

St James United Church

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

www.stjamesunitedchurch.com

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021

10:30 am

Third Sunday of Lent

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.

Reflection Questions: "How is your prayer life?"

"In what ways do you speak with God every day?"

WE GATHER AND APPROACH GOD

**Bold indicates words said by All*

PRELUDE

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee (arr. Vicki Collinsworth)
J.-C. Coolen, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Wilson

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

There once was someone, who said... and he said,

"I am the Light of the World."

CALL TO WORSHIP

David Sparks

Into our comfortable ways, O God,
breathe vigorous reflection.

Into our ordered ways, O God,
breathe lively innovation.

Into our worldly ways, O God,
breathe hints of holiness.

Into our self-seeking ways, O God,
**breathe the notion of sacrifice, that we may
 walk the Lenten walk with Jesus,
 calmly, purposefully, and without fear. Amen.**

Written by David Sparks. Prayers to Share, Year B: Responsive Prayers for Each Sunday of the Church Year, 2006.

Use of prayers in congregations for worship is encouraged; no permission required for such a purpose.

OPENING HYMN *Jesus Christ Is Waiting*

VU 117

Cantor: Anna Wojcik, Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist

v. 1, 2, 3, 5

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
 no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
 Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
 Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.
- 2 Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
 where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
 Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
 In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.
- 3 Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
 curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
 Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.
 Let my care be active, healing just like you.
- 5 Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
 'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.'

Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

Words: John L. Bell. © 1988 WGRG, The Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Reproduced under One License #A-622413.

A TIME OF WONDER

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God*;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

**There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard:**

**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.

**The law of the LORD* is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.
Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

**But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**

shed within its walls alway.

3 Here bestow on all your servants
 what they ask of you to gain,
 what they gain from you for ever
 with the blessed to retain,
 and hereafter in your glory
 evermore with you to reign.

4 Laud and honour to the Father,
 laud and honour to the Son,
 laud and honour to the Spirit,
 ever three and ever one,
 one in might, and one in glory,
 while unending ages run.

Words: Latin 7th century; trans. John Mason Neale. Public Domain.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

CLOSING HYMN *O God, How We Have Wandered***VU 112**

Cantor: Anna Wojcik, Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 O God, how we have wandered
 and hidden from your face;
 in foolishness have squandered
 your legacy of grace.
 But how, in exile dwelling,
 we turn with fear and shame,
 as distant but compelling,
 you call us each by name.
- 2 And now at length discerning
 the evil that we do,
 by faith we are returning
 with hope and trust in you.
 In haste you come to meet us,
 and home rejoicing bring,
 in gladness there to greet us
 with calf and robe and ring.
- 3 O God of all the living,
 both banished and restored,
 compassionate, forgiving,
 our peace and hope assured.
 Grant now that our transgressing,
 our faithlessness may cease.
 Stretch out your hand in blessing,
 in pardon, and in peace.

Words: Kevin Nichols, alt. © 1981 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING *Prayer of Dedication* (Don Besig/Nancy Price)

Cantor: Nicholas Gryniewski, Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Scholar

Descant: Anna Wojcik, 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.

Words: Nancy Price and Don Besig. © 1991 Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

Reproduced under One License #A-622413.

POSTLUDE *Psalm 19* (Benedetto Marcello, arr. John Carter)
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

Nicholas Gryniewski, Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Scholar

Randy Wilson, Presider

Anna Wojcik, Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist

We are also thankful for those serving as tech support:

Gord Burrell, 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:

Nancy & Joe Polito; Judy & Byron Porchuk; Muriel Porteous; Bill Price; Mark & Deborah Purvis; Mary Reid; Peter & Liz Richards, Carly and Holly; Leonard & Doris Richardson; Ingrid Robinson; Luba Romanow; Celia Royce; Lorraine Savage; Paul & Kathy Scott.

We join in prayer for healing and transformation with:

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

* * * * *

NEXT WEEK: Lent 4 Sunday, March 14 ~ PIE Sunday

Scripture Readings: Psalm 107.1-3, 17-22; Numbers 21.4-9; John 3.14-21; Ephesians 2.1-10.

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: Ushika Deka March 7, Christine Paley March 8, and Greg Waterman March 10. Please note: anyone submitting the names of people celebrating birthdays needs the permission of those individuals first.

* * * * *

St. James' Annual General Meeting will be held over Zoom after church today, Sunday, March 7, at 1 p.m. The 2020 Annual Report was sent out electronically. Paper copies were made available at the church office as of Monday, March 1.

Zoom details are as follow:

Topic: St James AGM Mar 7/21

Time: Mar 7, 2021 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

NOTE: admittance will start at 12:45PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4590737230?pwd=akh3dIV6QkRuY1JDeEpBbzBxaEdEZz09>

Meeting ID: 459 073 7230; Passcode: 357912; Call in number: +1 647 374 4685 Canada

The Worship Service Coffee Hour has been cancelled due to the AGM this Sunday.

* * * * *

Sunday, March 7, Sunday School will be at 4:15 p.m., due to the 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 so that she can be sure that you are included in the mailing list, and she can send you the Zoom Link.

* * * * *

Easter plants can be purchased in memoriam throughout the month of March. These will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, then distributed to those on the Pastoral Care List.

To contribute please:

Put \$10 in an envelope with the name of the person you wish to remember, and your own name.

Mail it or put it through the front door slot of the church or leave it in the office



OR

Etransfer \$10 to stjames_uc@rogers.com.

Please include the name you are memorializing in the message, along with your name.

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *

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!

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

Chetan Bhatt is a sociologist and human rights activist. He teaches and writes about the numerous dangers human rights face today from resurgent Far Right movements.

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=NEcvYWZTRjlmOGF3K0p4NUNOZ0JlOQ09>

Meeting ID: 825 8969 9778

Passcode: 378504

Dial by your location +1 647 374 4685 Canada +1 647 558 0588 Canada

* * * * *

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, Barrie, 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

* * * * *

FUTURE SERVICES:

March 14, 2021 is **PIE Day** or National Affirming Day in the United Church of Canada! It is a day (3.14 π 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.

* * * * *