

# St. James United Church

May 15, 2016/Pentecost Sunday

Minister: Rev. Terrie Jackson  
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald  
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM  
Guest Speaker: Dr. John Dominic Crossan  
Musicians: Sight Restored  
Liturgical Dancers: St. James Junior Dancers

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

**Prelude:** *Chasing Cars by Snow Patrol* Liturgical Dancers

**Welcome to all our visitors worshipping with us on this special occasion.**  
**Life and Work of St. James**



## Sharing The Peace:

One: Let us greet another as a sign of God's peace.

The peace of God is here.....to stay.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.*

## Call To Worship: (responsive)

One: Come, from every corner of the earth, from every time and place,

**All: gather,**

One: from south and north, from east and west,

**All: gather,**

One: for the Spirit of God is being poured out upon us even now in this place,

**All: gather,**

One: upon the young and the old, the women and the men, straight and gay,

**All: upon each of us here.**

**Opening Prayer:** (together) We come from different places to this sacred place of communal caring and celebration. In the time which we now share, may we be open to the creative spirit of kindness and compassion. And may we be enriched by the company of each other, and drawn closer to the heart of life. Amen.

**Hymn:** *Spirit, Open My Heart* MV79

## Children's Time

**Hymn:** *Spirit, Be our Breath of Life* Tune: Michael, Row the Boat Ashore  
Verse 1: *Spirit, be our Breath of Life, Alleluia!* (sing twice)  
2. *Spirit, be our wind of change, Alleluia!* (sing twice)  
3. *Spirit, help us share our gifts, Alleluia!* (sing twice)  
4. *Spirit, help us live God's love, Alleluia!* (sing twice)

## Offertory Invitation

**Musical Offering:** *She Comes Sailing on the Wind* Sight Restored (380)

**Offertory Hymn:** *Spirit of Life* 381

**Offertory Prayer** (together) Holy Spirit of God, we symbolically dedicate our lives through the dedication of our gifts. We ask for Your bold winds to magnify and multiply our tangible gifts to further Your work of liberation, justice, and charity here and around the world. Amen.

## Scripture Readings

**Old Testament:** Genesis 11: 1-8

**New Testament:** Acts 2: 1-13

**Hymn:** *There's a Spirit in the Air* 582

**Meditation:** "The Holiness of the Spirit" Dr. Crossan

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Closing Hymn:** *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* 375

## Parting Words:

One: Go out and live as citizens of God's realm.

**All: Into God's hands, we commit our spirits.**

One: You are a chosen people. Through you, the family of faith may grow.

**All: Others will know they are God's own through us.**

One: Be empowered as you tell of the wonderful deeds of God in your life.

**All: We will share the love we have received, with others.**

## Words of Blessing

**Sung Benediction:** *As You Go Now* Sight Restored



**John Dominic Crossan** was born in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland, in 1934. He was educated in Ireland and the United States, received a Doctorate of Divinity from Maynooth College, Ireland, in 1959, and did post-doctoral research at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome from 1959 to 1961 and at the École Biblique in Jerusalem from 1965 to 1967. He was a member of a thirteenth-century Roman Catholic religious order, the Servites (*Ordo Servorum Mariae*), from 1950 to 1969 and an ordained priest from 1957 to 1969. He joined DePaul University, Chicago, in 1969 and remained there until 1995. He is now a Professor Emeritus in its Department of Religious Studies.

He was Co-Chair of the Jesus Seminar from 1985 to 1996 as it met in twice-annual meetings to debate the historicity of the life of Jesus in the gospels. He has received awards for scholarly excellence from the American Academy of Religion in 1989, DePaul University in 1991 and 1995, and an honorary doctorate from Stetson University, DeLand, FL, in 2003.

He has lectured to lay and scholarly audiences around the world. He has been interviewed on numerous radio and television networks in England and North America. He has written twenty-seven books on the historical Jesus, the apostle Paul, and earliest Christianity, and his work has been translated into thirteen foreign languages, including Polish, Hungarian, Russian, as well as Korean, Chinese, and Japanese.

Five of those books have been national religious bestsellers for a combined total of twenty-four months. The scholarly core of his work is the trilogy from *The Historical Jesus: The Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant* (1991) through *The Birth of Christianity: Discovering What Happened in the Years Immediately After the Execution of Jesus* (1998), to *In Search of Paul: How Jesus's Apostle Opposed Rome's Empire with God's Kingdom*, co-authored with the archaeologist Jonathan L. Reed (2004).

Along with Marcus Borg, he has co-authored a series of books: *The Last Week: A Day by Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem* (2006); *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach about the Birth of Jesus* (2007); and *The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon* (2009).

His most recent book is *How to Read the Bible and Still Be a Christian: Struggling with Divine Violence from Genesis through Revelation* (Harper One, 2015)