

# St. James United Church

April 2, 2017/Lent 5

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

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

## Musical Prelude

## Acknowledgement of Country/First Peoples

## Welcome & Life & Work of St. James



Introit: *Surely the Presence* AOTS and Youth

## Entry into the Celebration

## Lighting of the Community Candle

## Sharing the Peace:

One: 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: Wait and watch for God!

**All: Even when we feel in the depths of death and despair?**

One: Wait and watch for God!

**All: Even when life seems like a night that never ends?**

One: Wait and watch for God! In God there is constant love and kindness.

**All: We will wait and watch with hope.**

**Opening Prayer:** (together) Gracious God, in the midst of death, You offer life. In the midst of despair, You offer hope. In the midst of confusion and uncertainty, You offer a new way of seeing things, a new way of understanding things. Help us to remember this always. Amen.

Hymn: *We Praise You, O God* 218

## Children's Time

Hymn: *Just as I Am* 508

## Offertory Invitation

**Offertory Anthem:** *Alone* AOTS

**Offertory Hymn:** *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* 121

*God of all our fear and sorrow, God who lives beyond our death;  
Hold us close through each tomorrow, love as near as every breath,  
love as near as every breath.*

**Prayer of dedication:** (together) In hope we offer these gifts: hope for a peaceful and fair world; hope for an equal distribution of food, medicines, natural resources, and love; hope for the well-being of Mother Earth; hope for many future generations. In hope we bring these gifts as hope for a peaceful and fair world. Amen.

## Silence

## Scripture Readings

**Hebrew Text:** Psalm 32

**Anthem:** *The Mystery* Youth

**Gospel:** Matthew 26: 6-13

**Hymn:** *Said Judas to Mary* 129

## Meditation

## Prayers of the People

**Closing Hymn:** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* 333

## Parting Words:

One: You are wayfarers, following roads to the end of the earth, pilgrims on your way to the end of the age.

**All: We are travellers on the road to freedom, a community of grace, with good news for all we meet.**

One: Travel lightly, travel together, learn as you go: you are disciples, the mission is urgent, the journey is long.

**All: We will take heart.**

One: When the way is uncertain, shadows are sinister and dangers threaten,

**All: we will not be afraid. For we are in God, and God is in us.**

## Words of Blessing followed by Musical Postlude

**Ushering this week is provided by Usher in Charge:** Jean Thompson

**Greeters & Ushers:** Hannah Sheppard, Katie Vardy, Danni Fry,  
Sara Collins, Mary Day, Marilyn Adams