

St James United Church

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

www.stjamesunitedchurch.com

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021

10:30 am

*Transfiguration ~ Holy Communion
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 *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* (arr. Calvin Taylor^A)
J.-C. Coolen, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Linda Maw

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

There once was someone... and he said,

"I am the Light of the World."

CALL TO WORSHIP

Look back! Look back with courage!

Face the truth God reveals to you!

Look forward! Look forward with hope!

Look to the future! See possibilities growing from the seeds of lessons learned!

There is NO shame in learning history!

There is NO shame in relearning history!

Let us learn and unlearn history together.

Wisdom is vindicated by all her children.

And, let all God's children proclaim: "So be it!" "Amen!"

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OPENING HYMN *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

VU 104

Cantor: Anna Wojcik, Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 We have come at Christ's own bidding
 to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
 for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
 that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
 for a sign both clear and plain.

- 2 Light breaks in upon our darkness;
 splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;
 Moses and Elijah marvel
 as the heavenly voice is heard.
 Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
 how the Law and Prophets meet:
 Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
 stands transfigured and complete.
- 3 Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
 fearful lest our faith decline,
 we like Peter find it tempting
 to remain and build a shrine.
 But true worship gives us courage
 to proclaim what we profess,
 that our daily lives may prove us
 people of the God we bless.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1988 Hope Publishing Company. Reproduced under One License #A-622413.

A TIME OF WONDER

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

2 Kings 2.1-12

MUSICAL OFFERING

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (arr. Harry T. Burleigh^A)
 Anna Wojcik, soprano
 J.-C. Coolen, piano

GREEK SCRIPTURE

Mark 9.2-9

HOMILY

The Good, The Bad & The Holy

Rev. Maya Douglas

2021 PLEDGES DEDICATION

RESPONDING TO GOD

COMMUNION HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together*

VU 480

Cantor: Anna Wojcik, Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees.

*Refrain: When I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.*

- 2 Let us drink wine together on our knees,
let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain*

- 3 Let us praise God together on our knees,
let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain*

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

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Friends, Jesus invites us to share together at a common table
where the ordinary may become extraordinary.

All are welcome, whether you worship here regularly, or you are new,
or you are just visiting, all are welcome at Christ's Table.

...

As we take the bread which represents Christ's body,
let us recognize the intimacy that God yearns to share with us.

As we drink the cup, which represents Christ's blood,
let us rejoice for the love that God freely gives to all of us.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift up our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed, good to give God thanks and praise,

...

For Nanny of the Maroons, Harriet Tubman, Marcus Garvey, Rosa Parks, the Very Reverend Wilbur Howard, Mary Ann Shadd, Rosemary Brown and Lincoln Alexander we give you thanks...

For the many ways you make manifest your glory:
guiding us in the way of the pilgrim, gifting the earth with the Prince of Peace,
setting a table for all who hunger, providing a cup that overflows...

We give you thanks by singing your praise:

**O holy, holy, holy God,
O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n,
creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes
and bears your name always!**

MV 203

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Gracious God, as we come to this table,
we remember especially all those grace-filled meals
which make of this simple food, a time-honoured feast:

...

We remember cassava and breadfruit, dumpling and festival;
sustenance shared from scraps left behind.

We give you thanks for the gift of the sacrament of Communion,
as we remember that ...

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread,

gave thanks to God, broke it and gave it to his friends, saying:

“Take, eat; this is my body, given for you.

Each time you do this, remember me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
passed it among them, saying:

“Drink this all of you; this is my blood, a new covenant.

Do this to remember me.”

Remembering your boundless love for us, we offer you, O God,
our praise as we proclaim the great mystery of faith:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

MV 204

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

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...

As we remember all with whom we would share your feast.

We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain...

all who are ill or alone...

all who live with fear, oppression and hunger...

all whose lives have been blighted by violence,
racism or poverty...

for all whom the world counts as last and least...

We pray for our families and friends...

We pray for this church and its varied ministries...

for nations as they strive for peace and justice...

for the Earth, and the fragile web of life we share...

We pray, joining our voices in the prayer of Jesus, your Son...

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.**

And knowing that you hear our prayers, we sing:

**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!**

VU 958

Words: Caribbean^(A) traditional. Public Domain.

The gifts of God for all people.
 This is an open table. All are welcome.
 At this table all are fed and no-one turned away.
 At this table all share the cup and no one is denied.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**O God, we are glad to be your people!
 You have blessed us and fed us,
 you have united us and given us hope in fellowship.
 Help us to be transformed in your Light and in your Darkness.
 Help us to do your work of love, peace, and reconciliation.**

**As you have called us to be one in relationship, we pray.
Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *Lift Every Voice and Sing*
Cantor: Anna Wojcik, Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist
Piano: 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^A. alt. 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 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* (arr. Calvin Taylor^A) 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

Nicholas Gryniewski, Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Scholar

Rev. Linda Maw, Presider

Anna Wojcik, Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist

We are also thankful for those serving as tech support:

Gord Burrell, Dawn Freeman, Lisa Hall, Jordan Li, Don Munday, Karen Munday.

* * * * *

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:

Jack & Beth McElroy, Ryan and Jonathan; Bill & Anne McIlroy; June McKain; Bruce & Carmen McKerracher, Lesley and Ashley; Cath McNaughton; Alice McTavish; Leander Mendoza; Bill Merryweather; David & Susan Meyler, Emma; Jean Michaud; Cliff & Wendy Miller; Todd & Dina Miller, Jacquie and Ross; Gwen Mills.

We join in prayer for healing and transformation with:

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

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THIS WEEK: Ash Wednesday, February 17

Scripture Readings: Psalm 51.1-17; Joel 2.1-2, 12-17; Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10.

NEXT WEEK: Lent 1 Sunday, February 21

Scripture Readings: Psalm 25.1-10; Genesis 9.8-17; Mark 1.9-15; 1 Peter 3.18-22.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Office will be CLOSED on Monday, February 15 for the Family Day holiday.

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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!!!

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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: Karen

Taylor February 9, Joanne Atkins February 13, Carol Willard February 14, Marion McDougall February 15, Ardith Grant February 16, Joe Belowus February 19, Cath McNaughton February 19, Shayan Manouchehri February 20. 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 at 12:30 p.m. on Sundays 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=S1lJakFPSnM5UEEx1UWVUNHI5MktSUT09Using>

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, 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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Our Bible Study group meets Mondays via ZOOM 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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2021 Donation Tax Receipts are available for pick up from the office until Friday, February 19, 2021 during regular office hours (9 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. each day). Any receipts not picked up by Friday, February 19, 2021 will be mailed.

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.

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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.

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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 this Sunday, we'll be congregationally singing Lift Every Voice and Sing. You can find a video of Renee Fajardo introducing this hymn at

<https://youtu.be/oDKpWoGJWUM?t=1486>

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

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.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Save the date! Tuesday, February 16th is Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Day! We will be joining online together at 7pm to "share pancakes" (dinner/dessert, depending on your preference!). We will have a chance to chat with each other, as if at "Table Groups" in Fellowship Hall.

Topic: St. James' Pancake Supper

Time: Feb 16, 2021 07:00 PM America/Toronto

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87378295057?pwd=Rm1FRGJ2V3VjYXluUWwzMU1CZ01FQT09>

Meeting ID: 873 7829 5057

Passcode: 621267

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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".

1 - Wed. Feb 17 7pm-8pm Brené Brown *"The power of vulnerability"*

Dr. Brené Brown is a storyteller and vulnerability researcher. She studies human connection... our ability to empathize, belong, love. In a poignant, funny talk, she shares a deep insight from her research, one that sent her on a personal quest to know herself as well as to understand humanity. This is a very well known TED Talk. Perfect for an Ash Wednesday at home with friends.

- 2 - Mon. Feb 22 7pm-8pm Tyler Cowan *"Be suspicious of simple stories"*
 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=NEcvYWZTRjlmOGF3K0p4NUNQZ0JlOQZ09>

Meeting ID: 825 8969 9778

Passcode: 378504

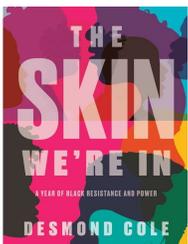
Dial by your location

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

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We 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

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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.

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FUTURE SERVICES:

Sunday, February 21 is Ash Sunday & Lent 1. The Unified Board will meet over Zoom after the service at 1 pm. (Note: If you are on a church committee you are a member of the Unified Board. You are needed to make quorum so that motions can be passed.)

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.

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