

St James United Church

400 Burnhamthorpe Road, Etobicoke M9B 2A8 416-622-4113

www.stjamesunitedchurch.com

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021

10:30 am

*The Baptism of the Lord
The Sacrament of Baptism*

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 Questions: "What do you believe about God?"

"Why and how has this changed over time?"

WE GATHER AND APPROACH GOD

***Bold** indicates words said by **All**

PRELUDE

Down to the River to Pray with

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (arr. Mary McDonald)

J.-C. Coolen, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karen Munday

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

There once was someone, who said... and he said,

"I am the Light of the World."

OPENING PRAYER

Creator Spirit,
moving over the waters,
you renew our baptism.

God of the flood,
you save us from destruction.

Holy Spirit, Jordan dove,
you came upon Jesus,
descend upon us now.

Voice from heaven,
call us by name.

We are your beloved.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

VU 710

Cantor: Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

1 Shall we gather at the river,
 where bright angel feet have trod;
 with its crystal tide for ever
 flowing by the throne of God?

*Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river,
 the beautiful, the beautiful river;
 gather with the saints at the river
 that flows by the throne of God.*

2 Ere we reach the shining river,
 lay we every burden down;
 grace our spirits will deliver,
 and provide a robe and crown. R

3 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
 soon our pilgrimage will cease,
 soon our happy hearts will quiver

with the melody of peace. R

Words: Robert S. Lowry. Public Domain.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 29

Ascribe to God, you powers of the heaven,
ascribe to God all glory and strength!

**Ascribe due honour to God's holy name,
and worship in the beauty of holiness.**

God's voice is over the waters -

God's glory thundering across the great waters.

God's voice is power, God's voice is full of majesty.

God's voice shatters the cedars,
splinters the cedars of Lebanon.

**God's voice makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
Mount Hermon stampede like a wild young bull.**

God's voice forks into tongues of fire,

God's voice shakes the wilderness,
sets trembling the wilderness of Kadesh.

**God's voice causes the oaks to whirl,
stripping the forest bare;
and in the temple all cry: Glory!**

God sits enthroned above the waters,

God is enthroned as sovereign forever.

You give strength to your people, O God.

Now give to your people the blessing of peace.

~ THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM ~

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.

...

In the United Church of Canada, the congregation is an integral part
of the process of Christian initiation.

...

We believe that God strengthens us by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church in the world.

**As we come to this font of living water,
let us recall the meaning of baptism.**

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27

**For just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many,
are one body, so it is with Christ.**

**For by one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body—
Jews or Greeks, slaves or free— all were made to drink of one Spirit.
We are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.**

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Rod Lord

CONGREGATIONAL VOW

People of St. James United Church in Etobicoke, Ontario,
will you commit yourselves to support and nurture
Leila Bates within a community which worships God,
loves and serves others, seeks justice and resists evil?
If so, say, "We will, God being our helper."

We will, God being our helper.

CONGREGATIONAL PLEDGE

My friends, let us make our pledge of care known:

We have heard the will of Leila Bates.

**We receive Leila in Christ's name,
as we ourselves have been received.**

We all belong to the one household of faith in Jesus Christ.

**We shall support Leila with constant love,
wholesome example, Christian teaching,
and faithful prayer. Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A New Creed (1968; rev.1980, 1995)

The United Church of Canada

We are not alone,

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus,
 the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,
 to live with respect in Creation,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope.

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
 God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give our thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God, O Holy One,
 Creator of Heaven and Earth.

In the beginning, your Spirit was at work,
 brooding over the waters of Creation.

Again and again

you have shown your grace to us through water:

parting the Red Sea for the exodus,
 flowing from the rock in the wilderness,
 nurtured in the waters of Mary's womb,
 baptized by John in the River Jordan,
 giver of living water,
 wellspring of eternal life.

Blessed are you, O God.

Therefore, eternal and present God,
 we thank you for the water with which you bless us.
 We pray that those who are baptized,
 into the death and resurrection of Jesus,
 may live in your grace.

Blessed are you, O God.

Pour out, O God,
 your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this water,
 that this font may become
 your womb of new birth,
 our fount of blessing and source of grace.

Blessed are you, O God.

All glory, praise, and honour be to you,
 now and forever.

Amen.

THE ACT OF BAPTISM

DECLARATION

In the name of Jesus Christ, Leila Bates has been received
 into the holy catholic church, the body of Christ in the world.

**We are pleased to welcome LEILA BATES into
 the Christian church and we pray for God's blessings
 on her, so that she may be a blessing to the world.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

MUSICAL OFFERING *I Give You My Heart with Into My Heart* (arr. Lloyd Larson)
 Renee Fajardo, mezzo soprano
 J.-C. Coolen, piano

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1.4-11

REFLECTION *The Bridges and Scaffolding of Our Journeys* Rev. Maya Douglas

RESPONDING TO GOD

SERMON HYMN *Seek Ye First the Kingdom* **VU 356**
 Cantor: Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist
 Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
 and God's righteousness,
 and all these things shall be added unto you.
 Hallelu, hallelujah.

- 2 Ask and it shall be given unto you;
 seek and you shall find;
 knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
 Hallelu, hallelujah.

- 3 We do not live by bread alone,
 but by every word
 that proceeds from the mouth of God.
 Hallelu, hallelujah.

- 4 Hal le lu jah,
 hal le lu jah,
 hal le lu jah,
 hallelu, hal le lu jah.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

CLOSING HYMN

I Am the Light of the World

VU 87

Cantor: Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

*Refrain: 'I am the light of the world!
 You people come and follow me!
 If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
 of what you were meant to do and be.*

- 1 When the song of the angels is stilled,
 when the star in the sky is gone,
 when the kings and the shepherds have found
 their way home, the work of Christmas is begun: R
- 2 To find the lost and lonely one,
 to heal the broken soul with love,
 to feed the hungry children with warmth

and good food, to feel the earth below, the sky above! R

3 To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere! R

4 To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth! R

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BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

CONGREGATIONAL COMMISSIONING *I Am the Light of the World* **VU 87**
chorus

Cantor: Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist
Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.

Words: Jim Strathdee. © 1969 Desert Flower Music. Reproduced under One License #A-622413.

POSTLUDE *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* (arr. Joel Raney)
J.-C. Coolen, piano

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Giving leadership in today's service:

J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

Rev. Maya Douglas, Minister of Pastoral Care, Word and Sacrament

Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist

Rod Lord, Chair of the Unified Board

Karen Munday, Presider

We are also thankful for those serving as tech support:

Gord Burrell, Don Munday, Karen Munday, Andrew Paley.

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We are pleased to welcome LEILA BATES into the Christian Church and pray for God's blessings on her.

Leila, a longtime resident of Etobicoke, has been attending St James United Church for about 4 yrs. She started her church journey here in search of a relationship with God and found an amazing community that she has grown to cherish and call friends. When not working as a Realtor, she can be found volunteering at the Red Cross, fine tuning her Archery skills (yes, most don't know she is an Archer, albeit still learning), and has just taken up Disc golf, to name a few of her interests.

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If you are able to, please join us via Zoom in congregational presence and support of Leila's Baptism. Sunday, January 10 at 10:30 a.m. Please see the Zoom link and details below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87475482910?pwd=bml5cDdiSIFkRXVoUVF6UVAwR2FrZD09>

Meeting ID: 874 7548 2910

Passcode: 824645

Dial by your location

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please join Rev. Maya in praying for the members and adherents in our Directory for an ongoing cycle. We hold these members of our faith community in prayer this week:

Marilyn Hagerman; Robert & Linda Haley, Olivia and Andrew; Leonor Hall; Phyl Hampshire; Marilyn & Andrew Hanssen, Melinda and Erin; Bob & Eleanor Harris; Emily

Harris; Ross Harris; Stephanie Hartill, Paige and Cameron Ballard; Laura Hay, and John.

We join in prayer for healing and transformation with:

Elda Dunham, Betty and Bernie Ginger, Ardith Grant, and Joe Tyler (Nancy Cormier's dad).

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NEXT WEEK: Sunday, January 17

Scripture Readings: Psalm 139.1-6, 13-18; 1 Samuel 3.1-10, (11-20); John 1.43-51; 1 Corinthians 6.12-20.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Nancy Gibbons, Lisa, Matthew (Effie), Elizabeth, and grandchildren Demitra and Anthony Gibbons, on the passing of Bob Gibbons on Sunday, January 3, 2021. A celebration of life will be held in the future.

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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: Judy Porchuk January 10, Simmone Wishart January 13. Please note: anyone submitting the names of people celebrating birthdays needs the permission of those individuals first.

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We're excited to welcome two new Choral Lead/Soloists to St James! As of the beginning of the year, Anna Wojcik is our Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist, and Nicholas Gryniewski is our Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Scholar. They've already participated in a Senior Choir Zoom rehearsal, and will first provide musical leadership in worship later in January, at which point we'll introduce them more fully to you. Welcome, Anna and Nicholas!

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Worship Service Coffee Hour: To join Rev. Maya after worship at 12:30 p.m. on Sundays in lieu of "meet and greet", please use one of the following options.

Using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81414121724?pwd=S1lJakFPSnM5UEx1UWVUNHI5MktSUT09Using> Zoom:

Meeting ID: 814 1412 1724

Passcode: 555637

OR

If you wish to phone in, please use the following information.

Dial by your location

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

Meeting ID: 814 1412 1724 Passcode: 555637

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Sunday School via Zoom, RESUMES TODAY at 1:30 p.m. 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.

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Epistle Newsletter – The deadline for submission to the *Epistle* Newsletter is Sunday, January 24 at noon. Email submissions can be sent to sjepistle@yahoo.com.

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Thank You - I would like to thank all the caring people who have been helping me through the seven weeks that Bernie has been in hospital and the two weeks that he was home. Bernie thanks you as well for your phone calls. We are very grateful for your emails, phone calls and the special food dishes. Your support has made it possible for us to keep going. We really appreciate it so much. Thank you all. - Betty Ginger

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Our Bible Study group will be held over ZOOM Mondays at 1p.m. Please confirm your interest in joining by contacting Rev. Maya at revmaya.douglas@gmail.com and she will send you the log-in information. We will read through the four lectionary readings for the week and discuss each one as well as how they may impact our lives and the world. Newcomers are always welcome!

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The SJUC Junior and Youth Choir meets on Thursdays 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.

Senior Choir rehearsals are 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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2021 Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up in the main hallway of the church during regular office hours. Please deliver those of friends and neighbours where possible, thank you. Please note that if you donate through the PAR program, you will not be issued a box of envelopes.

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FUTURE SERVICES:

Sunday, January 17 we will honour Kathleen Wells, who has retired after 42 years of service and devotion to the church and choirs of St. James.

Sundays, January 24 & 31 the Rev. Debbie Johnson will lead us in worship while the Rev. Maya Douglas is on study leave in preparation for Lent and Easter.

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