

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

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – August 16th, 2020

**Welcome to this joint worship service with our friends from
Bloordale and Richview United Churches! We are glad you joined
us. May you feel the warmth of God’s presence.**

Our Mission:

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

Reflection Question:

“Where do I see God's Spirit at work in the world bringing hope and healing?”

WE GATHER AND APPROACH GOD

Welcome and Announcements – Rev. Linda Maw

Lighting the Christ Candle:

One: The risen Christ is here and gifts us with the Spirit.

All: Come Holy Spirit and light up our lives.

Opening Hymn V.U. 401 “Worship the Lord” vs. 1, 2, 5

Cantor: Kathleen Wells, soprano choral lead

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

Refrain:

**Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
Praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!**

**1 Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,
worship and work must be one! R**

**2 Praying and training that we be a blessing,
and by our handiwork daily confessing:
we are committed to serving humanity,
worship and work must be one! R**

**5 Now in response to the life you are giving,
help us, Creator to offer our living,
seeking a just and a healing society,
worship and work must be one! R**

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Call to Worship:

One: God's Word is here to guide us.

All: We come with openness into God's presence

One: God's people are here to encourage us.

All: We come with hopefulness into God's presence

One: God's forgiveness is here to set us free

All: We come with gratefulness to worship God.

Prayer of Approach:

One: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, we give thanks for your many gifts and blessings.

In the comfort your Word brings to us, calm our anxious thoughts and emotions. In the challenge your Word provokes in us, slow us down to listen, encourage in us faithful response. In this community of faith your Word calls us to respond, moves us to participation. In the certainty that you are with us no matter how difficult the journey, nurture our faithfulness, as disciples of Christ attuned and moved by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, this we pray, Amen

Musical Offering: "The Rose" –Amanda McBroom, arr. Julie Knowles

Vocal Trio: Janet Van Melle, Katrina Desjardins and Albert Conforzi

Piano: Donna Conforzi,

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Reader: Don Munday

Psalm 67 VU 786

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Matthew 15:21-28

An unsettling conversation between Jesus and a Canaanite women reveals
that God's spirit is breaking boundaries and bringing hope and healing for all.

Sermon: "Called to More than We Imagine"

- Rev. Kerri Hagerman

Hymn V.U. 703 "In the Bulb There is a Flower"

Cantor: Kathleen Wells, soprano choral lead

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 **In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

- 2 **There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

**3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

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RESPONDING TO GOD

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Closing Hymn V. U. 424 “May the God of Hope Go with Us”

Cantor: Kathleen Wells, soprano choral lead
Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

**1 May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Refrain: Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

**2 May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed.**

Refrain sung twice

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Commissioning and Benediction – Rev. Kerri Hagerman & Rev. Linda Maw

Congregational Benediction: “Prayer of Dedication” –Don Besig

Cantor: Bill Price, baritone 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 once again to Rev. Kerri Hagerman, our guest minister this morning. Rev. Kerri was ordained in 2003 and served congregations outside of Winnipeg and in Brampton. In 2012 she received a Master of Theology in Pastoral Studies with a focus on preaching at Emmanuel College in Toronto. Currently, Kerri works for the Peel District School Board as a Resource Teacher supporting Guidance and Career Education through the promotion of apprenticeship in the skilled trades. She has a son and daughter ages 17 and 20 who attend Kingsway-Lambton United Church in Etobicoke.

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Thank you to J.- C. Coolen, Kathleen Wells, Bill Price and our trio: Janet Van Melle, Katrina Desjardins and Albert Conforzi with Donna Conforzi on the piano, for enhancing our worship service with music and song; to Gord Burrell for creating the audio recording, to Rod Lord for his camera and tripod and coordinating Sunday worship by telephone, to Karen Munday for reading the “All” portions of the responsive prayer and for creating the slides of the hymn words and to Don Munday for reading scripture and for creating and producing our audio-visual virtual worship experience.

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Happy Birthday to our St. James family who celebrate their birthday this coming week. We are glad you were born and give God thanks for your lives: Carol Jones August 16, Michael Brereton August 17, Lorna Macdonald August 18, Judy Jones August 19, and Lindy O'Connor August 22. Please note: anyone submitting the names of people celebrating birthdays needs the permission of those individuals first.

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2020 St James Office Summer Hours:

Matty DeCarolis, St James' Office Administrator, will be in the office:

Monday and Tuesday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The rest of the week she will usually be working from home.

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Bloordale U. C. Office will be closed from Aug 17th until Aug 28th opening again on Aug 31st. However, voicemail, email and regular mail will be checked on a daily basis.

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Bloordale U. C. Pastoral Care: Should any pastoral care concerns arise between Aug 10 - 25 inclusive while Rev. Brian McIntosh is on holidays, please contact Rev. Nelsona Dundas (416-620-4098).

For St James and Richview United pastoral care emergencies and concerns please contact Rev Linda Maw (416-620-9508).

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Final Two Joint Summer Services – Aug 23rd and Aug 30th will be virtual services hosted by St James and available to watch Sunday morning via links found at St James' website www.stjamesunitedchurch.com

Our guest ministers will be Rev Kerri Hagerman on the 23rd of August and Rev Debbie Johnson on the 30th of August.

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A change in starting dates. Rev Maya Douglas will be beginning her ministry with St James on Sept. 14th rather than on Sept 1st. This change was initiated by St James' Ministry and Personnel Committee not Rev Maya in order to provide her with some much needed vacation time. Nancy Violo, chair of M & P, will be sending a letter out shortly to explain more fully the rationale behind M & P's decision. Rev Debbie Johnson has agreed to continue as our guest minister for the first two Sundays in Sept. Rev Maya will be in the pulpit beginning on Sept 20th. All services in Sept will be virtual. At the present time the first service that the congregation will be able to attend in person is expected to be Oct. 4th.

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Beirut, Lebanon Explosion - UCC's Emergency Relief Fund. The United Church's Emergency Response Unit is now accepting donations to aid the people of Beirut after the horrific explosion last week. **Up until Aug 25 the Canadian Govt will match donations up to \$5 million.** As usual, your total donation to UCC Relief Fund will go towards emergency response – 85% to present emergency and 15% held for fast response to future emergencies. Donate on-line on the United Church website: united-church.ca/lebanon; by phone: **416-231-5931**; or send a cheque to The United Church of Canada, Philanthropy Unit, Emergency Response, 3259 Bloor St W. Suite 200, Toronto,

ON, M8X2YA. Please be sure to note "Emergency Response—Lebanon" on the face of your cheque.