

# New St. James Presbyterian Church

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada  
"Following Christ, Worshipping God, Serving Others"  
Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.



Detail from *In the Garden* (1958), New St. James

## **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Minister: The Rev. Dr. David Clark

Director of Music: Torin W. Chiles

Reader: Iver Clark

Choristers: Janaki Butterworth, Nathan Dyck, Ariel Harwood-Jones,  
Robert Hutson, and Angela Myshkowsky

## We Gather to Worship God

**Prelude** *My Faith Looks Up to Thee (Olivet)*

K. Osterland (2000)

\* **Processional Hymn** O God of Bethel, by whose hand (SALZBURG)

654

\* **Responsive Call to Worship** Joel 2:13

Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love.

### Prayers of Adoration and Confession

**Word of Assurance for Lent (sung in unison)** Hosea 6:1 (KILMARNOCK) 194, verse 1

Come, let us to the Lord our God  
with contrite hearts return;  
our God is gracious, nor will leave  
the desolate to mourn.

**Introit** *How Blest Are Those Whose Trespass*

C. Urhan (1790-1845)

How blest are those whose trespass has freely been forgiven, whose sins are wholly covered before the sight of heaven. Blest they to whom the Lord God does not impute their sin, who have a guileless spirit, whose heart is true within.

### Welcome

## We Hear the Word of God

\* **Children's Hymn** God of the sparrow, God of the whale (ROEDER)

307

### Word to the Children

**Anthem** *In My Father's House*

C. Courtney (2006)

In my Father's house, you will find a place in the warm embrace of an open door. In my Father's house, leave the past behind, come inside and find what you're looking for. In my Father's house, solace can be found, comfort will surround the bruised and broken. In my Father's house, children live in peace, war and hatred cease and love is spoken. In my Father's house, pardoned from all sin, free from what has been, life can start again. In my Father's house prodigals come home, no one walks alone, come and enter in, in my Father's house.

### Prayer for Illumination (in unison)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

**Epistle Lesson** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

p. 181 in N.T.

**Responsive Psalm** Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;

at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.  
Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.  
Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.  
Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

\* **Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Gospel Lesson** Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

p. 78 in N.T.

**Sermon** "A Man Who Had Two Sons"

The Rev. Dr. David Clark

**We Respond in Faith and Service**

\* **Hymn** And Jesus said, our God is like a shepherd (AND JESUS SAID) **669**

**Offertory** *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love (Chereponi)*

R. Powell (1997)

\* **Doxology for Lent (ROCKINGHAM)**

**231, verse 4**

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

\* **Prayer of Dedication**

**Announcements**

**Solo** *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

S. Townsend; arr. B. Harlin (2009)

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure; that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss – the Father turns His face away, as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory. Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders; ashamed I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished; His dying breath has brought me life – I know that it is finished. I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom; but I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection. Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer; but this I know with all my heart – His wounds have paid my ransom.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession, Commemoration,  
and the Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

\* **Recessional Hymn** The love of God comes close (RHOSYMEDRE)

**474**

\* **Commission and Benediction**

\* **Threefold Amen (DANISH)**

**780**

**Postlude** *When We Are in Utmost Need (Wenn wir in höchsten nöten sein)* J. C. Bach (1735-1782)

## Announcements

Welcome to today's worship service. We are grateful that you have joined us! If you are worshipping here for the first time, please sign the **Guest Book** in the Narthex, located at the back of the Sanctuary. An Usher would be pleased to offer you directions.

Highland Group welcomes young children into **the nursery**, outside the west doors of the Sanctuary.

Please join us following worship for **refreshments and fellowship** in New St. James Hall.

Please join us for Holy Week at New St. James. An in-person **Maundy Thursday** service, with Holy Communion, will take place on April 17 at 7:00 p.m. On **Good Friday** (April 18) at 10:30 a.m., an in-person Cantata will be offered, featuring guest instrumentalists and the Choir of New St. James. On **Easter Sunday** (April 20), we will celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord with an in-person and livestreamed service, featuring guest instrumentalists.

From the Mission and Social Action Committee: As **"Back to Basics"** time draws near (a Lenten project we do each year), it's hygiene products and new socks we need, and new underwear, too, would help out indeed! This outreach mission will run until April 20 (Easter Sunday), after which donations will be distributed to various agencies in London.

Our **mission trip** is fast approaching! If you are interested in joining us on our trip to Malawi or just want more information, please contact Cathy Reid (reidc@rogers.com). The dates are May 7-28.

The Session of New St. James has created a new **Stewardship Committee** to help lead and coordinate our use of time, treasure, and talent. Please stay tuned for more details as this important new initiative takes shape.

There are now several options for you to provide regular **financial support** to New St. James:

- For Offering Envelopes, please call the Church Office (519.434.1127)
- Cheques may be mailed to NSJ: 280 Oxford St. E., London, ON N6A 1V4
- Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) it is a convenient way to give—and the church benefits from your steady contributions. Contributions are automatically debited from your bank account on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. To sign up for PAR, call the Church Office or visit [www.newstjames.ca/donate-2](http://www.newstjames.ca/donate-2)
- To make an offering through e-transfer, please email Felicia Pereira (Office Administrator) at [admin@newstjames.ca](mailto:admin@newstjames.ca)

Income Tax statements are issued by New St. James each year by the end of February.

Thank you for supporting the life and mission of New St. James!

A reminder to all NSJ groups and committees: please remember to **book your meeting space** in advance by contacting Felicia Pereira in the Church Office.

**Announcements** are an important way to keep the congregation informed about the ministry of NSJ. The weekly deadline for submitting a requested announcement is Wednesday at noon. Announcements are reserved for information regarding the ministry of New St. James and the Presbyterian Church in Canada.