

# St. James United Church

October 23, 2016/23<sup>rd</sup> after Pentecost

Minister of Visitation: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald  
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM  
Choir: Senior  
Choir Director: Emma Clark  
Organist: Ashley Ruby

**Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.**

**Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.**

## Musical Prelude

## Acknowledgement of land and people

## Welcome and Life and Work of St. James

## Lighting the Community Candle/Entry into the Celebration

**Introit:** *Lord, I want to be a Christian*



Choir

## Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: We live our days striving to keep the faith.

**All: At times, we feel we are running a great race – trying to find God by moving faster and stronger.**

One: At other times, life feels more like a battle – a fight to be won in order to be right with our God.

**All: What we long for is to draw near to our God in righteousness.**

One: Come, people of God, let us slow our running and turn away from the fights;

**All: let us recognize that, right here and right now, our God stands by us, giving us strength, ready to rescue us from our own wandering ways – there is nowhere else we need to go and nothing we need to achieve.**

One: Come, beloved of God, let us receive the crown of blessing as we worship, giving God thanks and glory!

**All: Come. As we strive to keep the faith let us very simply worship our loving God.**

**Opening Prayer:** (together) Empty us, O God, of all that would keep us from being present in this time of worship. Pour out upon us, O God, Your spirit of patience and humility that we might receive what You have to give us in this time of worship. Fill us, O God, with Your love, Your compassion, Your grace, that in this time of worship and beyond we might know You in those around us. Amen.

## Sharing The Peace:

One: The peace of God is here... to stay (*Iona*).

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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

**Hymn:** *Be Thou My Vision* 642

## Children's Time

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

## Offering Invitation

## Offering

**Offertory Hymn:** *As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought, v. 1* 518

**Offering Dedication:** (together) As we give, raise us up. As we give, bring us to unity with others. In this offering, discover our humble desire to be in communion with one another. May the resources we share here be transformative in this world, and express our thanksgiving, rather than our pride; our strength, rather than our shame. Bless these gifts, we pray. Amen.

## Silence

## Scripture Readings

**Hebrew Scripture:** Joel 2: 23-32

**Anthem:** *The Prayer* (Sager and Foster) Choir

**Gospel:** Luke 18:9-14

**Hymn:** *Healer of Our Every Ill* 619

## Meditation

**Prayers of the People:** (together) We have said, "Thank You that we are not like them." Today we pray instead for understanding, loving God. Help us to look upon any *them* in our world, and see our other half, our sisters and brothers, and ourselves. Help us to listen to *them* and discover how our lives are inextricably connected. And when we discover, through mutual care and attention, that what *they* experience may have been impacted by how *we* live, help us to change and be part of the healing. Be with us, be next to us, and help us run a good race. Be with those of our world who wield power by their position, wealth, or privilege.

Open eyes and hearts to any kneeling in humble supplication for want of food, shelter, safety, and peace. Quiet voices long enough for the hurting of Your children and the pain of Your suffering planet to be heard. Soften hearts to discover the call to compassionate change. Teach us, Holy One, how to be Your people as equals on the journey. Show us how to lift up the oppressed and invite the proud and lofty to sit beside us in peace. And hear us as we pray, as Jesus taught us to pray, to You whom we have experienced as the strength by our side in seas raging and calm, as a gateway to the morning, and even as our Mother and Our Father..... Amen.

**Hymn** *Give Thanks for Life* 706

**Parting Words:**

One: We receive fragments of holiness, glimpses of eternity, brief moments of insight.

**All: Let us gather them up for the precious gifts that they are and, renewed by their grace, move boldly into the unknown.**

**Blessing**

**Musical Postlude**

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**Ushering this week is provided by:**

**Usher in Charge:** Kim Mayo

**Greeters:** Brad & Pam Hollett

**Ushers:** Lauren and Alexander Hollett, Gerry, Katelyn and Laura Mayo



Help Us to Help You

<input type="checkbox"/> We have sickness in our family	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like a call from a Minister	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive The Visitor
<input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in PAR, envelopes	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to discuss full membership	<input type="checkbox"/> I have changed my address

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

