

New St. James Presbyterian Church

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

“Following Christ, Worshipping God, Serving Others”

Sunday, March 23, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.



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

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Minister: The Rev. Dr. David Clark

Director of Music: Torin W. Chiles

Reader: Patrick Malone

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

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude *In Green Pastures*

H. Drake (1888-1976)

* **Processional Hymn** Come, let us to the Lord our God (KILMARNOCK) **194**

* **Responsive Call to Worship** Psalm 86:4-5

Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

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 *O, Lord, You Are My God*

Wm. H. Harris (1883-1973)

O Lord, You are my God, for You I long: show me Your face. Your life within me makes my spirit strong: Lord of all grace. For You I thirst like deserts parched and dried. Within Your care my soul is satisfied.

Welcome

We Hear the Word of God

* **Children's Hymn** We come to ask your forgiveness (WE COME TO ASK) **201**

Word to the Children

Anthem *Christ Hath a Garden (O Waly Waly)*

G. Near (1973)

Christ hath a garden walled around, a paradise of fruitful ground, chosen by love and fenced by grace from out the world's wide wilderness. Like trees of spice his servants stand, there planted by his mighty hand; by Eden's gracious streams that flow to feed their beauty where they grow. Awake, O wind of heaven, and bear their sweetest perfume through the air: stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom, 'til the beloved Master come: that he may come, and linger yet among the trees that he hath set; that he may evermore be seen to walk amid the springing green.

Prayer for Illumination (in unison)

O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to obey Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 55:1-9

p. 685 in O.T.

Responsive Psalm Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
 My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
when I think of you on my bed
and meditate on you in the watches of the night,
for you have been my help.
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
 My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

* **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 13:1-9

p. 76 in N.T.

Sermon "Planted in His Vineyard"

The Rev. Dr. David Clark

We Respond in Faith and Service

* **Hymn** You thirsty ones (BELMONT)

190

Offertory *Christ Hath a Garden (O Waly Waly)*

Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

* **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

Anthem *We Are Not Alone*

P. Choplin (2018)

We are not alone; God is with us. We are never alone, for God is with us. Now, through all our days, always. Forever and ever, we are never alone. And God will make us strong, for God is with us. We will press on, for God is with us. God is with us now.

**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** Praise, my soul, the God who crowns you (PRAISE, MY SOUL)

467

* **Commission, Benediction, and Threefold Amen** (DANISH)

780

Postlude *Christ Hath a Garden (O Waly Waly)*

D. Wood (1934-2003)

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. We will be joined by Karen Plater from the Presbyterian Church in Canada who will present on **Legacy Givings**. Everyone is welcome. Learn about special tax benefits; how stocks, bonds, mutual funds and real property can be used to support NSJ now; and how a gift in a will, life insurance, or a charitable gift annuity can support future ministry at NSJ.

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 from March 15 to April 20 (Easter Sunday), after which donations will be distributed to various agencies in London.

The Lenten season presents us with an opportunity to practice sacrificial giving, aligning our hearts with Christ's sacrifice. We thank you for your generous support of the chili supper, our first fundraising event of 2025! We are looking forward to many more opportunities to share in fellowship and fundraising. For the next several weeks we have the opportunity to support our church with the **Envelope Challenge**. If you choose to participate, you will receive 8 envelopes numbered 2 to 16. The numbers correspond to the amount to be placed in the envelopes (\$2 to \$16). At the end of the eight weeks we will collect the envelopes and tally our support. Please write your givings envelope number or name on the first envelope so that a tax receipt can be issued for 2025. Please contact Sharon Mercier, Dennis Mercier, or Rob McGugan for envelopes or further information.

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.

There will be no Rummage Sale this year. The Women's Council will focus their efforts on the **Marketplace** which will be on November 8, 2025.

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 20th of each month. To sign up for PAR, call the Church Office or visit www.newstjames.ca/donate-2
- To make an offering through e-transfer, please email Felicia Pereira (Office Administrator) at 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!

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.

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New St. James Presbyterian Church • 280 Oxford St. East • London, ON • N6A 1V4
519.434.1127 • www.newstjames.ca • admin@newstjames.ca