

St. James United Church

March 18, 2018/Lent 5

Minister: Rev. Brian Colbourne
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Organist: Paul Rodermond
Music: Sight Restored Band

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:

One: Welcome each other. Welcome the stranger. Welcome all who come. As Christ welcomed everyone, no matter what their background, no matter what their social status; as Christ welcomed all people, let us welcome each other in Peace. Peace be with you.

All: And also, with you.

One: Let us share a greeting of peace.

Announcements: Life & Work of St. James

Lighting the Community Candle

Introit: *A New Day is Dawning* Band

Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: Sing praise to God!

All: In the shadows of Lent, or Easter's dawn, sing praise to God.

One: In times of doubt or in worried state, sing praise to God.

All: When life is full and our cup overflows, sing praise to God.

One: Here, now, worship and sing praise to God.

Opening Prayer: (together) God, we come together on this Sunday of Lent in the midst of this season of change and during this time of uncertainty. Decisions in our lives lead us in many different directions, and we are prone to lose our way. Bring us together, O Lord, with a new sense of community and friendship. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: *Draw the Circle Wide* MV145

Children's Time

Hymn: *We Are Pilgrims* 595

Offertory Invitation

Offering

Offertory Chorus:

*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.*

Offertory Prayer: (together) When You reach out, it means the world to us, O Christ. When we reach out to the world, that outreach gives meaning to Your name. Bless this offering, we pray, that it may help Your church in its ministry to the world. Amen.

Anthem: *Out on the Galilee Sea in a Boat* Band

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

John 12: 20-33

Meditation: God has it written within our hearts.

Hymn: *Like a Healing Stream* MV144

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: *Go, Make a Difference* MV209

Sending Forth: May we be blessed on the journey that is ours to make: blessed with the spirit of Christ within us. May we make this journey knowing that we are not alone, that God is with us, and that God will never leave us nor forsake us.

Musical Benediction: *As We Go Now* Band

Ushering this morning is provided by Usher in Charge: Jean Thompson

Greeters and Ushers: Maxine & Tom Rose, Kevin & Marilyn Parady, Linda Babstock, Mary Daya.



Minute for Mission: Our gifts for M&S are making a difference in communities across Canada. The Jane Finch neighbourhood has been painted as one of the toughest areas of Toronto. While there are many instances of gun violence, there is also a lot of love. The community bands together to make a better place for their children. At the center is the Jane Finch Community Ministry that works with partners to encourage youth to discover that there is a brighter future for them beyond joining a gang. The community invests in youth through literacy programs, scholarships and advocacy with the Toronto Police Service. One program is the Unity Barbeque, founded by a community member. This brings together members of rival gangs and the Toronto police as a way to demonstrate unity in their community. With over 110 nationalities and 70 mother tongues spoken in the neighbourhood, coming

together as a community is often challenging. Through educational programming, gatherings and advocacy, the Jane Finch Community Ministry offers hope to youth and community members for a better way of life. We are called to love our neighbours. Our gifts to M&S show that love every day at Jane Finch Community Ministry.

Celebration of Life Easter Butterfly

On Easter morning, we celebrate the new life of the risen Christ by filling our Sanctuary with butterflies! You are invited to join us by sponsoring a butterfly to hang in our Sanctuary for the Easter season. Butterflies can be given to commemorate a special event, to honor a loved one, in memory of someone, to mark a milestone. Each butterfly can be sponsored for \$5; the proceeds received will be put toward the ongoing work of our St. James Church community. Help us to create our Easter Butterfly Sanctuary. To sponsor a butterfly, please return the form below to the church office. Deadline is Monday, March 26.

Celebration of Life Easter Butterfly

Name of person donating:

In Celebration of:

Env #: _____ Address if no Env. #: _____

Deadline is Monday, March 26.