

St James United Church

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

www.stjamesunitedchurch.com

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

10:30 am

First Sunday of Lent

Black History Month



Sankofa:

A word in Akan of Ghana meaning,
there is wisdom in 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**

^A denotes composer or arranger of African heritage.

PRELUDE *Don't Be Weary Traveler* (arr. Harry T. Burleigh^A)
 Renee Fajardo, mezzo-soprano
 J.-C. Coolen, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alex Grant-Henderson

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Darkness is a wonder to be explored, full of Holy Mystery.

In the dark, we can find comfort and rest.

In the darkness of our mothers' womb, we are formed.

We gather today to worship the One

who surprises us with wonder,

who challenges our comfort,

and who supports our resilience.

We follow the one who says,

"I am the Light" – always. Amen.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

The cross is a mark of God's astounding love for us –
 a love that will always hold us and never let us go.

May Christ's cross of love be your guide and comfort you on the journey.

All of our best intentions,

our deepest thoughts,

our greatest sadness,

we place at the foot of the cross.

May God enrich us with grace.

Nourish us with blessings.

Strengthen us in our trials,

and give us grace to follow in right paths.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Dust and Ashes Touch Our Faces

VU 105

(cantor vs 1, congregation + cantor vs 1-3)

Cantor: Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 Dust and ashes touch our face,
mark our failure and our falling.
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow,
take us as disciples, washed and wakened by your calling.

*Refrain: Take us by the hand and lead us,
lead us through the desert sands,
bring us living water,
Holy Spirit, come.*

- 2 Dust and ashes soil our hands -
greed of market, pride of nation.
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow,
as we pray and struggle through the meshes
of oppression. *Refrain*

- 3 Dust and ashes choke our tongue
in the wasteland of depression.
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow,
through all gloom and grieving to the paths
of resurrection. *Refrain*

Words: Brian Wren. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Reproduced under One License #A-622413.

A TIME OF WONDER

MUSICAL OFFERING

O Divine Redeemer (Charles Gounod)

Renee Fajardo, mezzo-soprano

J.-C. Coolen, piano

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 58.1-12

GREEK SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

HOMILY*On Performative Allyship: What We Treasure*

Rev. Maya Douglas

*A Message from Members of the UCC Black Clergy Network***RESPONDING TO GOD****SERMON HYMN***Today We Are Called to Be Disciples***VU 507**

Cantor: Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 Today we all are called to be
disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free,
make ploughshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first,
our ease and comfort last.
- 2 God made the world and at its birth
ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth,
responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud,
we sow not peace but strife,
our discord spreads a deadly cloud
that threatens all of life.
- 3 Pray justice may come rolling down
as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town
to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore
an earth where conflicts cease,

a world that was created for
a harmony of peace.

- 4 May we in service to our God
act out the living Word,
and walk the road the saints have trod
till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we
give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be
disciples of the Lord.

Words: H. Kenn Carmichael. © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael. Reproduced under One License #A-622413.

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

CLOSING HYMN

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

VU575

Cantor: Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
- 2 I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
- 3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
- 4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Words: African-American spiritual^A. Public Domain.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

CONGREGATIONAL COMMISSIONING *Sizohamba Naye*

Cantors: Anna Wojcik, Renee Fajardo and Nicholas Gryniewski,
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^A traditional song. Public Domain.

POSTLUDE *Hold On (Keep Your Hand on the Plow)* (arr. Calvin Taylor^A)
J.-C. Coolen, piano

* * * * *

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

Alexander Grant-Henderson, Presider

Nicholas Gryniewski, Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Scholar

Anna Wojcik, Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist

We are also thankful for those serving as tech support:

Gord Burrell, Dawn Freeman, Lisa Hall, Don Munday, Karen Munday, and Andrew Paley.

* * * * *

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:

Shirley & Louis Missios; Ann Mitchell; Sylvie Morneau, and Sebastien; Norm Morrison; Lucy Morwick; Don & Karen Munday; Jo Munday; Kristen Munday & Rebecca Allen, and Charlotte; Heather Munday & Mark Ryder; Carol & Bob Murray; Rev. Wayne & Marilyn Myhre; Kevin Neals, Anna-Mae Noble, Kathryn (Lindy) O'Connor.

We join in prayer for healing and transformation with:

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

* * * * *

NEXT WEEK: Lent 2 Sunday, February 28

Scripture Readings: Psalm 22.23-31; Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16; Mark 8.31-38; Romans 4.13-25.

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Unified Board will meet today over Zoom after the service at 1 pm. All members of every committee are part of the Unified Board. Please join us.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4590737230?pwd=akh3dlV6OkRuY1JDeEpBbzBxaEdEZz09>

Meeting ID: 459 073 7230

Passcode: 357912

Dial by your location:

+1 647-374-4685 Canada

* * * * *

The Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Robert (Bob) Burns and family on the passing of his wife, Mildred (Milly) Burns on Saturday, February 6, 2021. For those who wish, donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society in lieu of flowers. Online condolences may be made through: www.turnerporter.ca.

* * * * *

Our Outreach Communion Offering will be received throughout the month of February for All Saints Kingsway - Out of the Cold (OOTC), which continues to provide for our neighbours in need with takeout food vouchers, and for those using the All Saints Sherbourne OOTC program which is one of two open in Toronto's east downtown.

Please send your donation to St. James United Church, 400 Burhamthorpe Rd., Etobicoke ON M9B 2A8 and mark your envelope "Out of the Cold" or "Outreach" OR donate online at our website www.stjamesunitedchurch.com, please add "Outreach-OOTC" under "special instruction to the seller". THANK YOU!!!

* * * * *

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 Price February 22, Amy Corthay February 26, Clara Corthay February 26, Jasmin Li February 27. Please note: anyone submitting the names of people celebrating birthdays needs the permission of those individuals first.

* * * * *

Worship Service Coffee Hour: is CANCELLED today due to the Unified Board meeting at 1 p.m.

* * * * *

Sunday School via Zoom, please see below for special times. 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.

Sunday, February 21, at 4:15p.m., due to Unified Board Meeting at 1 p.m.

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

Sunday, March 7, at 4:15 p.m., due to Annual Congregational Meeting at 1 p.m.

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

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 for more information and to register. We'd love to have you!

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *

Introducing... New Congregational Song (Lift Every Voice and Sing)

We have some new videos to help support you in learning new congregational songs that we're using in worship this coming week.

For next Sunday, we'll be congregationally singing Lift Every Voice and Sing. You can find a video of Anna Wojcik introducing this hymn at <https://youtu.be/G OP6Q1z-lc?t=3919>

Also, last week, we posted a new episode in our series of YouTube videos to help introduce new congregational song, introducing Sizohamba Naye, our Congregational Commissioning piece for the four Sundays of February. You may view it at [https://youtu.be/ G1Sax6EG 0](https://youtu.be/G1Sax6EG 0)

You can also view the full list of previous Introducing... videos on the church website, here: <http://www.stjamesunitedchurch.com/music/introducing-new-congregational-song/>

Please feel free to enjoy and review these introductory videos as much as you desire, and do feel free to sing along! If you'd like to receive automatic notifications whenever we release a new video, on the bottom right of the YouTube video window, click on the red Subscribe button, then click on the Notifications bell.

* * * * *

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!

2 - Mon. Feb 22 7pm-8pm Tyler Cowan *"Be suspicious of simple stories"*

Tyler Cowan is an economist who looks at clues from pop culture, art, food, to gather data and make observations on the world's globalizing culture and commerce.

3 - Tues. Mar. 2 7pm-8pm Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie *"The danger of a single story"*

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=NEcvYWZTRjlmOGF3K0p4NUNQZ0JlOQ09>

Meeting ID: 825 8969 9778

Passcode: 378504

Dial by your location

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

* * * * *

Monday, Feb. 22. at 10:00 a.m. Pastoral Care Discussion Session. Anyone interested is invited to join in by letting Mhairi Godley at mhairi.godley@yahoo.com know ahead of time so she can send you the Zoom Link.

* * * * *



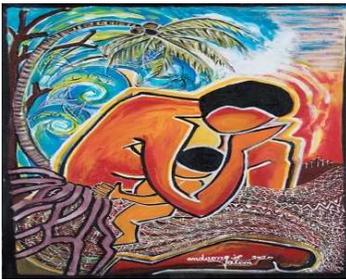
We are invited to join with other churches to read and reflect on *"The Skin We're In"* by Toronto writer Desmond Cole. The book is widely available in paper and electronic copies. The meetings from Feb 24th - Mar 31st will be on Wed at 7pm over Zoom. Please email Rev. Maya to register, and join her as she gently journeys through this important book.

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

* * * * *

World Day of Prayer – Friday, March 5 at 2:00 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 (link to be supplied in next Sunday's bulletin).

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. All are welcome. For further information, contact Linda Maw.

* * * * *

St. James' Annual General Meeting will be held over Zoom on Sunday, March 7, at 1 p.m. Zoom details to follow.

* * * * *

FUTURE SERVICES:

Sunday, February 28 our only service that day starts at **12 noon**. It is our Covenanting Sunday during which we will covenant with the Rev. Maya Douglas and the region. Kathryn Moase, liaison for our Search Committee, will represent Shining Waters Regional Council. The Rev. Marlene Britton from General Council will return as our guest preacher.

* * * * *