

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 parents

Christine and Noel Halfyard

from son Keith and daughter Margaret.

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of

David and Ray Bemister

from Adam Ryan and Karen Ryan

April 17, 2022, Easter Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft

Accompanist: Amy Dalziel

Music Leadership: Alba Chen and Senior Choir

Ushers: Ruth Baker, Betty Pilgrim and Sylvia Cole

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME: *We extend greetings in Inuttitut, French and Sinhalese.*

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.

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE *(based on Psalm 118)*

One: Give thanks for God is good! God's love is ever-steadfast!

All: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

One: Sing glad songs! God is exalted! Praise God's great deeds!

All: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

One: The Holy One suffered but did not die! Let us give thanks!

All: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

One: The stone the builders rejected is now the chief cornerstone.

All: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

One: This is the day God has made; let us rejoice and be glad!

All: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" Voices United 157

1 Christ the Lord is risen today, hallelujah!
all creation join to say; hallelujah!
raise your joys and triumphs high; hallelujah!
sing, O heavens, and earth reply: hallelujah!

3 Lives again our glorious King: hallelujah!
where, O death, is now your sting? Hallelujah!
Once he died, our souls to save: hallelujah!
where your victory, O grave? Hallelujah!

2 Love's redeeming work is done, hallelujah!
fought the fight, the battle won. Hallelujah!
Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er! Hallelujah!
Lo! he dwells in death no more! Hallelujah!

4 Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven, hallelujah!
praise to you by both be given! Hallelujah!
Every knee to you shall bow, hallelujah!
risen Christ, triumphant now. Hallelujah!

We Share

OUR LIFE AND WORK: *We acknowledge the connection between work and worship, announcing what is going on in our congregation.*

OFFERTORY: "Hallelujah, Hallelujah" Voices United 179, v 4

Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour. **Refrain**

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison)

God of Resurrection, we give thanks. In you we find that life is stronger than death, day dawns as surely as night falls, hope overcomes our deepest despair! And so we offer to you what you have so freely given – our time, and our tithes, our hands, our hearts, our worship and our witness to your love revealed in the resurrection of Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM: "Christ Is Arisen" (George Frideric Handel)

We Listen

PRAYER OF NEW LIFE

READINGS: Acts 10:34-43; Luke 24:1-12;

"The seed quickens in countless hearts" by Caryll Houselander

After each reading we sing the refrain of "Hallelujah, Hallelujah" (VU 179).

MESSAGE: "An Idle Tale?"

We Respond

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL FAITH

One: Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus the word made flesh, and works in us and others through the Spirit?

All: I do, by God's grace.

One: Will you follow Jesus, living with respect for creation, loving and serving others, seeking justice and resisting evil?

All: I will, by God's grace.

One: Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope, and join with others to make known God's reign?

All: I will, by God's grace.

Renew your baptism and be thankful!

*Following the renewal, everyone is sprinkled with water as a reminder of their baptism.
Everyone sings "Your Love Is Amazing" (More Voices 26)*

Your Love is amazing, steady and unchanging, your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet.
Your love is a mystery, how you gently lift me. When I am surrounded your love carries me.
Halleujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, your love makes me sing.
Hallelujah hallelujah, hallelujah, your love makes me sing.

Your love is amazing, I can feel it rising, all the joy that's growing deep inside of me.
Every time I see you all your goodness shines through. I can feel this God song rising up in me.
Hallelujah, hallelujah hallelujah your love makes me sing.

Hallelujah, hallelujah hallelujah, your love makes me sing.
Your love is amazing Hallelujah.

PASSING THE PEACE OF EASTER

HYMN: “Let us Talents and Tongues Employ” *Voices United* 468

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain: Jesus lives again,
earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. **R**

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share.
God (Immanuel) everywhere! **R**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: Jesus’ friends shared meals in his memory; though crucified, he was risen
and present with them.

All: We share this meal together knowing he is with us still.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Christ is risen! **All: Hallelujah! Christ is risen indeed!**

One: Open your hearts. **All: We open them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks. **All: It is good to give thanks & praise.**

One: Holy God, we thank you. You are beyond our understanding, but we know one thing – you
are love. Through your love, you made everything – the stars and planets, the sun and moon,
trees, flowers, birds, animals, and us, your children. **All: Hallelujah!**

One: With that same love you taught us how to live, called on holy people to remind us what is
good, and sent Jesus to show us what it means to truly live. **All: Hallelujah!**

One: He drew on your love in everything he did. He healed sick people, cared for those who
were poor, wept with people who were sad, forgave people and taught us to forgive each
other. He loved everyone and showed us how to be kind. **All: Hallelujah!**

One: And with love you bring us together so we can praise you:

Holy God of Power of Might! Hallelujah! Heav’n and earth shine with your light!
Hallelujah! Loud Hosannas now we sing! Hallelujah! Blessings to our Risen King!
Hallelujah!

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

One: Holy God, we thank you for this time each year when we remember how your love is
more powerful than anything. Faithful to your way of love until the very end, Jesus died on a
cross. His friends were sad as they placed his body in a tomb, but three days later when they
went to the tomb, it was empty! An angel told them that Jesus was no longer there. They were
overjoyed. With them we say: **All: Hallelujah, love is stronger than death.**

One: Holy God, we thank you that Jesus continues to be with us, reminding us how to share your love. We remember especially the night before he died when he had supper with his friends. While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you." After supper, he took a cup that was filled with wine. Again he thanked you, and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take and drink. This is a sign of the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you do this, remember me."

One: Holy God, we do remember. We remember Jesus' love, his friendship, his teaching, his dying, and his rising to life again:

All: Dying, Christ destroyed our death! Hallelujah! Rising, Christ restores our life! Hallelujah! We believe and we proclaim, Hallelujah! Jesus Christ will come again! Hallelujah!

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

One: Holy God, we thank you for this special way to remember Jesus. Open our hearts to the gift of your Spirit here with us as we gather at your table. As we share this simple meal together, may we taste your goodness and see your love. Open our minds to recognize where we can be a blessing to people and places where there is need for new life. May we bring peace where there is anger, healing where people are hurting, resurrection where people are grieving and sad. May we grow stronger as your children and be a gift of love in your world.

All: Hallelujah!

One: Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

**All: "Amen, Amen." Hear our prayer, Hallelujah!
As the bread and cup we share! Hallelujah!
At this table, Christ we meet, Hallelujah!
Present here with wounded feet, Hallelujah!**

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *Voices United 960*

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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

SHARING IN COMMUNION

I invite you to pick up the bread. We share the bread of life, a gift of love that brings life to the world. *(Everyone eats their bread.)*

I invite you to pick up your cup. We share the fruit of the vine, a blessing of love that all may truly live. *(Everyone drinks the juice.)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(in unison)*

Spirit of life, in this feast we are fed by your love, nourished in your grace and enlivened to live in your joy. Send us into your world to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, and love as we have been loved. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "Now the Green Blade Rises" *Voices United* 186

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead had been;
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

SENDING FORTH

CHORAL BENEDICTION: "You Shall Go Out with Joy" *VU* 884

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,

(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands
(clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE