

St. James United Church

March 12/Lent 2/Communion

Minister: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Acting Minister of Visitation: Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray
Choir: Youth
Organist & Choir Director: Doreen Brown

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

Introit: *We Come to Ask Your Forgiveness*

Choir

Lighting of the Community Candle

Passing the Peace

You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.

Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: For God so loved the world....

All: that God created it, and us!

One: For God so loved the world....

All: that God gave us Jesus, the Christ.

One: For God so loved the world....

All: that God does not condemn, but heals; does not destroy, but saves.

One: for God so loves the world, now and always.

All: Let us worship our God, who loves us, and loves all.

Opening Prayer: (together) As You open Your heart, to us, O God, help us to open ourselves to You, to empty ourselves of the siren call of material things and worldly affairs, to seek Your Spirit within us in honesty and love, and through Jesus, our Savior and Friend. Amen.

Hymn: *Softly and Tenderly*

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;

See, on the portals He's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Chorus: Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home;

Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not His mercies, mercies for you and for me?

*Time is now fleeting; the moments are passing, passing from you and from me;
Shadows are gathering, death-beds are coming, coming for you and for me.*

*Oh! For the wonderful love He has promised, promised for you and for me;
Tho' we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.*

Children's Time

Hymn: *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

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Prayer of Confession: : Silence.....God of Love, as in Jesus Christ You gave yourself to us, living according to Your holy will. Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us; help our lips speak the truth that Christ teaches us, fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us. In His holy name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Offertory Invitation

Offering

Offertory Hymn: *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*

*Tree of Life and awesome mystery, in Your death we are reborn,
though You die in all of history, still You rise with every morn,
still You rise with every morn.*

Offertory Dedication: (together) Bless the gifts we offer. Bless we who offer them. Bless those who will be touched, in turn. May this circle of blessings be pleasing in Your sight, O God. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Hebrew Scripture:

Genesis 12: 1-4a

Anthem:

How Beautiful

Choir

Gospel:

John 3: 1-17

Meditation

Communion Hymn: *One Bread, One Body*



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Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation: The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love Him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified Himself. It is the table of

communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come. It is Christ who invites us to meet Him here.

The Story of the Last Supper: Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us on the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the wine. After having blessed it, He broke the bread and gave it to His disciples, saying, *"This is My body, given to you."* In the same way, He took wine and having given thanks for it, He poured it out and gave the cup to His disciples, saying, *"This is the new relationship with God, sealed with My blood. Take this and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming Kingdom of God."* Let us pray together.

All: Loving God, through Your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know Your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we may know Your touch in all bread and all matter. We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among His community through the centuries. We celebrate the life that Jesus shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them, ourselves. We are a single, holy living sacrifice. Amen.

The Prayer of Consecration: Hear us, O Christ, and breathe Your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine. May they become for us Your body, vibrant with Your life, healing, renewing and making us whole. And as the bread and wine, which we now eat and drink, reminds us of You and Your ministry, may we in turn become whole, living and caring in the world.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Communion: Look, the Body of Christ is broken for the life of the world. Here is the Christ coming to us in bread and in wine. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Sharing the Bread and the Wine

Prayer after Communion: (together) Gracious God, we give You thanks for the sharing of community in this bread and wine. Now as we rise, we go out into the world forgiven and refreshed to do Your work. Amen.

Closing Hymn: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

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Commissioning and Benediction

Musical Postlude