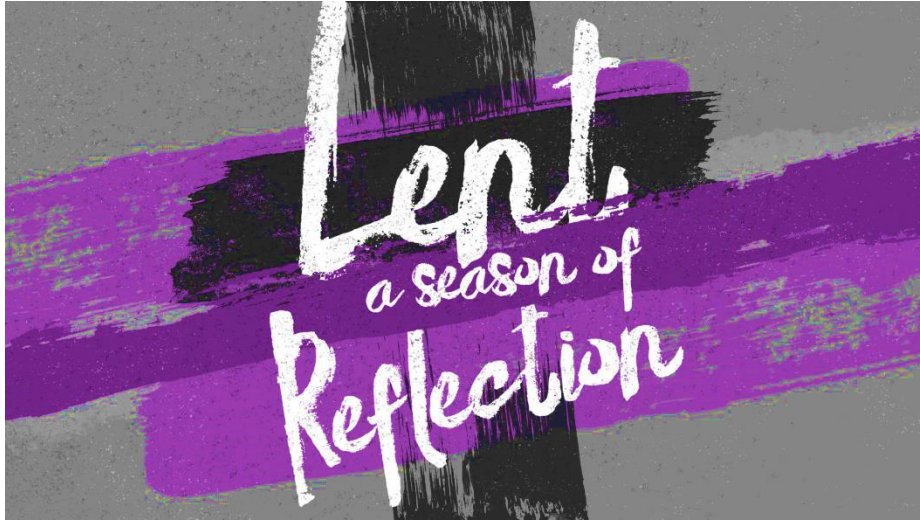


St. James United Church

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.

March 20, 2022, Third Sunday in Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Accompanist: Amy Dalziel
Choral Leadership: Alba Chen and the Senior Choir

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

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

WELCOME: *We extend greetings in Inuttitut, Spanish and Tigrinya.*

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.

CENTRING REFRAIN: "Be Still and Know That I Am God" (*anon*)

Be still and know that I am God. (x3)

OPENING SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: *Today we seek inner quiet through Centering Prayer. We will engage in the practice for 3 minutes.*

CENTRING REFRAIN: "Be Still and Know That I Am God" (*anon*)

Be still and know that I am God. (x3)

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Gift of Saving Grace, we turn to you who know the deepest needs of our hearts. In this time of crisis, it is tempting to withdraw and guard our hearts from all that is going on. Or to engage with judgment, forgetting how all of our actions are entwined. Teach us to wait and listen, to seek your insight and respond with your mercy, compassion and love, even if it is simply to pray, and then pray some more. Send us strength in this difficult time that we may keep turning toward you and all who need our love and care. We pray in the name of the One who walks on our way. Amen.

HYMN: "Giver of the Perfect Gift" *Voices United 116*

1 Giver of the perfect gift,
only hope of human race,
hear the prayer our hearts uplift
trembling at thy throne of grace.

2 Though the accusing voice within
speaks of many a wrong to thee,
thou canst cleanse from every sin,
thou canst set the conscience free.

3 Who can save us, Lord, but thou?
Let thy mercy show thy power;

lo, we plead thy promise now,
now, in this accepted hour.

4 Oh! may these our Lenten days,
blest by thee, with thee be passed,
that with purer, nobler praise
we may keep thy feast at last.

5 God the holy trinity,
grant the mercy we implore;
God the One, all praise to thee
through the ages evermore.

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

ANTHEM: "In the Shadow of the Tree" (Patrick M. Leiberger)

We Listen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *We take time to acknowledge the places and situations in our lives where we need healing and forgiveness.*

SUNG VERSION OF PSALM 51

According to thy steadfast love have mercy, Lord, on me:
in thy compassion great, blot out all my iniquity.

Wash me from sin; completely cleanse me from iniquity,
for my transgressions I confess; my sin I ever see.

For thou desirest truth, O Lord, within the inward part;
thy wisdom, Lord, then may I learn; oh teach my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop; make me clean and whiter than the snow;
thy joy and gladness let me hear; thy healing let me know.

Blot out all my iniquities; thy face hide from my sin;
create in me a clean heart, Lord, a spirit right within.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

READINGS: Isaiah 55:1-9, Luke 13:1-9, and an Excerpt from Desmond Tutu's *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World*

CENTRING REFRAIN: "Be Still and Know That I Am God" (*anon*)

Be still and know that I am God. (x3)

MESSAGE: "The Crisis of a Crisis"

We Respond

HYMN: "Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ" *Voices United* 573

1 Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
I know not how to ask or what to say;
I only know my need, as deep as life,
and only you can teach me how to pray.

2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
help me to see your purpose and your will,

where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
held in forgiving love, let me be still.

3 Come with the vision and the strength I need
to serve my God, and all humanity;
fulfillment of my life in love outpoured --
my life in you, O Christ, your love in me.

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 *(based on the spoken language of Jesus)*

Name of names, our small identity unravels in you; you give it back as a lesson. Help us let go, clear the space inside, so your Name comes to live. Let your counsel rule our lives, clearing our intention for co-creation. Help us love beyond our ideals with acts of compassion for all. Give us the food we need to grow each day; untangle the knots within so we can mend our hearts' ties with others. Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back. From you is born all will, from age to age renewed. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "He Leadeth Me" *Voices United 657*

1 He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:

He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By his own hand he leadeth me!
His faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me!

2 Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest
gloom,

sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. **R**

3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine,
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. **R**

4 And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace, the victory's won,
even death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me. **R**

BENEDICTION

One: As we go from here in this time of self reflection,

**All: may we be blessed in seeking to know Jesus
more deeply.**

One: May we follow along the path he has walked before us,

All: arriving at Easter in a spirit of renewed love and joy.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

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