

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

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021**  
**12:00 noon**

*Second Sunday of Lent - Black History Month*  
*Covenanting with Rev. B. Maya Douglas*



**Sankofa: A word in Akan  
there is wisdom in**

**of Ghana meaning,  
learning from the past to**

**ensure a strong future.**

**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.**

**WE GATHER AND APPROACH GOD**

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

**^ denotes composer or arranger of African heritage**

**PRELUDE**

***This Little Light of Mine* (arr. Calvin Taylor<sup>^</sup>)  
J.-C. Coolen, piano**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Karen Munday**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**We light this Christ Candle as a reminder  
of the one who guides us on our Lenten Journey...**

**Today, as we make our covenantal promises**

**we remember that we follow the light of Christ!**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sisters and brothers,  
 as we gather in the welcome of God's love,  
 as we gather in the joy of our unity in Christ,  
 as we gather in the power of the Spirit,  
 let us listen for the voice of God.

**Let us worship God,  
 who has spoken and still speaks to those who attend  
 to the roar or the whisper of the Holy One.**

**OPENING HYMN**      *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)***VU 509**

Cantor: Nicholas Gryniewski, Baritone Choral Lead / Soloist Scholar  
 Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

1    I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
 I have heard my people cry.  
 All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
 I who made the stars of night,  
 I will make their darkness bright.  
 Who will bear my light to them?  
 Whom shall I send?

*Refrain*      *Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
 I have heard you calling in the night.  
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
 I will hold your people in my heart.*

2    I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
 I have borne my people's pain,  
 I have wept for love of them; they turn away.  
 I will break their hearts of stone,  
 give them hearts for love alone.  
 I will speak my word to them.  
 Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

3    I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
 I will tend the poor and lame,  
 I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.  
 Finest bread I will provide  
 till their hearts be satisfied.  
 I will give my life to them.  
 Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

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## PRAYER OF APPROACH

Loving God, we cry aloud this day for your guidance.

You have called us into ministry  
as we follow the pathways that you set down for us.

Grant us, we pray,  
strength to believe in your gospel  
and courage to trust in your Word.

We pray that the ministry of this pastoral charge  
will be strengthened and nurtured by your life-giving Spirit.

All glory and honour are yours, God most compassionate.

Amen.

## A TIME OF WONDER

Rev. Maya Douglas

## CHILDREN'S HYMN *This Little Light of Mine*

Cantor: Nicholas Gryniewski, Baritone Choral Lead / Soloist Scholar

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! (x3)**  
**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!**

Words: Traditional Spiritual. Public Domain.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

### HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Esther 4.1-17

Rev. Marlene Britton

### MUSICAL OFFERING

*There Is a Balm in Gilead* (arr. Mark Hayes)

Nicholas Gryniewski, baritone

J.-C. Coolen, piano

### GREEK SCRIPTURE

Luke 4.16-20

### MEDITATION

*What a Time This Is!*

Rev. Marlene Britton

## THE ACT OF COVENANT

### COVENANTING HYMN

*Hymn of Covenant*

Tune: NETTLETON VU 559

*(hymn originally written for Rev. Maya Douglas)*

Cantor: Nicholas Gryniowski, Baritone Choral Lead / Soloist Scholar

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 Holy God, we sing your praises as we gather here today,  
celebrating new beginnings on our journey in your way.  
We make covenant together gathered in community.  
Diverse gifts we offer gladly to support this ministry.
- 2 God, we pray this congregation, as it follows Jesus' way,  
may be led in paths of justice working for a better day;  
always listening for the Spirit as its inspiration, guide;  
always striving t'ward the kingdom with a love both deep and wide.
- 3 Bless the one who comes to serve here: pastor, prophet, priest and guide.  
Grant her wisdom, deep compassion, and a faith that will abide.  
May she help this congregation exercise its ministry  
as it seeks new paths of service to be all that it can be.
- 4 Bless, O God, those called to offer their support and oversight;  
with discernment, trust and wisdom may they point a way that's right.  
All now covenant together, joining in community;  
with our prayers and faith in action we will build this ministry.

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**STATEMENT OF LIVING FAITH STORY**

Randy Wilson

**STATEMENT OF THIS NEW MINISTRY**

Kathryn Moase

**PRAYER OF FAITH**

**Uniting God,**

**you call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship:**

**to celebrate your presence,**

**to live with respect in creation,**

**to be your servants in the service of others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil,**

**to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,**

**to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen,**

**our judge and our hope.**

**Send your Holy Spirit to bind us in full communion  
so that we may be a uniting church**

embodying your love for the world.

**As one, we proclaim:  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
you are with us,  
we are not alone,  
all glory and power be unto you.  
Amen.**

A prayer for the church inspired by John 17:21 and based on The United Church of Canada's "A New Creed" and The United Church of Christ's "Statement of Faith (in the Form of a Doxology)." Written for the full communion service of these two denominations.

## PROMISES OF THE NEW MINISTER

Rev. Maya Douglas

### PROMISES OF THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Kathryn Moase: People of the St. James community of faith, will you join with the *Reverend Maya Douglas* in a ministry of worship, study, prayer and action within St James Community of Faith, Shining Waters Regional Council and within the wider church?

If so, please respond "We will" ...

**Congregation: We will.**

Kathryn Moase: Will you support her as she serves among you in this ministry?

If so, please respond "We will" ...

**Congregation: We will.**

### PROMISES OF ST JAMES STAFF MEMBERS

### PROMISES OF REGIONAL COUNCIL, WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

#### HYMN OF COMMITMENT

*We Have This Ministry*

VU 510

Cantor: Nicholas Gryniewski, Baritone Choral Lead / Soloist Scholar

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

1 We have this ministry  
and we are not discouraged;  
it is by God's own power  
that we may live and serve.  
Openly we share God's word,  
speaking truth as we believe,  
praying that the shadowed world  
may healing light receive.  
We have this ministry, O God, receive our living.

2 O Christ, the tree of life,  
     our end and our beginning,  
 we grow to fullest flower  
     when rooted in your love.  
 Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay,  
     called to service by your grace,  
 different cultures, different gifts,  
     the young and old a place.  
 We have this ministry, O God, receive our giving.

3 The yoke of Christ is ours,  
     the whole world is our parish;  
 we daily take the cross,  
     the burden and the joy.  
 Bearing hurts of those we serve,  
     wounded, bruised and bowed with pain,  
 Holy Spirit, bread and wine,  
     we die and rise again.  
 We have this ministry, O God, receive our loving.

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## **PRESENTATION OF SYMBOLS**

### **BIBLE**

Be with us as one who takes and proclaims the Word. And the people say...  
**Amen.**

### **PITCHER**

Be with us as one who baptizes in the name of Christ. And the people say...  
**Amen.**

### **BREAD AND CUP**

Be with us as one who cares for those who hunger and thirst. And the people say...  
**Amen.**

### **LANTERN**

Be with us as one who seeks justice and shines light on what needs to be transformed.  
 And the people say...  
**Amen.**

### **CIRCLE OF WOMEN POTTERY**

Be with us as one who cares and comforts in life's ups and downs. And the people say...  
**Amen.**

**HYMNAL AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

Be with us as one who encourages praise of God through music, song and movement.  
And the people say...

**Amen.**

Kathryn Moase: *Reverend Maya* and *the St James* community of faith, let all these be signs of the ministry that is and that will be in this community. And the people say:

**Amen.**

**NEW MINISTER'S PRAYER****RESPONSE TO COVENANT****CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Halle, Halle, Halle*

VU 958

Cantor: Nicholas Gryniewski, Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Scholar  
Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

**Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!**  
**Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!**  
**Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!**  
**Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah!**

Words: Caribbean<sup>a</sup> traditional. Public Domain.

**RESPONDING TO GOD****OFFERING****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Holy and Beloved God,**  
**we dedicate our lives and all that we have**  
**to the work of life, of love, of peace.**  
**Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage.**  
**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**Mothering God, Blessed Jesus, Holy Spirit - One**  
**Have mercy on us. Hear us, heal us.**

**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,  
     and the power, and the glory  
     forever and ever. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN**

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Cantors: Members of the Senior Choir

Piano/Director/Audio Editor: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,  
 ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
 let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,  
 let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
 sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
 facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
 let us march on till victory is won.

- 2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,  
 felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
 yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
 come to the place for which our people sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
 we have come, treading our path through blood of the slaughtered,  
 out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

- 3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
 thou who hast, by thy might, led us into the light,  
 keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee,  
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;  
 shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,  
 true to our God, true to God's guiding hand.

Words: James Weldon Johnson<sup>^</sup>. alt. Public Domain.

## BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Sizohamba Naye*

Cantors: Anna Wojcik, Renee Fajardo and Nicholas Gryniowski,  
Choral Lead/Soloists

Cantor and Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister  
Sizohamba naye, wo, wo, wo, sizohamba naye. (x2)  
Ngomhla wenjabula, sizohamba naye. (x2)

We will go with God! Wo, wo, wo! We will go with God! (x2)  
On this day of great joy, we will go with God. (x2)

Words: Swazi<sup>^</sup> traditional song. Public Domain.

**POSTLUDE**     *Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler* (arr. Harry T. Burleigh<sup>^</sup>)  
Nicholas Gryniowski, baritone  
J.-C. Coolen, piano

\* \* \* \* \*

Giving leadership in today's service:

Rev Marlene Britton, Guest Minister

J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

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

Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist

Nicholas Gryniowski, Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Scholar

Rod Lord, Chair of the Unified Board: Voice of the Congregation

Kathryn Moase, Shining Water Regional Council Liaison

Karen Munday, Presider

Randall Wilson, Member of the St James Search Committee

Anna Wojcik, Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist

St James Senior Choir

We are also thankful for those serving as tech support

Gord Burrell, Jasmine Li, Don Munday, Karen Munday

and the St James Committee who worked along with Kathryn Moase

to put the service together: Search team chair, Brenda Beaton and member Randy

Wilson, Music Minister, J.-C. Coolen, Worship and Music Chair, Linda Maw,

with the support of Matty De Carolis, Office Administrator.

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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each week Rev. Maya prays for the congregants of this faith community, whether they are in need for prayer or not. We all benefit from God's blessings! Please join Rev. Maya in prayer.*

*We hold these congregants in prayer this week:*

Sam Obajimi, Alejandra Olmos and Jesus Giovanni Correa Osorno; Christine Paley, Andrew and Diana; Adele and Joseph Paraschuk; Gloria Parker; Julie Parker; Edith Paxton; Ruth Pearce; Lori Penney; Evelyn Penny; Elizabeth Petten; Christine Pickios.

*We join in prayer for healing and transformation with:*

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

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### **NEXT WEEK: Lent 3 Sunday, March 7**

Scripture Readings: Psalm 19; Exodus 20.1-7; John 2.13-22; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We welcome** the Rev. Marlene Britton as our guest preacher this morning. The Rev. Marlene Britton is a Diaconal minister in the United Church (UCC) who was born in Jamaica. She began ministry 27 years ago serving in Belize and Barbados, before transferring to the UCC. She lived in Cold Lake, AB, serving a 2 point charge, before serving a UC in Thunder Bay. Currently she serves at the General Conference Office as Program Coordinator for Admission and Pastoral Relations. She is the mother of two sons.

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**The offering today will go to The Ministry Candidates Support Fund.** This Fund provides financial aid to candidates for ministry within the Shining Waters Region – support which is greatly appreciated especially this year during the pandemic. Since we are worshipping virtually, the Unified Board has already donated on St James congregation's behalf. But if you would like to make your own personal contribution please use one of the following options: e-transfer to stjames\_uc@rogers.com, PayPal option available through our website under "donate", or mail a cheque to St James. Whichever option you use please state clearly that it is for The Ministry Candidates Support Fund.

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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: Jordan Li February 28, Marie Brown March 1, Sandy Thompson March 6. Please note: anyone submitting the names of people celebrating birthdays needs the permission of those individuals first.

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**Worship Service Coffee Hour:** To join Rev. Maya after worship **today at 2:00 p.m.** over Zoom 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>

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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**This Sunday, February 28, there will be NO Sunday School** due to Rev. Maya's covenanting service. **Please attend the service at noon for A Time of Wonder and the Covenanting.**

**Sunday, March 7, Sunday School will be at 4:15 p.m.,** due to Annual Congregational Meeting at 1 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](mailto: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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**Our Bible Study group meets Mondays via ZOOM at 1p.m.** 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!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87231297360?pwd=NzVubjZnbjZsUEdmRG84MzFPaTZlQT09>

Meeting ID: 872 3129 7360

Passcode: 983213

Dial by your location:

+1 647 374 4685 Canada +1 647 558 0588 Canada

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**The SJUC Junior & Youth Choir and Vocal Academy** is going strong and continues to welcome any enthusiastic young people aged 5-17 looking for a musical outlet. Rehearsals and private lessons are held on alternating Thursday evenings.

Please contact choir director Wendy Simone at [wcsimone@gmail.com](mailto:wcsimone@gmail.com) for more information and to register. We'd love to have you!

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**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](mailto:jccoolen@sympatico.ca).

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

### STORIES THROUGH A CHRISTIC LENS

Our Lenten TED Talk series this year will be held via Zoom (see link below) with Rev. Maya on the days outlined below. Please mark your calendars, Maya is looking forward to journeying with her new church family! We will view the talk together and engage in conversation around questions from a Christian perspective, "a Christic lens". New participants are welcomed at any time!

3 - Tues. Mar. 2 7pm-8pm Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie *"The danger of a single story"*  
*Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is a novelist. Inspired by Nigerian history and tragedies all but forgotten by recent generations of westerners, Chimamanda's novels and stories are jewels in the crown of diasporan literature.*

4 - Mon. Mar. 8 7pm-8pm Chetan Bhatt *"Dare to refuse the origin myths that claim who you are"*

5 - Tues. Mar.16 7pm-8pm Baratunde Thurston *"How to deconstruct racism, one headline at a time"*

Topic: Stories Through a Christic Lens

Time: This is a recurring meeting at the assigned times

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82589699778?pwd=NEcvYWZTRjlmOGF3K0p4NUNQZ0JlOQT09>

Meeting ID: 825 8969 9778

Passcode: 378504

Dial by your location +1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

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**We have joined** with other churches for a Lenten book study on "The Skin We're In" by Toronto writer Desmond Cole. Our meetings, led by the Rev. Hewitt Holmes of Collier Street UC, are every Wednesday at 7 pm from Feb 24th - Mar 31st over Zoom.



The study's schedule is as follows:

February 24 – Chapters 1, 2 & 3

March 3 – Chapters 4 & 5

March 10 – Chapters 6 & 7

March 17 – Chapters 8, 9 & 10

March 24 – Chapters 11 & 12

March 31 – Chapter 13

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### World Day of Prayer – Friday, March 5 at 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.



World Day of Prayer service is going virtual! Hosted in our area by St Gregory's Roman Catholic Church, mark your calendar and plan to attend in the comfort of your own home via Zoom. We are using the virtual service produced by Women's Interchurch Council (WICC) who oversees the World Day of Prayer in Canada, with local portions inserted to allow your participation.

This year the service was created by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Vanuatu, a republic comprised of a collection of 80 islands in the South Pacific east of Australia. Their theme: *Build on a Strong Foundation* (Matt 7.24-27). Last year over **1.5 million** Christians speaking **79 different languages** in **almost 150 countries** came together in spirit, uniting to pray for relevant issues affecting women and children. In this second year of the world wide pandemic, when a strong foundation is so necessary, let us virtually gather to participate in this ecumenical prayer service for Vanuatu and the world. All are welcome. For further information contact Linda Maw ([drmaw@globalserve.net](mailto:drmaw@globalserve.net) or 416-620-9508).

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**St. James' Annual General Meeting** will be held over Zoom on Sunday, March 7, at 1 p.m. Zoom details to follow during the week. The 2020 Annual Report will be sent out electronically, however, if you wish a paper copy, they will be available at the church office as of Monday, March 1.

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### FUTURE SERVICES:

**March 7, 2021** is the third Sunday of Lent. Our journey to the cross continues. The Annual General Meeting will follow the service at 1pm.

**March 14, 2021** is **PIE Day** or National Affirming Day in the United Church of Canada! It is a day (3.14  $\pi$  pi) to be **Public, Intentional and Explicit** of our inclusion of LGBTQ2SIA+ people. Our guest preacher will be the Rev. Greg Daly of Birchcliff Bluffs UC. (Daylight Savings Time begins, don't be late).

**March 21, 2021** is the fifth Sunday of Lent. Spring arrives.

**March 28, 2021** is Palm/Maundy Sunday. We will celebrate Communion.

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