

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 3, 2022, Fifth Sunday in Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft

Accompanist: Amy Dalziel

Music Leadership: St. James Guitar Group

Ushers: Jean White, Barbara Butt and Julie Hollett

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 Inuktitut, French and Igbo.*

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 listen for insight and wisdom through the practice of 'lectio divina' (holy reading).*

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

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

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

God of Life and Blessing,

**we come to you who promised to make all things new,
trusting that you will lift from us the hurt of the past,
and draw us into a future beyond our imagining.**

**Open our minds to your leading,
guiding us in the wilderness to an oasis of your grace,
and anoint our hearts through your Spirit,
that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love.**

**We pray in the name of the One
accompanying us on our way. Amen.**

HYMN: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" *Voices United 664*

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
and we'll find new courage there.

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

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 43:16-21

John 12:1-8

Excerpt from "Sermon 83 on *The Song of Songs*"
by Bernard of Clairvaux

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

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

MESSAGE: “Conflicting Visions”

We Respond

HYMN: “God of the Mountain”

Life is easy, when you're up on the mountain
and you've got peace of mind, like you've never known
then things change and you're down in the valley,
don't lose faith for you are never alone.

For the God of the mountain is still God in the valley.
When things go wrong, he'll make them right.
And the God of the good times is still God of the bad times;
the God of the day is still God of the night.

You talk of faith when you're up on the mountain
though the talk comes so easy when life's at its best.
But down in the Valley, of trials and temptations;
that's when faith is really put to the test.

For the God of the mountain is still God in the valley.
When things go wrong, he'll make them right.
And the God of the good times is still God of the bad times;
the God of the day is still God of the night.
And the God of the good times is still God of the bad times;
The God of the day is still God of the night.

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: “Will You Walk with Me”

Will you walk with me through the darkest night?
When my world goes wrong will you make it right?
Will you guide my lips in all I say?
Will you walk with me every day?

When I'm tired and weak will you make me strong
when my mind's confused and all hope is gone,
Will you take my hand will you lead the way?
Dear Lord will you walk with me today

Chorus: Will you walk with me and ease my pain
Will you walk with me give me hope once again
When my eyes grow dim will you let me see
Dear Lord will you walk with me.

If my friend should go, when there's no one there
If I call your name, in my dark despair
Will you come to me, will you ease my pain?
Dear Lord will you walk with me?

Help me find the strength just to carry on,
Teach me how to pray, for it's been too long
Since I fell on my knee and ask you to forgive,
All my sins Dear Lord please forgive.

Chorus: Will you walk with me and ease my pain
Will you walk with me give me hope once again
When my eyes grow dim will you let me see
Dear Lord will you walk with me.

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

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| 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 |