

St. James United Church

Community of Friends in Faith
330 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9
March 21, 2021



The Church is a fellowship of believers who have responded to God's call through Jesus Christ. As members of a Christian community initiated by Christ to proclaim God's love for the whole creation, we are called to:

- (1) Believe in God and God's love made visible in Jesus Christ;
- (2) To participate in a spiritual journey, intentionally proclaiming, celebrating and deepening spiritual consciousness;
- (3) To be good stewards of all that we possess and to care for the Earth which is God's creation;
- (4) To develop meaningful and caring relationships with others as well as with God;
- (5) To empower individuals and groups, in response to the call of Christ, to increase their awareness of the oppressive forces around them, and with God's help, to seek justice for all people.

Administration/Office:	722-1881, ext. 200
Church Email:	info@stjamesuc.org
Church Web Site:	www.stjamesuc.org
Facebook:	St. James United Church
Twitter:	StJamesUnited
Instagram:	St.JamesUC
Emergency Pager:	727-4067
NL Conference:	www.newlabconf.com
U.C. of Canada:	www.united-church.ca

The bulletin may be accessed at stjamesuc.org/bulletins
password: StJamesUC

St. James United Church

March 21, 2021/Fifth Sunday of Lent

Minister:	Rev. Jim Von Riesen
Minister of Youth/Christian Education:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Associate Music Director:	Branden Olsen

St. James United Church is a safe place for all people to worship, regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background or sexual orientation.

We Gather as God's People

MUSICAL PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY/FIRST PEOPLES

WELCOME

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Today is the fifth Sunday of Lent. We are here to worship because our hearts are filled with love for our God. Our hearts are open so God's Word can shape us. God's word calls us to reach out to our neighbors, our friends and family, even to strangers. Our hearts are ready to serve God and all of God's people.

OPENING PRAYER:

Creating God, you plant the seeds of grace and hope deep within us, watering them with your love. You call us to follow, so we may join you in serving the broken of our world. You journey with us, leading us closer to the cross. You center us on the One we would follow, so we can see Jesus clearly. You point to your watch, so we know the hour for faithfulness has come. So, we now gather to worship you in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

HYMN: *In Loving Partnership We Come* VU 603

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

We Respond to God's Love

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

As you write upon our hearts, soften them with your compassion. As you soften them, open us to the needs of those close to us, as well as those in every corner of your world. As you open us to the hurts and heartaches of your children, give us the grace to be as generous with our gifts as you are in blessing us. Take these gifts and use them to share peace, love, grace, and joy with all of your people. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

We Listen to and for God's Word

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

HYMN: *We Are Pilgrims on a Journey* VU 595

GOSPEL READING: John 12:20-33

MEDITATION: Planting Seeds – Bearing Fruit

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We Are Sent Forth in God's Love

HYMN: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* VU 593

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION:

God calls us forth to plant seeds of love in the name of Jesus. Our hearts are filled with compassion which we will share with others. Jesus calls us to share hope with all we meet. Our hands will bring food for the hungry and build shelters for the homeless. The Spirit of hospitality is engraved upon our spirits. We will welcome everyone we meet with the grace which is written large upon our hearts.

SUNG BENEDICTION: *May God's Sheltering Wings* MV 214

May God's sheltering wings,
God's gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
God's cradling arms sustain you,
And hold you in God's love,
and hold you in God's love.

Organ Postlude

*Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer and Commissioning adapted from a liturgy written by Thom M. Shuman, minister at Galloway Presbyterian Church, Columbus, OH and Associate Member, Iona Community

Life and Work – March 21, 2021

We would like to extend our condolences to Shane and Melanie Seal, along with friends and family, on the passing of Shane's mother Frieda Seal. She passed away on March 13, 2021 in Oliver, British Columbia.

We would also like to extend our condolences to Ruby Hill (sister) and Nina Abbott (aunt) and their families and friends on the passing of Clayton Humphries. He passed away on March 13, 2021.

We would like to acknowledge the following donation to the General Fund:

* in loving memory of parents, Reverend Gordon & Phyllis Decker; Carl & Dot Schofield; and friend Cory Browne from Gladys and Larry Schofield.

We would like to acknowledge the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:

* in loving memory of Fred Higdon (March 23, 1935 - March 16, 2001) from Claire and family.

Holy Week Services

The United Communities of Faith Holy Week services will take place online and can all be viewed on the First Dawn Eastern Edge Region YouTube channel and your church's social media. The services on Monday and Tuesday will go live at 7:30 pm and the Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services are taped and will be available to you starting at 8 am each day. The Maundy Thursday service will have communion and foot washing so make sure to have supplies on hand.

Your Hosts:

Monday: First United Church

Tuesday: Wesley United Church

Wednesday: Bell Island - Portugal Cove/ St. James

Thursday: Cowan Heights United Church (Communion & Foot Washing)

Friday: Cochrane Street United Church

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 21 is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This day provides another excellent opportunity to further focus and continue to commit to dismantling racism in worship and community life.

Here are some resources available to mark the day:

- Blogs on anti-racism themes from people in the United Church
- Revised United Church anti-racism website pages for education and learning
- Ideas from the Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network for undoing racism
- Two upcoming webinars from the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, on March 19 and 25, focused on anti-Black racism and anti-Indigenous racism.

Even though this International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is just one calendar day, the work towards racial justice is a continuous effort and a lifelong journey. This day, therefore, could be one to share more about the United Church's commitment to becoming an anti-racist denomination, and then to consider making a similar commitment in your community of faith. The United Church worship resources focused on anti-racism and the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination can also be used throughout the year.

Upcoming Webinar Exploring Preaching on Racism

On March 21, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Eastern Time, the United Church is hosting a webinar called "A Biblical and Theological Exploration on Preaching Race and Racism." This will be a rich conversation about anti-racist preaching, biblical interpretation, and realities of racism in The United Church of Canada.

The event will feature a keynote presentation by HyeRan Kim-Cragg of Emmanuel College, followed by discussion afterwards. This webinar is also a preview of some of the content in an upcoming United Church study guide on anti-racism, also written by HyeRan Kim-Cragg. There is no cost to attend, and up to 300 people can register in advance to join us on Zoom. The event will also be livestreamed to Facebook. Please share news about this event with interested others!

Feedback and communication

Your feedback is always welcome. Please email anti-racism@united-church.ca and/or join the new Anti-Racism Facebook group to share what you are doing in your community of faith for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, or around anti-racism in general.

In faith,
Adele Halliday
Anti-Racism and Equity
The United Church of Canada
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