulpit beginning on Sept 20th. All services in Sept will continue to be virtual. At the present time the first service that the congregation will be able to attend in person is expected to be Oct. 4th.

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Beirut, Lebanon Explosion - UCC's Emergency Relief Fund. The United Church's Emergency Response Unit is now accepting donations to aid the people of Beirut after the horrific explosion this summer. **Up until this coming Tuesday, Aug 25, the Canadian Govt will match donations up to \$5 million.** As usual, your total donation to UCC Relief Fund will go towards emergency response – 85% to present emergency and 15% held for fast response to future emergencies. Donate on-line on the United Church website: united-church.ca/lebanon; by phone: **416-231-5931**; or send a cheque to The United Church of Canada, Philanthropy Unit, Emergency Response, 3259 Bloor St W. Suite 200, Toronto, ON, M8X2YA. Please be sure to note "Emergency

Response—Lebanon" on the face of your cheque.