

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith



The people of St. James United Church are eternal seekers who value diversity within our congregation, our city and all of society. We affirm each person's uniqueness and believe that all persons deserve to be valued, treated with equity and respected. We are all children of God, walking many paths of spirituality.

Further, we proudly and publicly declare our commitment to practice radical hospitality and strive in every way to provide a safe and supportive place for all persons to participate in the worship and work of our church.

Guided by the teachings of Jesus, we embrace all persons, regardless of creed, race, age, ability, economic status, cultural and ethnic background, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation or any other difference that has led to marginalization or oppression.

January 16, 2022, Second Sunday after Epiphany

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Organist: Bob Rose; Music Leadership: Glen Warren

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME: *We extend greetings in Innu-aimun, Arabic and Twi.*

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We light the candle as a sign of Christ's spirit both with and within us.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We take time to give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who continue to steward it; we also commit to be an inclusive community for all.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(inspired by Psalm 19)*

One: We gather to worship the God of all creation.

All: We pray in reverent awe, attentive to God's grace present in and around us.

One: We open our hearts to the God of all revelation.

All: We sit in inspired silence, speechless before the glory of the Holy Name.

One: We ponder the teaching of the God of all wisdom.

All: We rejoice in the way set before us, happy to walk in the companionship of Christ.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" *Voices United 325*

1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and its confidence alone.

2 To this temple where we call you,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with your faithful loving-kindness
hear your servants as they pray,
and your fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.

3 Here bestow on all your servants
what they ask of you to gain;
what they gain from you for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.

4 Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one,
one in mighty, and one in glory,
while unending ages run.

We Share

OUR LIFE AND WORK

We acknowledge the connection between our work and our worship as we take time to announce what is going on in our congregation and community.

RECOGNITION OF OFFERINGS

We acknowledge the ways people contribute to the community of faith and wider community, especially by way of supporting St. James UC financially.

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(in unison)*

God of grace, through your goodness

**we have every gift that we need for the building up the church,
the blessing of your Spirit**

to equip us as witnesses of your saving love in the world.

**Thank you for these gifts and for the many ways that we as individual members
of Christ's Body contribute to the whole, sharing our spiritual and financial gifts
in support of the ministry and mission of this congregation.**

Bless the gifts of this community, that they may be used to bless others.

We pray with gratitude for the greatness of your grace. Amen.

SOLO: "How Great Thou Art"

We Listen

TIME OF CENTERING

We listen to a singing bowl, preparing our hearts to receive the day's readings.

READINGS: Luke 4:14-21

1 Corinthians 12:12-20, 26-31a

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

READING: Excerpt from p. 86 of *Disciplines of the Spirit* by Rev. Howard Thurman

MESSAGE: "Embodying Grace"

HYMN: "Bathe Me in Your Light" *More Voices* 82

1 Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,
Showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.

2 Bathe me in you love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.
May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,
Drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.

3 Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit's longing;
teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength.
Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and wholeness,
Fill me with your promise of a love that knows no length.

We Respond

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We take time to pray for the needs of our global and local communities, knowing that what we pray for we in turn are called to do something about.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Please pray in your first language. A traditional version in English follows:

**Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "Live into Hope" *Voices United* 699

1 Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God's own jubilee!

2 Live into hope the blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.

3 Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread,
to hear God's word and thus be fed.

4 Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.

BENEDICTION

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

Lead Minister:	James Ravenscroft, OM
Youth/Christian Education Minister:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Acting Music Director:	Bob Rose
Associate Music Director:	Alba Chen
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Office Administrator:	Tracy Bishop
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor