

St. James United Church

March 11, 2018/Lent 4/Communion

Minister:	Rev. Brian Colbourne
Minister of Visitation:	Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Organist:	Paul Rodermond
Choir:	Senior
Choir Director:	Emma House

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 & Work of St. James

Introit: *As the Sun with Longer Journey, v.1* 111, Choir

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: (responsive)

One: We are given life – by love.

All: We are called – by love.

One: We are gathered together – by love.

All: By God's love for us, and by our love for God.

One: So, this day and all days...

All: we abide in the love of God.

One: Come, people of God's covenant love, let us worship God.

Opening Prayer: (together) Loving God, Your promise of unconditional love has upheld us from our baptism. We know ourselves to be Your beloved children. Throughout this Lenten journey, continue to make us strong to serve You as we journey toward the Cross, and into the promised resurrection. Amen.

Hymn: *Worship the Lord* 401

Children's Time

Offertory Invitation

Offering

Offertory Hymn: *It Only Takes a Spark, v.1* 289

*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) This offering is our opportunity to love as Jesus taught us, in truth and action. Loving God, it is our hope that these gifts will help spread the truth of the gospel message throughout the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3: 14-21

Meditation: For God so loved

Hymn: *Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love* 574

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession: (together) In our hearts this day, O God, we bring to You the ways in which we miss the mark. We remember the times when we tried to get it right, but our hearts were not in it. We remember the times when we did the exact opposite of what You were calling us to do. Forgive us, heal us, and return us once again to the Way of Jesus. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Anthem: *Here I Am, Lord* Choir

Communion Hymn: *One Bread, One Body* 467

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Please see projected liturgy

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Communion will be served by Intinction 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.

Sending Forth: Go. Pray. Serve. Be persistent in the things of God. And let us remember, God's blessing goes with us. Amen.

Musical Postlude



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

Greeters and Ushers: Bruce Hunt, Mary Daya, Linda Babstock, Kevin & Marilyn Pardy, Marilyn Adams

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.

<u>Celebration of Life Easter Butterfly</u>
Name of person donating: _____
In Celebration of: _____
Env #: _____ Address if no Env. #: _____
Deadline is Monday, March 26.

St. James United Church Life and Work, March 11, 2018

We offer our condolences to Glenda Winsor, Gloria Le Feuvre and their families on the passing of Glenda's and Gloria's brother, Edward Desmond (Des) Butt, who passed peacefully away on March 5. His funeral service took place from Barrett's Chapel last Friday.

Copies of the Annual Report 2017 are available today for your perusal. The Annual Congregational meeting to discuss this, and approve the 2018 budget, will be held after the 11am Worship Service next Sunday, March 18.

The next UCW meeting will be held tomorrow, Monday, March 12 at 7:30pm. April Miller, a Professional Organizer and Coach in Organizing and Decluttering, will be the guest speaker. April can give tips and help with downsizing and organizing home and office spaces, to "take them from disorganized to serene". Guests are welcome. Please speak with a UCW member and she may be able to bring you along. UCW Members are reminded to bring items for the grab bags for the Spring Tea and Sale.

Monday, March 12 at 11am: NIA (no-impact aerobics); \$5 drop-in fee.

The next Pleasant View Towers Service will be on Tuesday, March 13 at 2pm. Volunteers, please meet at 1:30 in the Chapel.

Spiritual Practices at Cowan Heights: Rebecca Pike's next monthly session for exploring and discovering the spiritual practices right for each person is on Tuesday, March 13 at 10am at Cowan Heights UC.

Wednesday, March 14 at noon: Lenten Communion Service and brown bag lunch.

Thursday March 15: Uppity Women of the Bible: Come and join our discussion group at 7pm in the Fellowship Room.

UCW Spring Tea: *"Mark March 24th on your calendar's list; an Easter Spring Tea that you don't want to miss.*

It's here at St. James, 2pm until four; a warm welcome awaits as you enter the door.

Handmade rabbits and aprons and scarves on a stall; cakes and cookies and muffins you'll find down the hall.

Surprise bags are fun and well worth the price. With sandwiches and cookies, we'll fill your cup twice.

\$7.00 a ticket--- we considered inflation!!

And look for support from the whole congregation."

You are invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Burry Heights Camp and Retreat Centre next Saturday, March 17, 10am at Burry Heights Camp Site.

Minute for Mission: Our gifts for M&S support congregations in remote locations. Green Bay South Pastoral Charge NL has been receiving financial support from M&S for a number of years. The small charge is spread over 40 km with one church accessible only by water. A M&S funded mission support grant has enabled the pastoral charge to adjust to declining numbers and build up its ministry. It hopes to be self supporting in the near future. The generosity of the United Church has sparked the members' own compassion and kindness. They are generous givers to M&S as they see firsthand the benefit of being a recipient, and are compelled to grow the ministries that we support together as a denomination. During each Sunday service, a Blessing Can is distributed among attendees. People can express their gratitude, name a blessing, and offer a donation. These dollars are set aside as additional donations to specific M&S partners through the *Gifts with Vision* program. Members enjoy this time of thanksgiving and appreciate being able to grow their ministry and mission. The congregation thanks the United Church for supporting them when needed and appreciate the opportunity to share their gifts in gratitude. Our gifts to M&S accompany churches such as Green Bay.

Bridges to Hope invites you to Give 30! Give up a daily perk for 30 days, and donate the money you would have spent on those perks to help feed a neighbour in need. Bridges to Hope has provided extra envelopes in the Sanctuary foyer to keep your *Give 30* funds. You may also follow Bridges to Hope on Facebook where there will be extra ways for you to join in the Give 30 initiative.

Living the Questions, a video based group study that helps explore those pressing questions of faith at Cochrane Centre (Bannerman Street Entrance) on Wednesday, March 14 and 21, 7:30 to 9:30pm. Rev. Miriam (Cochrane Street) and Rev. Peter (George Street) will be the group facilitators.

Lent to Easter Reflection at Virginia Water Retreat House, 47 Parsonage Drive each Sunday from 4-5pm until May 20 offering an hour of contemplation, reflection and dialogue with facilitators Phil Lewis and Gerard Whitty. Please call 754-1582 to register.

This afternoon at 4 at Gower Street UC: Choral NL's inaugural Winter Sing. Tickets, \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors, available at the door.

This evening at 8 at the Anglican Cathedral, St. John's, the Atlantic String Quartet will present a special evening of music to commemorate the Easter season. The program will feature Haydn's *'The Seven Last of Words of Christ, Op. 51'* Tickets are \$23 for adults / \$20 for students and seniors, by phone at 729-3900, online at www.artsandculturecentre.com or at the door.