

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

**SEASON of CREATION – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020**

**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.**

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

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**WE GATHER AND APPROACH GOD**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Karen Munday

**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 God calls all of Creation to gather,

**All: inviting us to worship, each in our own safe spaces.**

One: Spirit God calls to our bodies, offering us hope and healing,

**All: inviting us to embody Love.**

One: Spirit God calls to our spirits,

**All: calling us by name,  
calling us to grow in faith,  
calling us to be made new.**

One: We come to worship in this season of Creation, in body and spirit.

**All: Amen.**

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

Cantor: Renee Fajardo, Alto 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)*

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

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

Precious the fire that lights our way,  
bright dawning day.  
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,  
our faith and justice one.            *(Refrain)*

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**Prayer of Approach**

*(adapted from A Prayer for the Earth, Pope Francis)*

One: Christ's peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Together, let us pray:

**All: We pray in thanksgiving for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted, Brother Sun whose energy radiates life, Sister Water who nurtures and revives us, and for all our relations, the creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called to care and keep. O Creator God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of creatures. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. Amen.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

**Musical Offering**      *A Song We Raise* – Larry Shackley  
 Renee Farjado, mezzo-soprano  
 J.-C. Coolen, piano

**A Time of Wonder**

**Scripture Reading**      Matthew 20.1-16 Karen Munday

Exodus 16.2-15

**Reflection**              “Having Enough” Rev. Maya Douglas

**Sermon Hymn**            **VU 460 *All Who Hunger v.1 & 3***

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

- 1      All who hunger, gather gladly;  
           holy manna is our bread.  
 Come from wilderness and wandering.  
           Here, in truth, we will be fed.  
 You that yearn for days of fullness,  
           all around us is our food.  
 Taste and see the grace eternal.  
           Taste and see that God is good.
- 3      All who hunger, sing together;  
           Jesus Christ is living bread.  
 Come from loneliness and longing.  
           Here, in peace, we have been led.  
 Blest are those who from this table  
           live their lives in gratitude.  
 Taste and see the grace eternal.  
           Taste and see that God is good.

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## RESPONDING TO GOD

**Offertory Prayer** Karen Munday

**Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

**Closing Hymn            VU 575 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me***

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!

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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.

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**A warm welcome to Rev Maya Douglas** who began her ministry with St James just this past Monday!

Montréal native, **Brigid Maya Douglas** recently completed her third year as an ordained minister at Queensville Holland Landing UC located north of Newmarket. She is thrilled to be at St. James UC, which is only a 15-minute drive away (against traffic) from her home of 12 yrs at Coxwell and Danforth!

Maya, as she prefers to be called, is of Taíno (Arawak) Indigenous & African-Jamaican ancestry who uses “she/her” pronouns. Her four children attend Francophone schools in the Upper Beach and on Landsdowne. Sophie Brathwaite (12 yrs) is entering her eighth year as a cellist and her sixth year as a member of the Bach Children’s Chorus (BCC). Olivia (8 yrs) studied violin for two years and is entering her second year as a violist and her fourth year with the BCC. The twins, Matthieu and Phineas (6 yrs), are in their second year as violinists and their first year performing with the BCC.

During their “free time”, the Douglas-Brathwaite family enjoy riding their bikes through the parks and to their local ice cream shop. Their favourite place for special outings is the Distillery District. Maya has a passion for conscious parenting, spiritual embodiment, and dancing. Maya spent the summer “unplugging” after the online learning in the spring and ran a make-shift mommy camp with hands-on activities in the morning while adjusting her work hours to run from noon to late evening. The children often watched documentaries and played games in the afternoons.

Maya enjoys reading and watching movies. Her favourite book is actually... the Bible! She has read it three times, so far. Reflecting theologically on life’s events and issues is what she often does. She enjoys engaging with others in conversation, yet is a true introvert. Maya loves canoeing! She is a Sci-fi and documentary nerd, who also doesn’t mind sitting for hours to knit. That is, if and when she has free time.

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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; Karen Munday for presiding, reading the first scripture lesson this morning and 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:

Allison Tipler September 21, Kathleen Wells September 21, and Aaron Kratt September 24. Please note: anyone submitting the names of people celebrating birthdays needs the permission of those individuals first.

**The Sympathy of the Congregation** is extended to Nancy and Joe Polito and family, on the passing of Joe's mom, Dorothy Margaret (Cira) Polito, on September 4, 2020, at the age of 97. If desired, donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated.

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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](mailto:munday@sympatico.ca) or 416 233 3619.

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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](mailto:jccoolen@sympatico.ca).

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**We are saddened to announce** that Kathleen Wells, our Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist, has decided to retire from this position at the end of 2020. Kathleen has served with great distinction in this role for 43 years, providing sterling leadership to the choirs and moving, memorable musical service to the congregation. We wish her heartfelt best wishes as she moves on to new challenges, opportunities and experiences, and we look forward to celebrating her and her contributions to St James in a formal way later this year--and to her music ministry with us during the remaining months of 2020. Thank you, Kathleen!!

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**We've posted a new episode** in our series of YouTube videos to help introduce new congregational songs, introducing MV 135 Called by Earth and Sky. You can view the full list of 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, directly to the bottom right of the YouTube video window, click on the red Subscribe button, then click on the Notifications bell.

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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.

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## **UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES:**

**St James' Sunday School** will be starting up again this Sunday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, with “Kick off Sunday” by zoom at 1:30 p.m. with a special guest, our new minister, Rev Maya, attending. Please contact Karen at [karen\\_forgrave@hotmail.com](mailto:karen_forgrave@hotmail.com) if you have a child/grandchild from JK to Grade 9 who would like to participate so that Karen 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 is 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](mailto:wcsimone@gmail.com)

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**Epistle Newsletter** – The deadline for submission to the *Epistle* Newsletter is Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at noon. Articles can be dropped off in the *Epistle* mail slot at church, although, due to COVID-19, emailed submissions are preferred. Email submissions can be sent to [sjepistle@yahoo.com](mailto:sjepistle@yahoo.com).

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## **FUTURE SERVICES:**

**On Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**, United Church members across Canada will wear orange shirts to remember and honour Indigenous children who attended Residential Schools. Let's participate in Orange Shirt Day by wearing orange for worship and sending a photo to St. James to create a composite... (instructions on how you want this done LOL). 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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**Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** 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.