

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

SEASON of CREATION – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020
Orange Shirt Sunday

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.

Reflection Question:
"What is God saying to me through Creation?"

WE GATHER AND APPROACH GOD

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Linda Maw

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: There was someone who said such wonderful things and did the most loving things, that people began to follow him, but they did not know who he was, so they asked and he said...

All: “I am the Light of the world.”

Call to Worship

One: Spirit of truth, of enthusiasm, of gentleness stir in us, on this day of renewal during this season of Creation.

**All: Open our ears to hear your Word,
and our eyes to discover your world.**

One: As we gather in diverse spaces, as we sit before you and speak of peace and love,

**All: shake us, enliven us, mold us;
help us to embody your Spirit.
Make us your loving and lively people.**

Opening Hymn **MV 79 Spirit, Open My Heart**

Cantor: Kathleen Wells, Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

*Refrain: Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.*

God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. (Refrain)

Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. (Refrain)

May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. (Refrain)

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Opening Prayer

re-imagined Per Harling

One: O Creator, God, in whose image we are all made,

All: breathe on us, live in us, help us to share in protecting all creation.

One: O Holy Redeemer, Jesus Christ, God with us – Emmanuel.

All: breathe on us a breath of peace, live for us, grant us reconciliation.

One: O Holy Spirit, who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

All: breathe on us your Love, your truth, and move us.

One: O Triune God... breathe, live, and act through us we pray,

**All: like the ever-flowing waters from which we are born
and reborn as your people. Amen.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Musical Offering

Follow Rain and Rivers –Robert Gielas

Kathleen Wells, soprano

J.-C. Coolen, piano

A Time of Wonder**Scripture Reading** Exodus 17.1-7

Rev. Linda Maw

Reflection "The Gift of Water"

Rev. Maya Douglas

RESPONDING TO GOD**Offertory Prayer**

Rev. Linda Maw

Sermon Hymn **MV 135 *Called by Earth and Sky***

Cantor: Kathleen Wells, Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

*Refrain: Called by earth and sky,
 promise of hope held high.
 This is our sacred living trust,
 treasure of life sanctified,
 called by earth and sky.*

Precious these waters, endless seas,
 deep ocean's dream,
 waters of healing, rivers of rain,
 the wash of love again. *(Refrain)*

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Congregational Prayer

One: And so we sing...

**All: Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
 wind born and free.
 Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
 our gathering and our grace.**

One: And so we sing...

**All: Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
 vast fragile land.
 Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
 Creation's faithful song.**

One: And so we sing...

**All: Precious the fire that lights our way,
 bright dawning day.**

**Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one.**

***Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.***

***This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky.***

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn VU 226 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Tune: DIX VU 81

Cantor: Kathleen Wells, Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
*Refrain: God of all, to you we raise
 this our hymn of grateful praise.*

- 2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light, *Refrain*

- 3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, *Refrain*

- 4 For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven, *Refrain*

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Blessing and Sending Forth

Congregational Blessing *Prayer of Dedication* –Don Besig

Cantor: Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist

Descant: Kathleen Wells, Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist
Piano: J.- C. Coolen, Music Minister

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.

Words: Nancy Price and Don Besig. © 1991 Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.
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Today, United Church members across Canada will wear orange shirts to remember and honour Indigenous children who attended Residential Schools. If you participate in Orange Shirt Day by wearing orange for worship, please send us a photo to stjames_uc@rogers.com. If you don't have an orange shirt, ties, ribbons, dresses, suits will do! Why orange? Click on this link to find out: <https://www.united-church.ca/news/orange-shirt-day-2020>.

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Thank you to: J.-C. Coolen, Renee Fajardo and Kathleen Wells for their enriching music ministry; Gord Burrell, our sound tech and creator of the audio recordings; Rev. Linda Maw for presiding and reading scripture this morning; Karen Munday for once again creating the slides and Don Munday for creating and producing our audio-visual virtual worship experience.

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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: Nancy Gibbons September 22, Elizabeth Petten September 25, Peggy Walker September 29, Evelyn Kratt October 2. Please note: anyone submitting the names of people celebrating birthdays needs the permission of those individuals first.

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"Live" services in the sanctuary will begin on Oct. 4 (God willing). Please note you **must register ahead** for a place in the sanctuary by contacting Karen Munday at munday@sympatico.ca or 416 233 3619.

If you register to attend a "Live" service, please arrive at church by 10:15 a.m. to allow the ushers sufficient time to 'process' and seat you before the service begins at 10:30 a.m. Thank you.

We are saddened to announce, belatedly, that Bill Price, our Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist, has retired from this position, effective the end of August. Bill has served with great distinction in this role for 42 years, providing sterling leadership to the choirs and moving, memorable musical service to the congregation. We are delighted that Bill will be continuing as a volunteer member of the choirs and as a parishioner at St. James. We look forward to his continued musical contributions to our choirs and community in this new role, and also look forward to a formal celebration in the coming weeks of Bill and his service to St. James in this position. Thank you, Bill!!

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Senior Choir rehearsals have resumed, virtually over Zoom, on alternate Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. To participate in the Senior Choir, and for Zoom rehearsal meeting information, please contact J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister, at (905) 683-5757 or jccoolen@sympatico.ca.

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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.

St James' Sunday School started back up last Sunday, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. If you have a child/grandchild from JK to Grade 9 who would like to participate please contact Karen at karen_forgrave@hotmail.com so that she 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 started 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

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Epistle Newsletter – The deadline for submission to the *Epistle* Newsletter is this Sunday, September 27th at noon. Articles can be dropped off in the *Epistle* mail slot at the church, although, due to COVID-19, emailed submissions are preferred. Email submissions can be sent to sjepistle@yahoo.com.

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FUTURE SERVICES:

Sunday, October 4th is our Homecoming Service which lands on Worldwide Communion Sunday. We will not take Communion; we will be the Communion. As disciples of Christ, we will remember that we are the body and blood of Christ.

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Sunday, October 11 is Thanksgiving Sunday.

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Sunday, October 18, we will honour Bill Price our Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist who has retired from his position.

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Sunday, October 25, the Rev. Marlene Britton will be our guest preacher.

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