

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

330 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9



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.

February 13, 2022, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
(Second Sunday of Black History Month)

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Accompanist: Bob Rose
Music Leadership: Jean Rose

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME: *We extend greetings in M'ikmawi'simk, French and Igbo.*

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 37)*

One: We come together in shared acts of worship and praise,

All: each in our homes and yet still joined in love as a community in Christ.

One: We come together as a community of trust and fellowship,

All: from many backgrounds and experiences but each confident in God's grace.

One: We come together with openness to the Spirit,

All: each trying to walk in a good way, committed to live justly and in peace.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: "In Loving Partnership We Come" *Voices United 603*

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| 1. In loving partnership we come,
seeking, O God, your will to do.
Our prayers and actions now receive;
we freely offer them to you. | 3. Loving community we seek;
your hope and strength within us move.
The poor and rich, the strong and weak
are brought together in your love. |
| 2. We are the hands and feet of Christ,
serving by grace each other's need.
We dare to risk and sacrifice
with truthful word and faithful deed. | 4. In loving partnership, O God,
help us your future to proclaim.
Justice and peace be our desire,
we humbly pray in Jesus' name. |

We Share

OUR LIFE AND WORK

We acknowledge the connection between our work and worship as we 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)*

**Renewing Spirit, in your power we come together,
called to share our lives with one another -
not just here, not just with friends and family,
not just where we are comfortable,
but even with those who wish us ill.
Accept then our gifts, not just financial,
but gifts of fearless faith, persistent hope, and loving service.
Bless them that peace may come to places of unrest,
joy to places of sorrow, and love to places of hate,
use them in your wisdom that enemies may become friends
and friends one family,
where there is compassion and justice for all.
In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

SOLO: "The Greatest Gift" (John Greenwood)

We Listen

TIME OF CENTERING

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

READINGS: Luke 6:27-38
1 Corinthians 15:20-26

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

READING: Excerpt from bell hooks' *All About Love: New Visions*

MESSAGE: "The Way of Love"

HYMN: "Spirit, Open My Heart" *More Voices* 79

Refrain: 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.

1. God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your
grace I now surrender. **R**
2. Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. **R**
3. May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome another. **R**

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: "Jesus, Your Boundless Love to Me" *Voices United 631 (set to the tune of "Faith of Our Fathers"/St Catherine)*

1 Jesus, your boundless love to me
no thought can reach, no tongue declare.
O let my heart your dwelling be;
come, reign without a rival there.
Yours fully, yours alone I am;
O let your love my heart inflame.

2 O grant that nothing in my soul
may dwell, but your pure love alone;
O may that love possess me whole,
my joy, my treasure, and my crown.
All coldness from my heart remove;
my every act, word, thought, be love.

3 O love, how gracious is your way;
all fear before your presence flies.
Care, anguish, sorrow, melt away
where'er your healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I do,
but seek my joy in serving you.

4 In suffering, be your love my peace;
in weakness, be your love my power;
and when the storms of life shall cease,
O Jesus, in that final hour,
for me be rod and staff and guide,
and draw me safely to your side.

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