**St. James United Church**

**February 18th, 2018**

**A service of Holy Communion**

Minister: Rev. Brian Colbourne

Minister of Visitation Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

Minister of Youth/Christian Education Susan Sheppard, DLM

Organist Paul Rodermond

Choir: AOTS

Choir Director Doreen Brown

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*St. James United Church is a safe place for all people to worship,*

*regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background or sexual orientation.*

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome And Sharing The Peace**

**Announcements Life And Work Of St. James**

**Introit**  O Let the Power Fall on Me

**Lighting The Community Candle**

In this season of Lent, we hear Jesus calling, “Follow me!”. We light the candle to remind us that we are community and we follow Christ together, and His light will guide us on our journey.

**Call To Worship**

One: If the Spirit leads us into the wilderness of a life beyond our understanding or control,

ALL: **in the spirit of Christ, let us meet each other and journey together.**

One: In the spirit of Christ, let us hold up faith and justice as the measure of wealth.

ALL: **In the spirit of Christ, let us welcome this new day trusting God to lead us.**

**Opening Prayer** (together)

God of the Promise, we recommit ourselves to You today. Remind us of the rainbow. Remind us of the waters of baptism. Remind us of the responsibilities we have accepted, as Your people. May Your never-ending grace and Your forever love be in us and with all creation, always. In Christ’s name, we pray. AMEN

**Hymn**: Praise, My Soul, The God Of Heaven 240

**Children’s Time**

**Piano Duet:** Gracie and Willow Pilgrim

**Offertory Invitation**

**Offering** Give to Me, Lord, a Thankful Heart (VU513)

**Offertory Hymn**: It Only Takes A Spark 289 (Verse 1)

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,

and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:

that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:

you spread God's love to everyone, you want to pass it on.

**Offertory Prayer**: (together)

Sometimes it doesn’t seem like much; sometimes it doesn’t seem like enough; yet these are the gifts we present to You, O God. They are our commitment to Your mission here and in the world. Bless these gifts as You bless us for Your purpose, we pray. AMEN

**Scripture**:

Genesis 9:8-17 *The covenant between God and Noah*

 Mark 1:9-15 *The baptism, temptation, and mission of Jesus*

**Meditation:**

**Hymn:** I Have Called You By Your Name MVU 161

**Invitation To Confession**

**Prayer Of Confession:** *(together)*

Gracious, loving God, we come to give You thanks and to ask for Your healing mercy. As Your children, we have sometimes lost our way. Forgive our failures, and help us to stay on the path You lay before us, so we can be examples for everyone we meet. In Jesus’ name we pray. AMEN

**Words Of Assurance**

**Anthem** He Speaks Peace to Me

**Communion Hymn:** All Who Hunger 460

**Sacrament Of Holy Communion**

 One: Jesus spent His life serving others, that all might know the compassionate care of a loving God. Today, Jesus serves us yet again, as we gather at the table prepared for us. Together we are the Body of Christ. At this table, God brings wholeness out of brokenness and healing to our world.

**ALL: Let us break bread together**.

One: Blessings be to You, Creator God, who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

**ALL: Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages; Your ancient promise still brings us hope**.

One:  Lord Jesus, You remain a sacred mystery to us. You have brought Good News for all the people, and we will not be afraid, for You are here.

**ALL: We are hungry for Your love, which surpasses our understanding; we are thirsty for Your spirit that never runs dry. In this meal, nourish our souls and our minds, quench our deepest**

**longings, and forgive our limitations, that we may walk with you every day of our lives.**

One: Blessings be to You, Creator God, who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

**ALL: Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages; your ancient promise still brings us hope**.

**Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup**

One: As we prepare to celebrate Communion, we remember the life that Jesus lived. We remember how He broke the bonds of human tradition to show all what the banquet of hope could be, as He ate openly with those who were despised and outcast in the world. And we remember one special meal, the one He ate with his closest friends.  And at the end of the meal He took bread, blessed and broke it, and then passed it to them, saying:

**ALL: Take and eat. This bread is the body of life, broken by the world. Eat it in remembrance and in hope.**

One: The bread of life.

 After that, He took the cup, poured it, blessed it, and passed it to them, saying:

**ALL: This cup is the sign of the new covenant. Whenever you drink it, remember Me.**

One: The cup of blessing.

     We remember Jesus’ life, His death, and His resurrection. We remember how He poured His love out to all He met. We look forward to His return and the coming reign of peace, love, and justice. And, in our remembering, we declare the mystery of our faith:

**ALL: Christ was born, Christ has died and Christ is risen. Christ will come again!  AMEN**

One: Holy God, pour out Your Spirit upon us gathered here. As we eat and drink, may we know Your presence. As we eat and drink, may we

be opened to new possibilities. May we be strengthened in our time of waiting for peace and justice, so that we will have the courage to follow Your promise.  These are the gifts of God for the people of God. ALL are welcome to share in the feast!

 ((COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED IN THE PEWS TODAY))

**Prayer After Communion:** *(together)*

Holy God, we have been fed by Your gifts of loaf and cup, of word and song, the gifts of one another’s company and Your presence. May Your song be our song, and Your story weave with ours. O God of mystery, increase our holiness, we gratefully pray in Jesus’ name. AMEN

**Closing Hymn**: Lead On, O Cloud Of Presence 421

**Sending Forth:**

During the season of Lent, we are called to ponder. Let us go from this place, continuing to ponder what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus and continuing to live the Way of Jesus each day. AMEN

**Musical Postlude**

**Quote For The Heart:** *“The most beautiful things in the world we cannot see, or even touch. They are felt within our heart.” – Helen Keller*

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