

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith
330 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9
September 10, 2017/Creation Time 1



**Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.
Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.**

Musical Prelude

Acknowledgement of Country/First Peoples

Welcome & Life & Work of St. James

Entry into the Celebration

Lighting of the Community Candle

Passing the Peace of Christ:

One: May a heart of peace rest with you. **All: And also with you.**
(*You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.*)

Gathering Words:

One: Joyfully we went on holiday; joyfully we have experienced new places and faces, and joyfully we return to church.

All: This is our faith community and we rejoice to be here.

One: Here we have a source of God's peace.

All: Here we have friends for good times and the hard times.

One: Here we have a faith to sustain us when life tests us.

All: Here we have the scriptures that guide and challenge.

One: Here we have the pattern of Jesus to call us to compassion and action.

All: Joyfully we went on holiday, and joyfully we return to church.

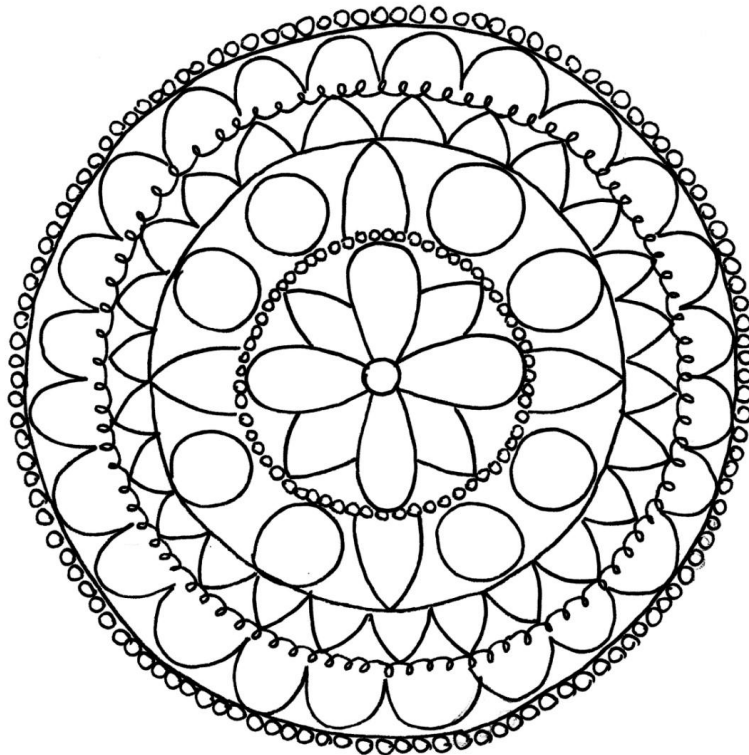
Opening Prayer: (together) Gracious and Loving God, in this season of creation, we gather in worship, aware of the beauty of the world still unfolding. As we worship today, we would hear again Your call to live with respect in creation and to love and serve others. Breathe Your Holy Spirit into us as we encounter You in music, Bible reading, prayer and preaching, in the bread broken and the wine poured. May we experience anew Your life-giving presence, that we might be renewed, restored, and equipped to be Your people, following Jesus in the Way. Amen.

Hymn: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore You*

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Children's Time and Celebrations

Hymn: *When Israel was in Egypt's Land*
When Israel was in Egypt's land: let my people go!
Oppressed so hard they could not stand. Let my people go!



Minister:
Minister of Youth/Christian Education:
Acting Minister of Visitation:
Organist:
Choir:
Choir Director:
Soloist:

Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Susan Sheppard, DLM
Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray
Paul Rodermond
Senior
Emma Clark
Sophie Fitzgerald



*Chorus: Go down, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land,
Tell old Pharaoh, let my people go!*

*We need not always weep and mourn, let my people go!
And wear these slavery chains forlorn: let my people go!*

*O let us all from bondage flee, let my people go!
And let us all in Christ be free: let my people go!*

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Offertory Hymn: *Spirit, Open My Heart*

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.

Offertory Dedication: (together) These offerings we present to You, O Lord. May they be used for ministries of love and reconciliation through this community of faith. Amen.

Silence

Scripture Readings

Old Testament: Exodus 12: 1-14 Instructions for the first Passover

Ministry of Music: *Oceans* Sophie Fitzgerald

Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20 Where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name

Hymn: *God is Here* 389

Meditation

Hymn: *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* 479

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Welcome to the Table:

One: At this table ... we welcome old and young.

All: A place at the table. And all are invited.



Thanksgiving:

One: We give thanks for ... gifts from a Creative God.

All: We celebrate our common origin with everything that exists.

One: We celebrate the ... unique and personal expression.

All: God is everywhere present.

One: In grace-filled moments of sharing... Interdependent.

All: Web of life within a web of life!

The Story:

One: We remember the stories from our tradition... enable us to dare and to dream and to risk.

All: Together may we re-imagine the world.

One: Together may we work to make all things new.

All: Together may we celebrate the possibilities and hope we each have and are called to share.

Bread and Wine: *Bread is Broken*

One: We break the bread for the broken earth, ravaged and plundered for greed.

All: May there be healing of our beautiful blue and green planet.

One: We break this bread for our broken humanity, for the powerful and the powerless trapped by exploitation and oppression.

All: May there be the healing of humanity.

One: We break this bread for those who follow other paths.

All: May there be healing where there is pain and woundedness.

One: We break this bread for the unhealed hurts and wounds that lie within us all.

All: May we be healed.

Wine is poured into the cup

One: This is the cup of peace and of new life for all. A sign of love for the community of hope.

All: A reminder of the call to live fully, to love wastefully, and to be all that we can be.

Communion

Prayer after Communion (together) May the momentum of the Jesus movement strengthen and enable us to capture the spirit of His words, and living out the implications of those words in our own time with our own creativity. Amen.

Closing Hymn: *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

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Parting Words: (responsive)

One: With hope and wisdom. **All: Living God, inspire us.**

One: With compassion and involvement. **All: Living God, inspire us.**

One: With openness and love. **All: Living God, inspire us.**

One: With courage to face the reality and complexity of life.

All: Living God, inspire us.

Words of Blessing followed by Musical Postlude

