

* If you are able, please stand where asterisk is shown.



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

Centre for Faith, Arts & Multiculturalism

Pink Shirt Day & Black History

Weekly Service Bulletin – March 2nd, 2025

221 Romaine St, Peterborough, ON K9J 2C3 • 705-742-2222 • stjamesunitedchurch.ca

More Info: affirmunited.ca • united-church.ca •

**Please rise in body or spirit*

PRELUDE / WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH / INTROIT

WE GATHER

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Iris Muir

"We respectfully acknowledge that St. James is located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations. Our St. James congregation respectfully acknowledges that these Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come."

Curve Lake First Nation Land Acknowledgement (adapted slightly for use)

LIGHTING OF THE JESUS CANDLE

Maeve O'Neill

One: We light the Jesus candle as a symbol of his love shining in the world.

All: We light the Jesus candle knowing that we are called to share this love.

One: We light the Jesus candle and commit ourselves to work for a world that is more just, equal and caring - where we live in right relations. (the Jesus candle is lit)

***GATHERING SONG**

Over My Head

MV#88 vs. 1,2,4

This is a traditional African-American spiritual that is about the hope that was felt by people trying to escape slavery via the "Underground Railroad". It is intended to be sung slowly and freely

Words and music: African-American spiritual; French trans. Denise Soulodre, 2006 Arrangement: Stephen Lee, 2006. Reprinted with permission under CCLI License No. 1918298. All rights reserved.

Refrain:

Over my head, I hear music in the air. Over my head, I hear music in the air.

Over my head, I hear music in the air. There must be a God somewhere.

1. When the storms of life are ragin' I hear music in the air.
When the storms of life are ragin' I hear music in the air.
When the storms of life are ragin' I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere. **R**
2. When the winds of strife are blowin' I hear music in the air.
When the winds of strife are blowin' I hear music in the air.
When the winds of strife are blowin' I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere. **R**

4. O Jesus is a-callin' I hear music in the air. O Jesus is a-callin' I hear music in the air.
O Jesus is a-callin' I hear music in the air. There must be a God somewhere.

Refrain:

**Over my head, I hear music in the air. Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air. There must be a God somewhere.**

CALL TO CELEBRATION *(responsive)*

One: It is good to gather with friends

All: who know and love us for who we are.

One: It is good to gather with friends

All: who seek meaning and purpose in life.

One: It is good to gather with friends

All: who wish to make a difference in the world.

One: Friends, let us worship together! Let us pray...

OPENING PRAYER *(responsive)*

Alydia Smith – United Church of Canada

One: Bright Shining Jesus,

There is much for Black and Brown bodies to dread, here, in the Americas.

All: The trauma of the transatlantic slave trade lives in many bodies.

One: The legacy of enslavement lives in our systems.

All: But the thin gospel of oppression could die in our worship -

One: if we choose to shine bravely, reflecting your glory,

if we choose to reject the lies of racism,

if we choose to dance...

make music ...

share pain ...

spread joy ...

wake up and be magic.

**All: We can choose to fight for a better society, and we can remember that
we are of the earth and of the stardust,
we are precious, loved, and called to shine bright,
like the stars we are made of and the son that we follow.**

One: Help us to make good choices.

All: Help us to shine brightly.

One: We offer this prayer in Jesus' name, and we say together a paraphrase of the
Lord's prayer...

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison – paraphrase, author unknown)*

Loving God, in whom is heaven, may Your name be honored everywhere.

May Your kin-dom come.

May the desire of your heart for the world be done, in us, by us and through us.

Give us the bread we need for each day.

Forgive us. Enable us to forgive others.

Keep us from all anxiety and fear.

For your power comes from love which is forever and ever. Amen.

HYMNWe Are Marching***VU#646**

Words, Music: South African traditional song, 20th century. Translation, Arrangement: © 1984 Walton Music Corporation. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. All rights reserved.

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
(the light of God.)

We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
oo-oo, (marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.
(the light of God.)

We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
oo-oo (marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.

THEME CONVERSATION *What “Black Lives Matter” Mean to an 11 Year Old Girl*

Jolia Bossette – 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muy5zpqslRc>

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Jesus, you are the light of the world. Fill my mind with your peace, and my heart with your love. Amen.

WE REFLECT**POEM**

Black Lives Matter (Spoken word Poem by Licy Be)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WV0zxf4xbw>

ANTHEM**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 4:14-21

Joyce Hodson

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

***HYMN**

Do Lord, O Do Lord

Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me (X3)
Way beyond the blue

I’ve got a home in glory land that out-shines the sun (X3)
Way beyond the blue

I took Jesus as my Saviour, you take him too (X3)
Way beyond the blue

Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me (X3)
Way beyond the blue

REFLECTION

WE RESPOND

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

*SUNG OFFERTORY RESPONSE *What Can I Do?*

MV#191

Words and music copyright © 2005 Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy. Arrgmt. copyright © 2005 Alan C. Whitmore. Reprinted under LicenSing Online #623941.

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.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A Prayer for Black History Month by Alydia Smith

WE GO FORTH

*HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

VU#43

Arrangement: copyright United Reform Church, used by permission of Oxford University Press. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. All rights reserved.

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While Shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **R**
2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth! **R**
3. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **R**

*BLESSING *(responsive)*

One: Go from this place to share love with everyone you meet:

a kind act, some encouraging words, a bear hug, a warm smile, a phone call, a visit.

All: With God as our helper, we will grow love everyone. Amen.

*SUNG BLESSING

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

VU#575 vs. 1&4

Words: African-American spiritual. Music: African-American spiritual. Arrangement: © 1987 Estate of Wendell Whalum, c/o Mrs. Clarie G. Whalum, 2439 Greenwood Circle, East Point, GA 30344, USA. Used by permission.

African American Spirituals were often written in community and were born out of the struggle for survival, and the hope of life lived freely and equally.

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

POSTLUDE