

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
cherished parents, Roma & Eric Paul,
with thanks & gratitude for their guidance and their love,
from Nancy and Anthony.

St. James United Church

October 9, 2016/Thanksgiving Sunday

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.

Thanksgiving

Give thanks for the world, for the beauty of the earth, for the wonder of human existence, for the gift of life. Give thanks for each person you know, those you love and those you find difficult to love. Open your eyes to the beauty and wonder of every person – and be thankful. Br. David Vryhof

Musical Prelude

Acknowledge of Land

Welcome and Life and Work of St. James

Lighting of the Community Candle

Introit: *O God of All the Many Lands*

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.

Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: Come, you thankful people, come.

All: We gratefully gather.

One: Come, you whose thankfulness is not yet full.

All: We gratefully gather.

One: Come, you who are heartsick this day.

All: We gratefully gather.

One: Come, you bursting with excitement and energy.

All: We gratefully gather.

One: Come, you smiling, hope-filled people.

All: We gratefully gather.

One: Come, everyone into the deep presence of God.

Come and let thankfulness rise!

Opening Prayer: (together) Great God, Giver of the harvest, Source of creation and growth, we turn to You in the midst of the work of gathering in Your bounty, in the midst of enjoying the beauty of this special and colourful season, to offer thanks for our many blessings. Make this hour of worship a special blessing, we pray, and touch us deeply with Your presence as we stand together in Your love, Your mercy, and Your grace. Amen.

Hymn: *We Plough the Fields* 520

Children's Time

Hymn: *Praise God for the Harvest* 517

Offering Invitation

Offering

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

Offering Dedication: (together) When we plant a seed, O God, we trust that something life-giving is going on in the dirt, even if we can't see it. Bless what we plant today, and what has already been given through PAR, with your abundance. Amen.

Silence

Scripture Readings

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7

Reflection

Anthem: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* (arr. Drummond Wolf) Choir

Gospel: Luke 17: 11-19

Reflection

Hymn: *Now Thank We All Our God* 236



Choir

Prayers of the people: (together) We give thanks for water, refreshing, cleansing, and we pray for those who have no running water. We give thanks for electricity to make our morning tea and coffee, for the refrigerator, the hairdryer, and pray for the coffee farmers, for fair trade, for those with no electricity. As we drop trash into the bin and go to the dumpster, we pray for those who seek food in dumpsters, or hide in them to keep warm. As we give our pets water and food, we delight in their presence and pray for animals who are neglected, whose habitat is being destroyed. As we inhale the beauty of the morning air and trees, we pray for the places of deforestation. As we get in our cars, we give thanks for transportation, and pray for those who walk, for injustices in our world created around oil. As we drive to work, we give thanks that we have work, and pray for the unemployed.

We take the call from the doctor's office, telling us the test was just fine, and we pray for those whose results are not just fine, and those who have no access to medical care, or no health insurance. We give thanks for friends who visit, sharing a simple meal, and pray for the friendless and those who always eat alone. As we go to bed, we give thanks for rest, for a place called home, and we pray for those who live in shelters, whose homes are destroyed by war, violence and natural disasters. And we give thanks for another Ordinary Day. Our Father.....

Closing Hymn: *Bringing in the Sheaves*
Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Refrain: (sing twice)
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves;

Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;
By and by the harvest, and the labor ended,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master,
Though the loss sustained our spirit often grieves;
When our weeping's over, He will bid us welcome,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Parting words, followed by Blessing and Musical Postlude.