

St. James United Church

August 31st, 2014

Twelfth after Pentecost

Minister: Rev. Terrie Burry
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Organist: Mian Chen
Soloist: Joel Le Feuvre

**Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.
Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.**

Musical Prelude

Welcome and Life and Work of St. James

Entry into the Celebration

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer: (responsive)

One: We are awakened from a week of work and worry, to a morning of fresh beginnings and new horizons.

All: For this day of rest we give thanks and praise.

One: We are awakened from a night of tossing and turning to a day of surprises and sanctuary.

All: For this day of peace we give thanks and praise.

One: We are awakened from the mundane and ordinary by an invitation for search and celebration.

All: For this time of celebration we give thanks and praise.

One: This is the day that we are given.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: This is a day like no other!

**All: For senses awakened we give thanks and praise. Blessed be!
Amen.**

Hymn: *This is the Day* 412

Children and Youth

Hymn: *We look in Wonder (Tune: 'All Creatures of Our God and King', #217)*

When we, in wonder, look beyond; and with the cosmos feel a bond;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

When we, in wonder, sleep and dream; imagine virtue is supreme;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

When we, in wonder, look around; entranced with every sight and sound;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

When we, in wonder, catch a smile; ponder on thoughts that are worthwhile;

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

When we, in wonder, look below; watch tiny ants run to and fro;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

When we, in wonder, greet the dawn, enchanted as each day is born;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

When we, in wonder, meet the night; then rest in God 'till morning light;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

When we, in wonder, look about; know God is here. We wish to shout
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (*G. Stuart*)

Offering Invitation

Organ Offertory

Offertory Hymn: *Spirit of Life* 381

Offertory Prayer: (together)

Let the world be changed, let the rules be changed. Let there be a place for everyone.

Bring God's realm near, let all be welcome here,
And may there be for all a just share. Amen.

Silence

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Scripture: Exodus 3: 1-15
Moses encounters the burning bush.

Solo: *Every Promise of Your Word*

Gospel: Matthew 16: 21-27
Take up the cross and follow Me.

Hymn: *Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* 563

Meditation

Prayer

The 'Abba' Prayer: *You are invited to pray in the spirit of the Lord's Prayer*
O God, You love us like a good parent, and are present in every aspect of our existence.

May Your nature become known and respected by all.

May Your joy, peace, wholeness and justice be the reality for everyone as we live by the Jesus Way.

Give us all that we really need to live every day for you,

And forgive us our failures as we forgive others for their failures

Keep us from doing those things which are not of You,

and cause us always to be centred on Your love,

For You are the true reality in this our now, and in all our future.

In the Jesus Way we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn: *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

I have decided to follow Jesus, (3x)

No turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me still I will follow,(3x)

No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the Cross before me,(3x)

No turning back, no turning back.

Will you decide now, to follow Jesus? (3x)

No turning back, no turning back.

Words of Mission

One: Walk with us as we move out from our security.

Motivate us to take risks like Jesus.

Reassure and recommit us to a life of service.

All: With no strings attached, where we will live for justice and peace.

Blessing Words and Musical Postlude