



## **ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH**

150 Colborne St. S., Simcoe, ON N3Y 4H6

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### **STAFF:**

Minister: Rev. Barrie Bain, BA, M.Div.

Volunteer Associate Minister: Rev. Michael Beacom, BA, BD

Music Director: Diane Stewart (226) 567-5875

Office Administrator/Treasurer: Ann McNall 519-428-2611

Janitor: John McNall (519) 428-2611

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday to Thursday (9 to noon)

March 15<sup>th</sup> 2026 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT  
10:30 am. St. James United Church Family in Worship  
Worship Focus –“God’s Love Restores!”  
“Spiritual Growth, Compassionate Living”

**WITH A SENSE OF WONDER - WE GATHER**

Prelude Music:

GOOD MORNING! Words of Welcome, Greetings and Announcements. Persons wishing to remain seated during the service are invited to do.

Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us be open to the power of God in our lives.

Let us respond to the peace of Christ in our hearts.

Let us sense the movement of God’s Spirit in our midst!

**ALL: In our many acts of serving, in our numerous words of comfort, in our variety of faith expressions, we seek to serve The God of life and love with our hearts and minds and voices that join together in songs of praise!**

Hymn of Praise: **VU #271 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”**

INVITATION FOR LENTEN REFLECTION (responsive)

Leader; God, sometimes we wander into far countries of the soul ---

Lonely and afraid, we do not know where to turn.

(Silence)

**ALL: Speak to us, God, of mercy and forgiveness. Stir up within us our longing to be with you again. Help us to find the way to that place where we have always belonged. We pray that we might have a deeper understanding of this sacrament of belonging.**

Lenten Candle Un-Lighting:

Leader: Even as the days grow longer,

**ALL: Jesus' time grows short.**

Leader: Even as the Christ-light shines,

**ALL: The world works to hide it: to hide Christ's Hope,  
to hide Christ's understanding, to hide Christ's love.**

Leader: But we will NOT let the Christ-light,  
Or the Christ-love be hidden.

**ALL: Even on our way to the cross, in the best,  
In the worst, Christ's light shines a pathway for us.**

Extinguish 4 Candles

## **DESIRING CHRISTIAN GROWTH - WE LISTEN**

Family Hymn: **VU# 300 "God, Whose Hand Is All Creation"**

Family Focus: Storyteller – Rev. Barrie

Scripture Lesson:

1 Samuel 16: 1-13 David the most unlikely choice

Ephesians 5:8-14 Live as people who belong to the light

Lay Reader: March House

Choir Anthem: **"Giver of the Perfect Gift"** - J Ellerton / O Gibbons

Message: **"Seeking God's Direction – As We Make Our Choices!"**  
Reverend Barrie Bain Preaching

Hymn **VU#371 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"**

## **COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS - WE RESPOND**

Presentation and Dedication of the Offering

Offertory Response: **VU #541 "For All Your Goodness, God"**

Offertory Prayer (unison)

**Patient and loving God, you are always ready to welcome us home. You are always ready to welcome our gifts so that the Good News of Jesus Christ may be taught and lived in our time and space. Receive our giving for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Hymn VU# 567 "Will You Come and Follow Me"

Benediction & Postlude Music:

**VOLUNTEERS FROM THE MARCH HOUSE INVITE YOU** to The Muriel Bridge Room for refreshments and fellowship following the service.

**EASTER FLOWERS IN MEMORY** - If you would like to make a donation towards Easter plants which will be placed on either side of the communion table on Easter Sunday, place your donation in a pew envelope clearly labelled "**Easter Flowers in Memory**". Include your name, envelope number and who it is in memory of. Each name will be listed in the bulletin.

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED** - It's that time of year when we order plants as a gesture of friendship for members of St. James who can no longer join with us for worship services. If you know of anyone, please contact the church office or Marg Tisdale. Also, if you are available to deliver one or two of these plants, kindly sign the sheet on the board in the Muriel Bridge Room.

March 29 - St. James Annual Meeting

**FREE CLOTHING GIVE-A-WAY** - The Outreach Committee will be sponsoring a free clothing give-a-way on Friday, April 17 from 6-8 pm and Saturday, April 18 from 9 am to 11 am. Donations appreciated and will be received beginning Monday, April 7. Please drop off 9 am to 12 noon Monday to Thursday ONLY! If you are available to help on Friday, April 17 at 9 am speak to Liz Leendertse.

## Bible Reading - March 15, 2026

Reader: March House

### Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

‘Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.’

## Bible Reading - March 15, 2026

Reader: March House

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.