

Benediction

Song for the Journey (VU 884)

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will
clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
The trees of the field will clap their hands,
The trees of the field will clap their hands
While you go out with joy.

The Life and Work of St. James United Church

At St. James the wearing of face masks is optional during worship services. Nova Scotia Public Health encourages people to wear a mask if you are in a crowded indoor place and to stay home if you feel sick.
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): protect yourself and others - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada](#)

Lectionary Readings – September 17, 2023

- Exodus 14:9-31
- Psalm 103
- Romans 14:1-12
- Matthew 18:1-35



Welcome
Glad you're here!

St. James United Church

Back to Church Sunday

September 17, 2023

11:00 am



St. James United Church

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The Life and Work of St. James United Church

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gord Dunbar

The Christ candle is lit, but what does it mean? Why are we here? The Christ candle is lit, but does it touch our hearts? Why do we keep coming? (*a moment of silence*) The Christ candle is lit, but does it change anything?

It's a light that flickers. It's small and seemingly insignificant. It's made of ordinary material. It's rather unremarkable. Yet, still, it speaks to us of Christ.

Opening Prayer

We come like flickering candles, Loving God. We come feeling small and insignificant in the larger scheme of things. We come as ordinary folk seeking meaning in life.

Show us, risen Christ, as we pay attention, as we give reverence to you, that in our "normal" lives, you give us abundance – just as you gave abundantly of your very self for a broken world. We come to embrace that abundance into our growing and wholeness. Amen.

Hymn: MV 2 "Come All You People"

Opening Prayer (together)

Éric Hébert-Daly

It is in knowing that we can find ourselves in loving community that we come to this sanctuary, O God. It is in the sharing of prayer and in upholding one another through difficult times that we feel called to be here. It is in singing together that our spirits are lifted.

It is in reflecting together that we discern how best to serve you and one another. It is in summoning your name that we are healed from our wounds and our weariness. Gather us close to you so that we may

feel the warmth and the comfort we seek and the deep love you have for us. Amen.

Hymn: MV 178 "Who is My Mother"

Blessing of the Backpacks

Hymn: VU 340 "Jesus, Friend of Little Children"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

Anthem

Sermon: Care and Conflict

Hymn: VU 595 "We are Pilgrims"

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Hymn (MV 191)

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Prayer of Dedication (together)

God of love, while it's true that we can be your people anywhere. That we can learn anywhere. Practice anywhere. Worship anywhere. And, so long as we live good lives, it makes no difference whether we do it in church or not, without church, an intentional community in which we live and learn what it takes to be and stay in relationship, we aren't disciples either.

So, bless this offering, God, however it was gifted, that we might find the time and will to be a part of this community. Not only to learn, work, and worship together, but to care and support one another and find the strength and courage to work through our conflicts and remain community.

Hymn: MV 154 "Deep in Our Hearts"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Back to Church Sunday

September 17, 2023, 11:00 am. All Welcome. Refreshments to follow in the Church Hall

Lieutenant Governor's Award Visit

Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 1:00-3:00 pm. The Lieutenant Governor will be at St. James United Church Hall to present **The Lieutenant Governor's Award for Community Spirit**. Dress is Smart Casual.

Free Swordfish BBQ hosted by Sambro Fisheries,

September 23, 2023, 12-3 pm. 40 Lenny's Lane, Sambro.

Sunday School for all ages begins on Sept 24, 2023

The Harbour Views Newsletter

It's time to make your contributions to the Harbour Views Fall Newsletter! Reflections, poetry, pictures, jokes, recipes, information, artwork, children's artwork...all are welcome! Please send your submissions to jennjwhite@gmail.com by September 24th.

Swordfish Supper- Saturday Oct 14th, 4:00-6:00 pm, at St.

James United Church, 3811 Old Sambro Road

Includes Roll and Dessert.

Dine-In or Take Out,

Adults \$20.00 (cash only).

Covenanting Service at St James United Church

Sunday October 15, 2023, 6:00 pm, St. James United Church will host a Covenanting Service for Rev. Sean Handcock. We will be welcoming members from Bermuda Nova Scotia Region.