

St. James United Church  
400 Burnhamthorpe Road, Etobicoke M9B 2A8 416-622-4113  
[www.stjamesunitedchurch.com](http://www.stjamesunitedchurch.com)  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/StJamesEtobicoke>

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024  
10:30 am

*Easter 5*

**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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**WE GATHER AND APPROACH GOD**

**Bold** indicates words said by **All**

❖ Indicates when one may stand in body or spirit

**PRELUDE**      ***Spring Comes Early*** (Mark Hayes)  
J.-C. Coolen, piano

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**      Alex Grant-Henderson

**CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING**

I light this candle for ...

**I am a child of God.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

❖ **OPENING HYMN**      ***O for a World***      **VU 697**

1      O for a world where everyone  
respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done  
with justice and with praise.

- 2 O for a world where goods are shared  
and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared,  
equality achieved.
- 3 We welcome one world family  
and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity  
and gives our vision voice.
- 4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong,  
the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,  
who perishes will rise.
- 5 O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more,  
and all but love will cease.

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### **OPENING PRAYER**

God is Holy Mystery,  
beyond complete knowledge,  
above perfect description.  
Yet,  
in love,  
the one eternal God seeks relationship.

**So God creates the universe**

**and with it the possibility of being and relating.**

**God tends the universe,**

**mending the broken and reconciling the estranged.**

**God enlivens the universe,**

**guiding all things toward harmony with their Source.**

Grateful for God's loving action,  
We cannot keep from singing.  
With the Church through the ages,  
we speak of God as one and triune:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**We also speak of God as  
 Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer  
 God, Christ, and Spirit  
 Mother, Friend, and Comforter  
 Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,  
 and in other ways that speak faithfully of  
 the One on whom our hearts rely,  
 the fully shared life at the heart of the universe.**

A Song of Faith, The United Church of Canada

**CHILDREN'S HYMN**

***Come, Children, Join to Sing***

**VU 345  
*verse 1***

- 1 Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!  
 Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!  
     Let all with heart and voice,  
     saved by God's gracious choice,  
 now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!

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**TIME WITH THE YOUNGER GENERATION**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

***Come, Children, Join to Sing***

**VU 345  
*verse 3***

- 3 Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!  
 Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!  
     The whole creation o'er  
     let all God's love adore,  
 singing for evermore: Hallelujah!

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**CHORAL ANTHEM**

***You Are the Vine*** (Joseph M. Martin)  
 Senior Choir

*(This anthem was donated to the Senior Choir in Loving Memory of  
 Don Cay & Don & Anne Jowett by Lillian Cay)*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

John 15:1-8

**FAITH TALK*****Being in Community***Gord Burrell & Gwen Mills,  
Transition Team Members**RESPONDING TO GOD****❖HYMN OF RESPONSE*****Spirit, Open My Heart*****MV 79**

*Refrain: Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.*

- 1 God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender. R
- 2 Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory. R
- 3 May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another. R

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**CALL FOR OFFERING****OFFERTORY ANTHEM*****I Am Love*** (Joseph M. Martin)  
Chancel Choir**❖OFFERTORY RESPONSE*****We Praise You, O God*****VU 218*****vs. 1***

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

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❖ **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**PASTORAL PRAYER & THE PRAYER OF JESUS**

❖ **CLOSING HYMN**

*Walk with Me*

**VU 649**

*Refrain: Walk with me, I will walk with you  
and build the land that God has planned  
where love shines through.*

- 1 When Moses heard the call of God  
he said, 'Lord, don't send me.'  
But God told Moses, 'You're the one  
to set my people free.' R
- 2 Now Peter was a most unlikely  
man to lead the flock;  
but Jesus knew his holiness  
and he became the Rock. R
- 3 Young Mary Magdalene was sure  
her life could be much more,  
and by her faith she dared to let  
God's love unlock the door. R
- 4 And when you share your faith with me  
and work for life made new,  
the witness of your faithfulness  
calls me to walk with you. R

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❖ **BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

❖ **CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING**

*Go, Make a Difference*

**MV 209**

*Refrain: Go make a difference.  
We can make a difference.  
Go make a difference in the world.*

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**POSTLUDE**      ***Sing Praise to God*** (arr. Faye López)

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Giving leadership in today's service:

Gord Burrell & Gwen Mills, Members of the Transition Team

Rev. Richard C. Choe, Intentional Interim Minister

J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

Alison Haines, Soprano Choral Lead/Soloist Supply

Lauren Halasz, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist

Lowell Selorio, Tenor Choral Lead/Soloist Supply

Bill Price, Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Emeritus

St. James Senior Choir

St. James Chancel Choir

Mhairi Godley, Presider

We are also thankful for those serving as tech support:

Andrew Paley, Mary Paras.

God bless our greeters: Eileen McAuley and Shayan Manouchehri, and our usher captain: Tony Gray and usher team: James Ankrah, Regina Ankrah, Eileen McAuley, Shayan Manouchehri, as well as those providing hospitality after the service.

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**FUTURE SERVICES:**

**Sunday, May 5 – Sixth Sunday after Easter, Anniversary Sunday, Covenanting Sunday**

Scripture Reading: John 15:9-17

Sermon Title: "What Do We Do Now?"

Preacher: Rev. Pegi Ridout

**Sunday, May 12 – Seventh Sunday after Easter, Mother's Day**

Scripture Reading: John 17:6-19

Preacher: Rev. Richard C. Choe

**Sunday, May 19 – Pentecost Communion**

Scripture Reading: John 17:6-19

Preacher: Rev. Richard C. Choe

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES**

- Monday      Reiki at 1pm - 3pm in Well Being Room, Sign-up in the binder or call Matty at 416-622-4113 to book.
- Tuesday     Reiki at 7 pm in Well Being Room, Sign-up in the binder or call Matty at 416-622-4113 to book.
- Thursday    Senior Choir at 7:15pm in Sanctuary  
Chancel Choir at 9:00pm in Sanctuary  
For more information, contact J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister, at (905) 683-5757 or [jccoolen@sympatico.ca](mailto:jccoolen@sympatico.ca)
- Friday       Family Games Night at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***Interim Ministry goals:***

This was the motion passed at the Annual General Meeting on March 3, 2024.

1. *Fostering the growth of the four pillars of St. James (music, wellness, social justice and Sunday School) for the healing of our church community and our neighbours.*
2. *Re-establishing and re-defining the identify of St. James*
3. *Membership increase & financial stability*

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The representatives of the M&P, Transition Team, and the choir met on April 24 to discuss Music Director's Search. The group was able to find a common ground through the first meeting.

A Search Committee will be formed shortly with the following criteria.

- 1 from Transition Team
- 1 from M&P
- 2 from Choir
- 2 from Congregation
- 1 from Worship & Music.

More information to follow after the second meeting of the group.

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**Junior-Youth Choir** continues rehearsals this Sunday for a special project, singing in worship on Sunday, June 9. We will rehearse for 30 minutes after

worship on Sunday mornings, April 28, May 26 and June 2, with a final warm-up rehearsal just before worship on June 9. If you or your child are unable to attend all the rehearsals but can still attend most of them, we would still love it if you came out to sing. For more information please contact Lauren Halasz at [laurenhalasz@gmail.com](mailto:laurenhalasz@gmail.com) or come to speak with Lauren following Worship.

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A **Reiki II training** event this weekend is happening in the St. James lounge. This course will teach people how to heal themselves and others using a photograph. Rev. Coral Prebble is leading this class with 12 students registered and about 25 trained volunteers coming in support.

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If you gave a donation by cheque on March 24<sup>th</sup> of approximately \$200, please contact the Church office to let us know how to allocate it. Thank you!

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**Tickets for the much anticipated St James Choir fundraiser, SOUNDS OF SPRING, will be on sale today after the service!** Cost is \$35 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under and this includes a delicious catered lunch, followed by a concert of pop, movie and Broadway tunes. Sunday, May 5th, 12:00 pm. You won't want to miss this joyful afternoon! If you have been moved by the exceptional music here at St James, we hope that you might consider making a special contribution, a Love Gift, in appreciation and thanksgiving. At the concert, we will have a special basket for your cash and cheque love gifts, but you don't need to wait until May 5th! Consider an e-transfer.

stjames\_uc@rogers.com. Use the security question: fundraiser and then password/answer: choir.

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### **SAVE THE DATE AND HELP SPREAD THE WORD**

St. James will be hosting a mobile Shredding event on May 25, 2024 between 10 AM and 1 PM. We are hoping you can help spread the word by posting one of the event posters in your building or at a favourite shop. We will be looking for volunteers who can help out the day of the event and a sign-up sheet will be available in the office shortly. POSTERS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

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### **It's Time To Have Some Fun!**

Car Treasure Hunt

May 26th after church

There will be a sign up sheet closer to the time.

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**Lighting The Christ Candle:** If you would like to participate in worship by lighting the Christ Candle please speak to Rev. Richard C. Choe or Matty in the church office at 416-622-4113 or at [stjames\\_uc@rogers.com](mailto:stjames_uc@rogers.com). Thank you.

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**Our new fundraising campaign is Faith for the Future.** To April 24th, over **\$13,500** has been contributed! These funds will offset the projected 2024 operating deficit of over \$83,000 and save funds for a major heating repair. Our target is \$100,000. For details on how to donate, please pick-up the flyer on the hall table or in the office.

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**Bronze Foundation Academy** (J.-C. Coolen, director), Greater Toronto's intermediate, lightly auditioned handbell ensemble, presents an informal performance to share music they've been working on over the past few months. BFA is joined in this performance by guest performers heather nicholson, handbell soloist, and J.-C. Coolen, pianist. The performance takes place on Tuesday, May 7, at 7:30pm, in Bethel Chapel of Vaughan Community Church, 200 Racco Parkway (Dufferin and Hwy 407), Thornhill. Admission is pay what you can (suggested donation \$15). Please join us for this intimate evening of handbell music!

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**TruEarth Fundraiser** - Earn commission for St. James. Earth-friendly products, with Free delivery anywhere in Canada. Discount prices for YOU, as well as 25% for the church! April 12-25<sup>th</sup>. Here is your fundraising link to share <http://tru-earth.sjv.io/stjamesunitedchurch>

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<https://www.facebook.com/stjamesetobicoke/>