

## Fifth Sunday in Lent



*Jan Richardson Images – Blessing the Dust*

**Sunday March 22, 2026**

[www.stjamesdundas.ca](http://www.stjamesdundas.ca)

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Parish Deacon

Guest Musician

Parish Administrator

Wardens

Rev. Canon Leslie Gerlofs

Rev. Canon Peter Davison

Rev. Mary Ryback

Rev. Deacon Ann Vander Berg

Ininitely More

Channah Fonseca

Janet Cannon-Davison

Marline Sarjeant

Isabella Guthrie-McNaughton

Gillian Hendry

## Welcome to this time of worship!

Thank you for joining St. James today. It is good that you are here! If you are visiting or looking for your spiritual home, please make yourself known to us. We welcome your presence with us.

Children are welcome here at St. James! Children can gather in 'The Prayer Ground' at the beginning of the service. If this is your first time here, please go with your child to meet the leader and inform them of any allergies or special needs. For those not wanting to leave their parents, the prayer-ground is available throughout the service.

An offering plate is located in the centre aisle of the sanctuary. If you wish to make a gratitude offering for the blessings from God in your life, simply place the offering on the plate before the time of the offertory hymn or e-transfer your donation at [saintjamesgiving@gmail.com](mailto:saintjamesgiving@gmail.com). Your gift will be used to support the varied ministries of St. James. Take a moment to give thanks to God for the blessings in your life today.



[stjamesdundas.ca/giving](http://stjamesdundas.ca/giving)

The service is being livestreamed and recorded for viewing online.

The congregation responses are in **bold** type.

**Prelude**      *Salvage Me*  
By Gerald Flemming

**Welcome & Announcements**

## **Territorial Acknowledgement**

*Please stand as you are able*

One We gather on the territory traditionally inhabited by the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe nations acknowledged in the Dish with One Spoon wampum belt.

**All We commit ourselves to the work of truth and reconciliation with the Original Peoples of this land in a relationship of honour and mutual respect.**

### **OPENING HYMN CP 397**

*For God So Loved into Praise the  
One Who Breaks the Darkness*

By Gerald Flemming and Rusty Edwards

For God so loved the world  
For God so loved the world  
For God so loved the world  
That He gave us His only Son  
That He gave us His only Son

## **The Gathering of the Community**

*Please stand as you are able*

One Come into God's presence,  
all who imagine and all who seek,  
all who disrupt and all who repair.

**All By the Spirit, we gather in hope.**

One Come into God's presence,  
all who live in this wide and wild world,  
navigating beauty and uncertainty,  
temptation and trial.

**All In Christ, we gather as children of God.**

One Come into God's presence,  
singing for joy and for justice;  
bringing prayer and worship,  
your most faithful acts of resistance.

**All To God be the glory! We gather to praise!**

## Collect

One God of all consolation and compassion,  
your Son comforted the grieving sisters, Martha and Mary;  
your breath alone brings life to dry bones and weary souls.

**All Pour out your Spirit upon us,  
that we may face despair and death  
with the hope of resurrection and faith in the One  
who called Lazarus forth from the grave. Amen.**

## Proclamation of the Word

**Reading** *Please be seated* *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

One Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **GRADUAL HYMN**

*A Hymn for a Pilgrim Community*

*See insert*

Tune: Kremser - By Peter W.A. Davison

## **The Gospel**

*John 11:1-45*

*Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel*

One God be with you

**All And also with you**

One The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John.

**All Glory to you, O Jesus Christ**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.

For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said,

“Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

One     The Gospel of Christ.

All     **Praise to you, O Jesus Christ.**

**Homily**

*Rev. Mary Ryback*

### **Affirmation of Faith**

One     Let us affirm our faith as we join in the holy work of imagination.

**All     We believe no wilderness is so dense  
that the Good Shepherd cannot find us.  
We believe no ocean is so vast  
that we cannot be saved from its depths.  
We believe no enemy is so strong  
that we cannot be rescued from its grasp.  
We believe no shame is so great  
that our liberator cannot free us.  
We believe no law is so rigid  
that it keeps us from grace.  
We believe no person is so powerful  
that they can rob us of our dignity.  
We believe no situation is so dire  
that we cannot find hope together, in community.  
We believe we are wholly loved, worthy of care,  
and safe in the palm of God’s hand.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

*Standing, sitting or kneeling as is comfortable*

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the priest begins.*

One Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God,  
for God knows our weaknesses and choices,  
yet imagines for us a life of wholeness and peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Loving God, we confess that when our world feels chaotic,  
and the earth beneath our feet seems to shift with change,  
we fall easily into despair.

**All We forget to hope.**

**We neglect to dream.**

**We imagine paths of doom instead of journeys to glory.**

**We panic, even as your Spirit holds steady within  
and around us.**

**Forgive us, and help us: to trust, to hope, to dream,  
and to walk forward in faith.**

**When fears set in, help us to find support  
in the strength of community.**

One Beloved, God knows our anxiety,  
our aversion to discomfort,  
and our fears about the future.

God equips us with hope to carry us through.

Know you are forgiven.

Receive this free gift of grace and be at peace.

**Amen.**

**The Peace**     *Please stand as you are able*

One As we walk through the wilderness of Lent,  
we imagine a world where all creation is at peace.

We imagine a world without war,  
where creation flourishes and children are safe.

Let these dreams of peace begin here as we share  
the peace of Christ with one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.

**All And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

*See insert*

*The Wonderful Cross*

By Isaac Watts, Chris Tomlin,

J.D. Walt, Jesse Reeves

# The Celebration of the Eucharist

*Please stand as you are able for the Prayer Over the Gifts and the Great Thanksgiving*

## Prayer Over the Gifts

One O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.

**All Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

One God be with you.

**All And also with you.**

One Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to our God.**

One Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One God of glory, you are worthy of thanks and praise,  
because you set humanity in a garden of delight  
to glorify and enjoy you forever.  
When that garden turned into a valley of dry bones,  
you entered the valley in the form of Jesus Christ.  
You breathed life into the dry bones and  
made them sing again.  
You put your Spirit within us that we might live.  
In the crucified Christ you became dry bones for us,  
and at Easter you showed us how to dance again.  
And so as your resurrected people, with angels  
and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,  
we join in singing your unending praise.

**All O holy, holy, holy God, Kingsfold  
O God of time and space  
All earth and sea and sky above  
bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the high-est heav'n,  
creation sings your praise.  
And blessed is the One who comes  
and bears your name always!**

One Listening God, you heard your Son Jesus  
when he called on you in the face of Lazarus's death.  
Hear us now as we call upon you  
to bring new life through this meal of memory and hope.  
Come among us in the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that your people may be transformed  
from dry bones to your living body,  
and that these gifts of bread and wine may become for us  
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;  
who, at supper with his disciples,  
took bread, gave you thanks,  
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,  
"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me."  
After supper he took the cup.  
Again, he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples,  
saying,  
covenant, which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.

**All Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

One Resurrecting God,  
where your people are in the valley of the shadow of  
death, bring them your words of prophecy and hope;  
where they are in the place of stench and decay,  
give them the balm of your healing and forgiveness;  
where they are under the weight of grief and depression,  
roll away the stone.  
Make us, your church, a place where dust can dream,  
where dry bones become flesh, where nobodies become  
your body. Reveal through Lazarus a foretaste of the  
resurrection of all creation,

when every tearful eye will  
gaze upon your consolation, and every weary throat be  
filled with your song;  
until every stone is rolled from every tomb  
and you sit in glory, the resurrection and the life,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

One As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,  
**All 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 for ever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

One Come to the table  
**All Feast on God's goodness and mercy.**

*All are welcome at God's table.  
If you require gluten-free wafers please indicate  
to your server.*

### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

*See insert*

**CP 400**

*The Same Love*

By Paul Baloche

*What Wondrous Love is This*

## Prayer after Communion

*Standing as we are able*

One God of our salvation,  
We give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you and strengthens us for the journey.

**All Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.**

## The Blessing

One Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
bless you now and always. **Amen.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN CP 470

*Seek Not in Distant, Ancient Hills*

Tune: House of the Rising Sun

## Dismissal

One Go in peace. Follow in the way of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*God's Signature*

By Gerald Flemming

## Ministry Team

Presiding	Rev. Canon Peter Davison
Presiding	Rev. Mary Ryback
Eucharistic Assistant	Ann Vander Berg
Server	Mark Mainprize
Readers	Jill Regoeczi
Greeters	Barbara Busing Norma Coe
Warden on Duty	Gillian Hendry