

St. James United Church

October 8, 2017/Thanksgiving

Minister: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Acting Minister of Visitation: Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray
Organist: Paul Rodermond
Choir: Senior
Choir Director: Emma Clark

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

Musical Prelude

Acknowledgement of Country/First Peoples Welcome & Life & Work of St. James



Entry into the Celebration

Lighting of the Community Candle

Introit: *Come, You Thankful People, Come*

Choir, 516

Passing the Peace of Christ:

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.)

Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: Thanksgiving

All: It's not just a moment.

One: Thanksgiving

All: It's not just a day.

One: Thanksgiving

All: It's not just a season.

One: Thanksgiving

All: is an action, to be lived always, and to be lived all-ways.

One: Thanksgiving!

All: is an attitude; is a promise; is a life.

One: So let us enter this place –

All: Thanks giving!

One: Giving thanks-

All: to one another, to all creation, and to the Creator of All!

One: And let us worship God!

Opening Prayer: (together) We thank You, gracious God, for all that You have given us: the land and its resources, freedom and its rights and responsibilities, the joy of sharing, the wonders of new life, and the gift of this day. Guide us to be ever mindful of all You have done for us that we might never stop giving thanks for all things great and small. Amen.

Hymn: *This Is the Day* 412

Children's Time

Hymn: *We Plough the Fields* 520

Offering Invitation

Offertory

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

Offertory 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.

Thanksgiving Silence

Scripture Readings

Old Testament: Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20
The giving of the Law.

Anthem: *We Gather Together by Dave & Jean Perry* Choir

Gospel: Matthew 21: 33-46
The parable of the wicked tenants.

Hymn: *Praise God for the Harvest* 517

Meditation

Prayers of the people:

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 and violence.

And we give thanks for another Ordinary Day as we pray together, Our Father...

Closing Hymn: *Now Thank We All Our God*

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Words of Blessing followed by Musical Postlude



Ushering this week is provided by: Katelyn Mayo, Laura Mayo, Kim Mayo, Jean Thompson, Jennifer Bartlett, Shirley Feltham

