

# 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 23, 2022, Third Sunday after Epiphany

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft  
Reader: Linda Babstock; Organist: Bob Rose  
Music Leadership: Alba Chen and Jean Rose

---

### We Come to Worship

#### MUSICAL PRELUDE

**WELCOME:** *We extend greetings in Inuttitut, Swahili and Portuguese.*

#### 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 71:1-6)*

One: We come, sheltering in the embrace of the Holy One.

**All: Taking refuge in God who listens to our cries.**

One: We are ready to listen, hearts open to God's love and grace,

**All: seeking a word that will bring healing and peace.**

One: Together we will worship and pray to the One who is our hope,

**All: relying on God to whom belongs constant praise.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN:** "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" *Voices United 602*

1 Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the unity of heart and mind  
is like to that above.

3 We share each other's woes,  
each other's burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.

2 Before our Maker's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.

4 The glorious hope revives  
our courage on the way;  
that we shall live in perfect love  
in God's eternal day.

### 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)*

Holy One, we come together with thanks,  
for we have been called to live out your abundant love each day,  
offering all that we are, all that we do, and all that we have  
in order to make ever more present your beloved community in this world.  
Receive then the gifts that have been so freely given,  
gifts of self, of substance, of service, all offered in love -  
love that abides, love that transforms, love that makes us whole.  
We pray in the name of the One who showed us how to love. Amen.

SOLO: "Lascia ch'io pianga" (George Frideric Handel)

### We Listen

## TIME OF CENTERING

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

READINGS: Luke 4:21-30  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

READING: Excerpt from *The Pentecost Paradigm: Ten Strategies for Becoming a Multiracial Congregation* by Jacqueline J. Lewis and John Janka

MESSAGE: "Embodying Peace"

HYMN: "Love Divine All Loves Excelling" VU 333

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always  
blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish then thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

### 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:** "Arise, Your Light Is Come" *Voices United 79*

1. Arise, your light is come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God,  
which shines on you today.

2. Arise, your light is come!  
Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty,  
good tidings to the poor.

3. Arise, your light is come!  
All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the broken-hearted ones  
and comfort those who mourn.

4. Arise, your light is come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing;  
God's power will make us strong.

## 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