

# Glebe-St. James United Church

March 1, 2026

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship** Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

## Announcements

This is a busy community, and lots is going on. I will just highlight a few announcements, but you will find a more complete list on our website and scrolling on the screens here in the sanctuary before and after our service.

### Trustees

**Lenten Bible Study** – Tuesday 7:30 p.m. on Zoom ***Bless Break Share: Recipes for Faithful Living***. Edited by Alydia Smith. United Church Resources Publishing, 2025. Booke available in the office or from Teresa.

## Welcome

Wendy Bergeron

In the name of the Holy Mystery,  
who is Wholly Love,  
we welcome you to Creator's House.

### Thanks be to God!

Good morning and welcome, everyone, to our worship and ACM service at Glebe-St. James United Church in downtown Ottawa on Sunday, March 1st.

My name is Wendy Bergeron and I am currently chair of the Council Board. This year we are attempting to create a weaving of Sunday worship and the annual congregational meeting because we believe "worship and work must be one."

## Election of Chair and Secretary

Election of a chair and secretary

Motion

We're so glad you're here today. Whether you're a first-time guest or a longtime member, whether you are joining us in person or online, we hope you feel at home. This

is a place of faith, love, and community. Glebe-St. James is an Affirming Community of Faith in the United Church of Canada We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment where people of all ages, backgrounds, and identities feel loved and supported. Thank you for being here.

## **Attendance and Voting**

Motion

One practical way we put this diverse welcome into action is to move to permit voting by all in attendance.

Attendance (taken by X in person and by X online).

Today's worship service bulletin can be found on the GSJ website, along with a link to this week's announcements and a "donate" button to make your offering. If you are here in person, you can share your offering in the service, either in the collection plate, by e-transfer or through our website – the QR code, found on the back of the pews, will take you to the website.

## **Meeting Agenda**

Motion

## **Land Acknowledgement**

David Brown

## **Lighting of Christ Candle** Still My Soul

TLUS 108

**Still my soul, calm my roaming mind.  
Give me peace, may my heart unwind.  
Let me stay, your beloved guest.  
Take my fear, make my worry rest.  
What I hold, let me give to you.  
Aid my strength when my storms drive through.  
When my thoughts won't let me go,  
I'll sing to you: oh, still my soul.**

## **Opening Prayer**

Indeed, be still our souls,  
quiet our minds,  
and fill our spirits with courage and vision,

that as we go about the business of the annual meeting,  
our worship and work may be one!  
In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

**Hymn** Worship the Lord (*Verses 1-3, 5*)

VU 401

**Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)  
Praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,  
raising our hands (raising our hands)  
in devotion to God who is one!**

- 1 Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,  
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,  
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,  
worship and work must be one! R**
  
- 2 Praying and training that we be a blessing,  
and by our handiwork daily confessing:  
we are committed to serving humanity,  
worship and work must be one! R**
  
- 3 Called to be partners with God in creation,  
honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,  
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,  
worship and work must be one! R**
  
- 5 Now in response to the life you are giving,  
help us, Creator, to offer our living,  
seeking a just and a healing society,  
worship and work must be one! R**

**Approval of Minutes of the 2025 Meeting**

Motion

**Approval of Minutes of 2025 Annual Report**

Motion

**2026 Community of Faith (Living Ministry) Profile**

Motion

## Sign of Peace

Friends, the peace of Christ be with you!  
**And also with you.**

**Hymn** Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

MV 173

- 1. Put peace into each other's hands  
and like a treasure hold it,  
protect it like a candle flame,  
with tenderness enfold it.**
- 5. Reach out in friendship,  
stay with faith in touch with those around you.  
Put peace into each other's hands;  
the Peace that sought and found you.**

## Message From Council

**Nominations 2026 Council, M&P Members**

Motions

**Gospel** Luke 7:36-50

Barbara Coyle

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house, he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment.

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner."

Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt."

And Jesus said to him, “You have judged rightly.” Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little.” Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” But he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

This is wisdom from our ancestors in faith.

### **Gift of Music** I Dream a World

Trumpet: Geoff McGuire

Violin: Irene Grose

Soloist: Julia Barry

### **Reflection**

Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole

My friends, God is a fierce lover! How fiercely does God love? Let me tell you a story.

Simon, a Pharisee, a religious man who lives his life according to God’s laws, invites Jesus into his home. Customarily, such a host would greet a guest with acts of hospitality: the washing of feet soiled by dusty roadways; an anointing of oil for respite from the heat of the day; a kiss of welcome. Though Simon receives Jesus, he provides no such greeting.

Impertinent and audacious, having heard that the great teacher is in Simon’s house, a woman, an unsolicited sex worker, invades the space. Immediately, the Pharisee, a man tasked with conveying God’s love to God’s people, distances himself from her. From his perspective, the love in which she traffics, commercially but not virtuously intimate, prohibits her presence. But Jesus graciously allows her to draw near. When she is close, ironically, she offers Jesus the hospitality that Simon had neglected. She washes. She anoints. She kisses.

Scandalized, Simon rebukes Jesus for letting this woman touch him. Disappointed in Simon, Jesus responds with a parable about the extravagance and ferocity of God’s love:

two people are in debt to a man, just as every one of us is in debt to sinfulness before God. One debtor owes the man little. The other debtor owes the man much. Ridiculously, the man forgives both of them their debts. Which debtor, Jesus asks, will be the most grateful, will respond to the man with the most love? Of course, it is the man who owed the most.

Simon believes that he owes God much less than this disreputable woman because he has lived a life of holiness and righteousness. Just so, Simon can never know the ferocity of the woman's love for the God who loves her. According to Jesus, God loves her with an extravagance of grace that cancels all her sins just as surely as the creditor expunged his lender's massive debt.

Jesus tells the woman to go in peace. How can she, though, without help? Living on the streets, she finds welcome among those who struggle like her. Forgiven, she now needs the welcome she has shown Jesus to be extended to her by a community of Jesus people – people who recognize that they, too, have been graced by the extravagance of God's fierce, unrelenting love.

Did not Jesus say in Matthew 25 that to welcome him is to welcome those whom the self-righteous have rejected? The hungry. The immigrant. The homeless. The convict. Jesus' church can show Jesus' fierce love by inviting into the intimacy of the faith fellowship those whom others are scandalized by.

By recalling Jesus' journey to the cross, the season of Lent reminds us of God's extravagant love. May this season inspire us to love others just as extravagantly, just as fiercely as God, through Jesus, loves us.

**Hymn** Spirit, Open My Heart

MV 79

*Refrain:*

**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.**

**1. God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender.**

2. **Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory.**
  
3. **May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another.**

**Board of Trustees**

**Election** Motion

**Roof Repair Project – update**

**Invitation to Give**

**Offering Hymn** Grant Us, God, the Grace of Giving VU 540

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,  
with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living  
we may offer faithfully.**

**Offering Prayer**

Loving God, you surprise us with grace when we least expect it.  
Take our gifts and multiple them that the needs of the community may be met. Amen.

**Treasurer’s Report**

**2026 Budget** Motion

**Mission & Service Target** Motion

Day after day, night after night,  
you speak through everything.  
Day after day, night after night,  
you speak through everything.

**Reading of GSJ 2025 Honour Roll**

In grateful memory, we record the names of the Members and Adherents of Glebe-St. James United Church who entered into rest during the year 2025.

Dr. Gordon Lorne (Laurie) Liberty, July 24th  
Brenna Lin Manders, August 23rd  
John Ed MacNider, September 8th  
Douglas McKeen, September 22nd  
Beverley Fairfield Pidduck, September 25th  
Ross Brian Snyder, November 26th

In life, in death. In life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone, Thanks be to God.

**Prayer of Jesus**

**Our Mother and Father  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

**Give Thanks and Praise**

**Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.  
Like the starry night sky God is over our head.  
Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.  
Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.**

### **Sending Forth**

As you leave this place,  
when you meet anger, speak with love.  
When you meet fear, speak with hope.  
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.  
But no matter what, speak this good news.  
For the good news of the gospel is:  
love and justice for all.  
It is joy that surprises,  
and nonviolence that transforms.  
The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,  
so go forth speaking.  
For if you won't, then who will?  
Thanks be to God  
for this good, good news.

### **Sung Amen**

VU 969 (Kriewald)

### **Music to Send Us Forth**

Carillon Toccata

***End of Worship – Beginning of Service***

## **Musical Acknowledgements**

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We welcome you and thank you for joining us this morning.

Please join us in Fraser Hall following the service for coffee and fellowship.

### **Today's organ and choir music**

"Carillon Toccata" is by Douglas Wagner (b. 1952), a high school teacher, church musician and composer from Indianapolis. The organ setting highlights flute and bell sounds, and includes an appearance by the zimbelstern, a novelty stop consisting of a revolving star-shaped wheel adorned with randomly tinkling bells.

"Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley" is an arrangement of an African-American spiritual by Dale Wood, a California-based church music composer. Wood calls his compositions "Wood works for organ."

The anthem "I Dream a World" is the final number from the musical "A Vision Unfolding" by Kyle Pederson, a Minneapolis composer. The text is a poem by U.S. poet, playwright, activist and leading figure of the Harlem Renaissance Langston Hughes. This selection commemorates the conclusion of Black History Month.

## ***Our Ministry Team...***

Coordinating Minister: Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole, ex 24; [revtbc.gsj@gmail.com](mailto:revtbc.gsj@gmail.com)

Children's Church Leader: Kayla Cseh, ex 22; [childrenschurch.gsj@gmail.com](mailto:childrenschurch.gsj@gmail.com)

Minister of Music: Paul Grose, ex 25; [min.music.gsj@gmail.com](mailto:min.music.gsj@gmail.com)

Accounts: Lori Stinson, ex 23; [accts.glebestjames@gmail.com](mailto:accts.glebestjames@gmail.com)

Church Administrator: Jennifer Reid, ex 21; [admin@glebestjames.ca](mailto:admin@glebestjames.ca)

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## **Anthem: I Dream a World**

Prologue (spoken):

Although Black History Month has concluded,  
Let us remember that our work is nowhere complete.  
In a world where oppression remains hidden behind tradition  
We refuse to allow prejudice to be justified by laws and religion  
No longer will we use difference  
As ammunition for division  
Because we know  
That passivity is the enemy of advancement  
We're on the path to equity  
We are part of the process  
Of breaking chains  
Cycles rooted in pain  
United under one aim:  
Freedom for all.  
Embracing courage over comfort  
Using our privilege to be advocates and allies  
No longer silent  
This spirit of activism  
Actively flows within us  
This is where we tap in  
Everyone,  
All in  
Each step  
Each act  
Each word  
Each time we push back  
We reimagine and rebuild the world we know  
To one where love overflows  
We must persevere and believe  
That justice for all can be made real  
You and I  
We  
Have the power to achieve what Langston Hughes once dreamed

- Shanelle Gabriel

Lyrics:

I dream a world where one  
No other one will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn.

I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where black or white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every one is free,

I dream a world where one  
No other one will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn.

I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.

Where wretchedness will hang its head,  
And joy, like a pearl,  
Attends the needs of all humankind—  
Of such I dream, my world!

I dream a world where one  
No other one will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn.

I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where black or white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every one is free.

Of such I dream, where everyone is free,  
Of such I dream!

(Reach down Lord, reach your justice down.)