

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
Joanne Hapgood R.N., B.N.
(March 3, 1959 – April 19, 2013)
from the family.

St. James United Church

April 23, 2017/Earth Sunday

Minister: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Acting Minister of Visitation: Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray
Music: Sight Restored

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

Today we will be using More Voices for all hymns.

Musical Prelude

Hymn: *Each Blade of Grass* MV37

Acknowledgement of Country/First Peoples

Welcome & Life & Work of St. James



Entry into the Celebration

Lighting of the Community Candle

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer: (together) Springtime Easter God, It is good to be alive, to share life with each other in this wonder-filled and evolving universe. May we be empowered to look to the future with hope: unafraid of our dreams, realistic about our limitations, yet never losing hope in our potential to live courageously in today and for tomorrow. May wisdom dawn in us so we may see all things in clarity. Amen.

Sharing the Peace:

One: May a heart of peace rest with you. **All: And also with you.**
(*You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.*)

Hymn: *Deep in Our Hearts* MV154

Time with Children

Hymn: *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker* MV30

Offering Invitation

Offering *River Running in You and Me* MV163

Offering Hymn: *Spirit, Open My Heart chorus* MV79
Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As You love, may I love, in receiving and in giving, Spirit, open my heart.

Offering Dedication: (together)

As the rivers run, overflowing their banks, as the ugly bulb becomes a yellow daffodil, as the earth bound caterpillar turns into a winged butterfly, as the empty tomb tells us that Christ is risen, so may Your love transform these gifts into abundant life, abundant life for all. Amen.

Silence

Scripture Readings

Old Testament: Genesis 2: 4b – 15
Job 12: 7 - 10

Hymn: *O Beautiful Gaia* MV41

Meditation

Hymn: *Called by Earth and Sky* MV135

Prayer

Closing Hymn: *Like a Healing Stream* MV144

Parting Words: (responsive)

One: Will you care for Planet Earth?

All: We will remember our planet home.
We will nurture our planet.
We will celebrate life!

Words of Blessing

Musical Postlude

Ushering this week is provided by:

Usher in Charge Jean Thompson

Greeters

Ushers

Life Lessons from a Butterfly

Let go of the past

Trust the future

Embrace change

Come out of the cocoon

Unfurl your wings

Dare to get off the ground

Ride the breezes

Savour the flowers

Put on your brightest colors



Let your beauty show