

New St. James Presbyterian Church

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada
"Following Christ, Worshipping God, Serving Others"
Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.



Detail from *The Ascension* (1933), New St. James

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Minister: The Rev. Dr. David Clark

Director of Music: Torin W. Chiles

Reader: Karen Buchwald

Choristers: Janaki Butterworth, Ariel Harwood-Jones, Robert Hutson,
Hannah Pinhorn, and Anthony Rodrigues

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude *Now the Green Blade Rises (Noël Nouvelet)* D. Wagner (1999)

* **Processional Hymn** Hail the day that sees Christ rise (LLANFAIR) **265**

* **Responsive Call to Worship** Psalm 47:5-6

God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Word of Assurance (sung in unison) Psalm 103:12, 22 (DUNLAP'S CREEK) **702**

As far as east is from the west,
so far God bears away
our sins and all our brokenness;
bless God, my soul, this day!

Introit *Ascended Is Our God and Lord* M. Franck (1579-1639); arr. H. Willan (1880-1968)

Ascended is our God and Lord, Alleluia! As was foretold in sacred Word. Alleluia! He sits with power at God's right hand, Alleluia! And rules in heaven o'er every land. Alleluia! Therefore we now rejoice and sing Alleluia! Christ is our Saviour and our King. Alleluia! All praise and glory be to thee, Alleluia! O God the Holy Trinity! Alleluia!

Welcome

We Hear the Word of God

* **Children's Hymn** There is a redeemer (THERE IS A REDEEMER) **358**

Word to the Children

Anthem *O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts' Desire* N. Hermann (1480-1561); arr. D. Johnson (1967)

O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire, redemption's only spring; Creator of the world thou art, its Saviour and its King. How vast the mercy and the love which laid our sins on thee, and led thee to a cruel death to set thy people free. But now the bonds of death are burst. The ransom has been paid; and thou art on thy Father's throne in glorious robes arrayed. O may thy mighty love prevail our sinful souls to spare, O may we come before thy throne and find acceptance there. O Christ, be thou our present joy, our future great reward; our only glory may it be to glory in the Lord! All praise to thee, ascended Lord; all glory ever be to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost through all eternity! Amen.

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.

Epistle Lesson Acts 1:1-14

p. 118 in N.T.

Responsive Psalm Psalm 93

The LORD is king, he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed, he is girded with strength.
He has established the world; it shall never be moved;
your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.
The floods have lifted up, O LORD,
the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring.

More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters,
more majestic than the waves of the sea,
majestic on high is the LORD!
Your decrees are very sure;
holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

* **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 24:44-53

p. 91 in N.T.

Sermon "Devoting Themselves to Prayer"

The Rev. Dr. David Clark

We Respond in Faith and Service
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* **Hymn** Dear Christ, uplifted from the earth (DUNLAP'S CREEK)

702

Offering

Offertory *Now the Green Blade Rises (Noël Nouvelet)*

M. Sedio (1996)

* **Doxology (OLD 100TH)**

830

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* **Prayer of Dedication**

Announcements

Solo *Arise, My Love, and Come Away*

M. Hayes (2004)

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. Arise, my love, so beautiful, and come away. For lo, the winter is past. The rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth. The time for singing has come! The voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig trees are bursting with buds and the promise of fruit. The grapevines are fragrant with blossoms. How delicious they smell! Spring is here and my heart is filled with love! Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm. For love is as strong as death, and passion, fierce as the grave. Many waters cannot quench love. All the world's riches cannot buy love. Arise, my love...

**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 head that once was crowned with thorns (ST. MAGNUS)

270

* **Commission and Benediction**

* **Threefold Amen (DANISH)**

780

Postlude *Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise (Llanfair)*

R. J. Powell (1995)

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 continue to receive pledge forms in support of creating a **Children & Youth Ministry Leader** position at New St. James. Completed pledge forms can be returned by placing them in the offering plates (using offering envelopes or the special envelopes found in the Narthex). The Congregation is invited to return the pledge forms by next Sunday, May 24 (which is Pentecost with Holy Communion). If you have any questions, you are welcome to speak with Rev. David or your district elder.

The **lawn mower** is gassed up and ready! Once again the Board of Managers is looking for volunteers to cut the lawn this season. There is a sign-up sheet for the first 3 months on the bulletin board in NSJ hall along with an information sheet. If you have any questions, please contact Rob McGugan (rgmcgugan@gmail.com).

Friendship Communion, Luncheon, and Strawberry Social: All are welcome to join us Thursday, June 18 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please r.s.v.p. on the sign-up sheet in NSJ Hall. If you are unable to sign the sheet, please contact Cathy Taylor (519.433.4095).

From the Worship and Music Committee: Please Save The Date! It's that time of the year again; time to gather for an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. Join us for our **Annual Church Picnic** on Sunday, June 21, immediately following the morning worship service. It's a wonderful chance to connect, enjoy great food, and spend time together in the sunshine. Please feel free to bring along family and friends as we come together to make this a truly memorable day. We look forward to seeing you there! More details will be shared soon.

This summer, New St. James is offering **Vacation Bible Camp!** This ministry will be under the direction of Jenna Smith, with Rev. David's support. The dates are August 10-14, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Registration is now open at www.newstjames.ca. Stay tuned for more details.

The **Mission and Social Action Committee**, on behalf of the congregation, sent donations to The Canadian Foodgrains Bank for relief during the Sudan Hunger Crisis, Life*Spin, and Rotholme Family Shelter. In addition, CAD \$500 has been sent to Spencer Suliani, our Malawi contact. He's very grateful for the donation and, in part, his letter reads, "The training program will run for three months, and participants will receive practical skills training in Soap Making, Welding and Fabrication, Baking, and Motorbike Mechanics."

MARKETPLACE 2026: The date is set - November 7 - and it is time to start getting ready for another successful sale! Rhubarb season is here and strawberry season is not far behind. If you have rhubarb in your garden or know anyone with rhubarb, perhaps you could donate some for making rhubarb pies for the sale. We can freeze it for now and when we have enough we can have a pie-making day. As soon as strawberries are ready, strawberry-rhubarb jam can be made, which is one of our best sellers! We do have some jars available. If you have any 250 or 500ml jars that you won't be using, please bring them to church and leave them in the lower kitchen. For any further information please contact Karen Buchwald (519.641.7642 or karenbuchwald@hotmail.com).

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