

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.

April 10, 2022, Palm Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft

Accompanist: Amy Dalziel

Music Leadership: Becca-Ann Bartlett,
Glen Warren and Glenda Winsor

Ushers: Julie Hollett

Daphne Coish and Betty Pilgrim

Readers: Sylvia Cole and Les Dean

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 M'ikmawi'simk, Korean and Yoruba.*

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.

OUR LIFE AND WORK

We acknowledge the connection between our work and our worship.

RECOGNITION OF OFFERINGS

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

We Listen

RECALLING JESUS' COMING TO JERUSALEM:

Luke 19:29-38

PALM PROCESSION: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" Voices United 123

(Everyone is invited to process through the church in commemoration of Jesus' own arrival to Jerusalem.)

1 Hosanna, loud hosanna
the happy children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang:
to Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

2 From Olivet they followed
'mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm-branch waving,
and singing clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
content that little children
should on his bidding wait.

3 "Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer;
earth, let your anthems ring.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his humble presence
eternally rejoice!

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, this is a day to celebrate.
We commemorate the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem,
riding on the back of a donkey.
We feel the excitement of the crowds,
the wonder of his disciples.
It is easy to get swept up in the possibility of this moment,
to be emboldened by hope,
unaware of what happens next.
And yet we are aware,
our joyful hosannas understandably mixed
with the sadness of a coming welcome withdrawn.
As we remember not only Jesus' journey into Jerusalem,
but look to the horizon and see the shadow of the cross,
may look still further ahead to the promise of an empty tomb,
giving poignancy to the cries of *hosanna*, "Lord, save us".
We pray with the One accompanying us on our way. Amen.

ANTHEM: "Glory to the Lord Our God" Robin Mark

MESSAGE: "The Rest of the Story"

HYMN: "Palm Sunday" (to the tune: *Kingsfold*)

The day of palms is come again, day of triumphant praise,
When crowds excited ran to sing the song the psalmist raised.
'Blessed is the one who comes,' they cry 'to set his people free.'
Gladly we join our song with theirs who yearn for liberty.

How soon the gladness disappears & shadow stalks the streets!
The king who rides a donkey's foal with coats beneath its feet
Will soon a crown of thorns endure, a throne of rough-hewn wood.
A day of agony draws near when evil strikes at good.

'Hosanna!' turns to 'Crucify!', rejoicing turns to scorn.
If this were all there was to tell, how deeply we should mourn.
Yet death is not the final step that Christ our Saviour trod.
Onward he marches, leading home the world he won for God.

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PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK

We listen to portions of the story that follow Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. The readings are interspersed with "Variations on Noel Nouvelet" (trad)

First Set of Readings: Luke 19:41-44 and 45-48

Second Set of Readings: Luke 20:1-8 and 20-26

Third Set of Readings: Luke 21:1-4 and 22:1-6

Fourth Set of Readings: Luke 22:14-15, 24-27 and 39-44

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

We Respond

ACT OF CONFESSION

In recognition of our own sharing in what happened to Jesus in his last days as well as our desire for forgiveness, everyone is invited to come forward and lay palm fronds or other branches and lay it at the foot of the cross. During this "act of confession" we will sing 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

We Leave to Serve

READING: M. Guite, "IX Crucifixion: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross"

HYMN: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" *Voices United* 135

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand:
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and the burden of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus
my eyes at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me;
and from my smitten heart with tears
two wonders I confess,
the wonder of his glorious love,
and my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all, the cross.

BENEDICTION

One: Now into Holy Week we go,

All: to follow along the path Jesus walked before us.

One: May we be blessed in knowing him more deeply,

All: and so come to Easter with 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