

# 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.

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of

**Joanne Hapgood, BN, RN**

Remembering her birthday - March 3rd

Love Dot, Dave & Family

## February 27, 2022, Transfiguration Sunday

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

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### We Come to Worship

#### MUSICAL PRELUDE

**WELCOME:** *We extend greetings in Innu-aimun, Swahili and Sinhalese.*

#### 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 99)*

One: We come in reverent awe before the glory of the Everlasting,

**All: to honour One whose sovereignty is mercy and justice.**

One: We come in trust of God's compassion and understanding,

**All: to worship and honour the One who is ever Holy!**

One: We come to be still in the presence of the Most High,

**All: to be open to Holy Wisdom and embody it in our lives.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN:** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" *Voices United 264*

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and  
love.

3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life, thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we would render, O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee!

### 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)*

**Transforming Spirit, we gather as one people,  
our coming together in worship a declaration of faith.  
Likewise, we share the gifts of our time and our treasure,  
trusting they are received as expressions of our desire  
to live lives that are transformed in your grace.  
Bless then our offerings, given in a variety of ways,  
and use them in service of your reign of mercy and love.  
We pray in the mighty love of Jesus. Amen**

**SOLO:** "Lascia ch'io pianga" from G.F. Handel

**We Listen**

**TIME OF CENTERING**

*We listen to a singing bowl, preparing ourselves to hear the day's readings.*

**READINGS:** Exodus 34:29-35

Luke 9:28-36

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**READING:** Excerpt from *Disciplines of the Spirit* by H. Thurman

**MESSAGE:** "A Surprising Path"

**HYMN:** "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding" *Voices United* 104

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus Christ, to you we raise,  
manifested by the star,  
to the sages from afar;  
branch of royal David's stem  
in your birth at Bethlehem;  
anthems be to you addressed  
God in flesh made manifest.

2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest,  
in your Godhead manifest;  
manifest in power divine,  
changing water into wine;  
anthems be to you addressed  
God in flesh made manifest.

3 Manifest in making whole  
palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
manifest in valiant fight,  
quelling all the devil's might;  
manifest in gracious will,  
ever bringing good from ill;  
anthems be to you addressed  
God in flesh made manifest.

4 Grant us grace to see you, Lord,  
mirrored in your holy Word;  
with your grace our lives endow,  
grace to imitate you now,  
that we like to you may be  
at your great epiphany,  
anthems be to you addressed,  
God in flesh made manifest.

## 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 Shall Reign" *Voices United 330*

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 People and realms of every tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

3 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
and prisoners leap to lose their chains;  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

4 Let every creature rise and bring  
peculiar honours to our King,  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

### **COMMISSIONING IN PREPARATION FOR LENT**

*With the Season of Lent beginning on Sunday, this blessing and sending points us toward the upcoming forty-day journey of reflection and prayer.*

### **MUSICAL POSTLUDE**

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#### **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