

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of a cherished mother

**Roma Paul**

Love Nancy and Anthony

*"Mom gave us a lifetime of unconditional love and support. She will always be an inspiration to us."*

## **St. James United Church**

May 9, 2021/Christian Family Sunday

Minister:	Rev. Marion Davis
Minister of Youth/Christian Education:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Guest Soloist:	Andie Winsor

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St. James United Church is a safe place for all people to worship, regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background or sexual orientation.

### **MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP:**

Worship is a time set apart from the daily routine of life, where God calls us to sharpen our senses to become familiar with the voice of the Spirit so as to recognize it more readily in all of life and ready ourselves to respond to its guidance.

*Worship for an Easter People, Volume 3, 1-35*

### **ORGAN PRELUDE**

#### **We Gather as God's People**

### **MUSICAL PRELUDE**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY/FIRST PEOPLES**

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:**

Today is Christian Family Sunday and we are called to celebrate relationships: mothers, grandmothers, those who are or have been like a mother, nurturing us. Let us gather in the light of Christ to celebrate all of the loving relationships that shape and bless our lives.

*Tammy Ferguson in Gathering Lent/Easter 2021*

### **WELCOME**

### **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: On this Christian Family Sunday and Mother's Day,

**All: Let us make a joyful noise to God.**

One: We are here as families, friends, neighbours, strangers,

**All: Uniting our voices in song, prayer and praise.**

One: We have come together in this place to worship,

**All: For God has done marvelous things.**

*Based on Psalm 98*

**PRAYER OF APPROACH:**

One: Holy God, as we gather before you;

**All: encircle us with your love.**

One: Bless us with your sustaining presence;

**All: surround us with your grace.**

One: Draw us together around your living Word,

**All: and bind us to one another as disciples of Christ, whose Spirit is in our midst. Amen**

**HYMN:** *This is the Day* VU 412

**We Respond to God's Love**

**RECOGNITION OF OFFERINGS:**

We have gathered our gifts together and have donated online, by PAR, by letter drop, as well as in the offering plate and now we dedicate them to God in gratitude and praise.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

One: We bring our gifts to you, O God.

**All: Here is the work of our hands, and here is the love of our hearts. Accept what we offer and use them, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrate God's Presence p50*

**We Listen to and for God's Word**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:**

Loving God, you speak to us in so many ways: in the song of a bird, in the babbling of a brook, in the voices of friends, in a hug from a parent or child, in the songs we sing, and in the stories of the Bible. Speak to us now through the reading of scripture. Help us to hear your voice and follow the way of Jesus.

Amen

*Celebrate God's Presence p45*

**SCRIPTURE READING:** 1John 4:7-21 Paul Walsh, *reader*

**RESPONSIVE PSALM:** Psalm 107 VU 831

O Give thanks for God is gracious;  
**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Let the redeemed of God say so, those redeemed from trouble,  
**whom God gathered into the lands**  
from the east and the west  
**from the north and the south. R**

Some lost their way in desert wastes, finding no place to settle,  
**hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.**  
then they cried to you, God, in their trouble; you rescued them from their distress.  
**You led them by a straight path, till they reached a place to settle.**  
Let them thank you, O God, for your steadfast love for the wonders you do for us.  
**For you satisfy the thirsty and fill the hungry with good things. R**

**ANTHEM:**     *“Reve d’Amour”*

**THE GOSPEL:**     John 15: 9-17

**REFLECTION ON THE WORD:**     “The Joy of Love”

**REFLECTIVE MUSIC:**     I Need Thee Every Hour

### **We Are Sent Forth to Live our Faith**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**HYMN:**     *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*             VU 333

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee, changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

#### **COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

#### **ORGAN POSTLUDE**

## LIFE AND WORK – MAY 9, 2021

**We would like to acknowledge the following donations to the Memorial Fund in loving memory of Winona Kelsey:**

- \* John & Loretta Coish
- \* Ern & Stella Bishop
- \* Ruth Baker

**We would like to acknowledge the following donation to the Memorial Fund:**

\*in memory of our Mothers Mary Duke and Anastasia Hann  
from Sidney & Menetha Dyke

**The George St United Church** and the Jimmy Pratt Memorial Outreach Centre will be hosting a Turkey Cold Plate Take Away Dinner on May 29th, 2021 AT 4:00 PM. Tickets for the dinner are \$15.00 each and can be purchased at the GSUC office Monday-Friday 8:00 AM -12:00 PM. Tickets will be on sale till May 25, 2021. There will be no tickets sold at the door.

**Topsail United Church Men's Club** will be holding a takeout Flipper Dinner on Monday May 24 from 4:30 P.M. until 6 P.M. Tickets \$25 and must be paid for in Advance. No tickets sales at the Door. Tickets are available by calling the church office at 834-4567. Due to Covid 19 social distancing must be maintained during pick up. There will be no ticket sales after May 19.

**Donation request:** Our property committee is seeking donations of flowers for our flower beds for this Spring/Summer. Please call the office at 722-1881 to arrange a drop off.

### **DANIEL'S STORY:**

Daniel forgot his lines in a Sunday School play. Luckily his is mother was in the front row especially to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Daniel's memory was completely blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue: "I am the light of the world."

Daniel beamed and with great feeling and a loud clear voice announced, "My mother is the light of the world."

### **FULL TIME MINISTER for St. James United Church**

Many of you attended the congregational meeting on Monday, April 26 when the Search Committee provided the name and some information on their recommended candidate for the full time minister position at St. James. The vote to accept the nomination was overwhelmingly positive. I have been asked a number of times why the information has not been released to the congregation through our various social media outlets. The reason being that he had not accepted our call until after the meeting; and, had not informed his current congregation until Sunday, May 2. It is important to note

that the notice required by clergy to leave a pastoral charge is 90 days. Based on that timeline, the latest we will see him would be on/or about Monday, August 2, 2021.

Who is he? **Rev. James Ravenscroft** is currently the Minister at Richmond Hill United Church, Richmond Hill, Ontario. He was ordained in 2008 and is currently pursuing a Doctorate Degree.

Trevor Bartlett, Chair of the Search Committee advised that, during the interview process, the committee utilized our Mission Articulation Plan (MAP) goals as a guide. Responses received to their questions, met, and/or exceeded, our goals. Rev. Ravenscroft noted he is keenly interested in visitation, loves outreach to all, and has a strong sense of nature. It was also noted that he has a progressive mind, believes in gender equality and appears to be very thoughtful. He also possesses a keen sense of humour. He comes with exceptional references from his current pastoral charge - hardworking and energetic; his work is astonishing.

I am certain there is much more we will learn about Rev. Ravenscroft once he arrives, and I have no doubt he will receive a very warm welcome at that time.

Marilyn Adams  
Chair, Church Council