

**St James United Church**  
400 Burnhamthorpe Road, Etobicoke M9B 2A8 416-622-4113  
[www.stjamesunitedchurch.com](http://www.stjamesunitedchurch.com)

**SEASON of CREATION – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**

**Welcome! We are glad you have joined us in worship. May you feel the warmth of God's presence.**

***Our Mission:***

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

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**Reflection Question:**

"What is God saying to me through Creation?"

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**WE GATHER AND APPROACH GOD**

Welcome and Announcements – Rev. Linda Maw

Lighting the Christ Candle:

One: The light of Christ shines through all creation.

**All: We celebrate Christ's life and light.**

Call to Worship: (adapted from online Creation Liturgies Year A)

One: In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life,  
the name of Christ, the pulse of life,  
and the name of the Spirit, the breath of life.

**All: We gather as your people with gratitude and praise.**

One: The earth is filled with God's glory. The land teems with life!

**All: We celebrate the colourful diversity of the Creator!**  
**We give thanks for all those who steward this land with love—**  
**in the past, in the present and in the future.**

**Opening Hymn V.U. 296 "This Is God's Wondrous World"**

Cantor: Kathleen Wells, soprano choral lead

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 This is God's wondrous world,  
and to my listening ears  
    all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is God's wondrous world;  
I rest me in the thought  
    of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
God's hand the wonders wrought.
- 2 This is God's wondrous world:  
the birds their carols raise;  
    the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their Maker's praise.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
God shines in all that's fair;  
    in the rustling grass or mountain pass,  
God's voice speaks everywhere.
- 3 This is God's wondrous world:  
O let me ne'er forget  
    that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
why should my heart be sad?  
    Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:  
God reigns, let earth be glad!

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Prayer of Approach:

One: God is with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray together:

**All: God, you are our Creator and Sustainer. You have loved us long before we knew ourselves to be loveable and you love us still. You forgive that which we think is unforgiveable. Your mercies are new every morning. We come seeking your peace at the center of our beings, that we may be your people of grace, forgiveness and love. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray. Amen.**

A Time for the Child in All of Us

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Matthew 18:21-35

Reader: Karen Munday

Jesus teaches about forgiveness

Musical Offering: "Jesus Is My Lord" – Don Besig  
Kathleen Wells, soprano  
J.-C. Coolen, piano

Sermon: "How Many Times?"  
-Rev. Debbie Johnson

### Hymn V.U. 364 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

Cantor: Kathleen Wells, soprano choral lead

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1     **'Forgive our sins as we forgive,'  
you taught us, Christ, to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.**
  
- 2     **How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs, and will not let  
old bitterness depart?**
  
- 3     **In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew:  
what trivial debts are owed to us,  
how great our debt to you!**
  
- 4     **O cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, bound to all in bonds of love,  
our lives will spread your peace.**

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## RESPONDING TO GOD

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – Rev. Debbie Johnson  
The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**Closing Hymn V. U. 528 “God of Life” vs. 1, 4**

Cantor: Kathleen Wells, soprano choral lead

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 God of life, in Christ you lead us,  
guiding us along the way.  
In our past, through joys and sorrows,  
you have been our strength and stay.  
Keep us faithful, true disciples,  
in our learning and our praise,  
celebrating past and present, consecrating future days.**
- 4 God of days and years and eons,  
still you call as in the past.  
Work undone demands our labour;  
justice yearns for peace at last.  
Yours the vision and the challenge;  
ours the mission and the praise,  
celebrating past and present, consecrating future days.**

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## Commissioning and Benediction

**Congregational Benediction: “Prayer of Dedication” –Don Besig**

Cantor: Renee Fajardo, alto 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 back to Rev. Debbie Johnson**, our guest minister this morning who served as Congregational Life Minister at North Bramalea United Church from 2008 - 2019. Prior to this Rev. Debbie was the Faith Formation and Leadership Development staff person for Hamilton Conference of the United Church. We certainly have appreciated her enthusiastic participation in our services since August 30<sup>th</sup> and her willingness to fit in with the necessary changes to our production process and schedules. Once again, we look forward to her message for us today. Thank you!!

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**Thank you** to: J.-C. Coolen, Kathleen Wells and Renee Fajardo for their enriching music ministry; Gord Burrell, our sound tech and creator of the audio recordings; Rev. Linda Maw for presiding; Karen Munday who has once again created the slides and read the scripture lesson this morning; Don Munday for creating and producing our audio-visual virtual worship experience and Rod Lord for reading the "All" portions of the congregational responses.

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**The sympathy of the congregation** is extended to Carol and Wally Baerg and their family on the death of their son, Eric, Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Carol and Wally have been active members of St James until they moved north to Owen Sound a few years ago where they have found a new church home and family. Carol asked that their thanks be passed on to St James congregation for their understanding, kindness and love, never judgment, received through the years...

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**Happy Birthday** to our St. James family members who celebrate their birthdays this coming week. We are glad you were born and give God thanks for your lives: Bill Shaver September 13, Lucille Jones September 18, Bill Taft September 19, and Catherine Wickett September 19. Please note: anyone submitting the names of people celebrating birthdays needs the permission of those individuals first.

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**What to expect coming to St James during weekday business hours.** A message from the Co-ordinating Committee...

1. First, don't come to church if you are not feeling well.
2. You must wear a mask at all times while in the church.
3. The doors are now locked all the time and to gain entry press the doorbell on the wall to the right of the glass door entry from the parking lot. It has a video link to the office and Matty will come and let you in.
4. Once inside, at the top of the stairs in the hallway, there is a table with a sanitizer for your hands and a sign-in sheet. Please print your name, time in and out and where in the church you visited. This information is required for contact tracing should a Covid incident occur.
5. Your cooperation is critical to keep the church virus free. Thank you.

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**Rev Maya Douglas** will be beginning her ministry with St James on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> and will be in the pulpit for the Sept 20<sup>th</sup> service. All services in Sept will continue to be virtual and will be pre-taped but in a Live Streaming format. There will be a learning curve so please bear with the team as they familiarize themselves with a new camera and process. At the present time the first service that the congregation will be able to attend in person is expected to be Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. Information on how this will unfold and the safety precautions that will be in place will be provided later in the month.

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**St James' Sunday School** will be starting up again this month beginning with "Kick off Sunday" on Sept 20<sup>th</sup> by zoom at 1:30 p.m. with a special guest, our new minister, Rev Maya, attending. Please contact Karen at [karen\\_forgrave@hotmail.com](mailto:karen_forgrave@hotmail.com) if you have a child/grandchild from JK to Grade 9 who would like to participate so that Karen can be sure that you are included in the mailing list, and she can send you the Zoom Link". The possibility of transitioning to in-person Sunday School will be revisited in October.

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**The SJUC Junior and Youth Choir is back** on Thursday, September 24, from 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. via zoom. We are excited to announce the introduction of our very own Vocal Training Academy, for ages 5-17. For details see the e-flyer on St James' website. To register, please complete the short survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WZTN8YF>

There is no deadline for registration. Singers may join at any time. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Choir Director Wendy Simone at [wcsimone@gmail.com](mailto:wcsimone@gmail.com)

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**Epistle Newsletter** – The deadline for submission to the *Epistle* Newsletter is Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at noon. Articles can be dropped off in the *Epistle* mail slot at church, although, due to COVID-19, emailed submissions are preferred. Email submissions can be sent to [sjepistle@yahoo.com](mailto:sjepistle@yahoo.com).

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**Egg Cartons** – Our Food Basket is currently in need of empty, clean, egg cartons. If you have any to donate, please feel free to drop them off at the church anytime during the week during our office hours (Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.). Thank you.

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