

# 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.

## **July 31, 2022, Emancipation Sunday**

Leading worship: James Ravenscroft

Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Stephanie Russell

Ushers: Marilyn Adams, Jean Thompson, and Susan Pike

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### **We Come to Worship**

#### **MUSICAL PRELUDE**

#### **WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE**

*We extend greetings in Inuktitut, Portuguese, and Twi as we gather as a community and light the candle as a sign of Christ's presence with us.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP**

*We give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who continue to steward it; we also commit to being an inclusive community for all.*

**HYMN:** "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" *Voices United p. 822*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(inspired by Psalm 107:1-9)*

One: Come and worship! Come give thanks to God!

**All: We thank God whose steadfast love endures forever.**

One: God gathers the people from every direction,

**All: gives help to the wanderer and one who is in trouble.**

One: So come and give thanks for God's goodness!

**All: and always remember God's faithful love**

## **OPENING PRAYER** *(in unison)*

**Ever-faithful God, we give thanks for your abundant love,  
for your generosity of grace for all who cry out in need,  
for your liberation of those who are held in bondage.**

**On this day when we commemorate the end of enslavement across the British Empire 188 years ago, we pray that we may be more responsive to all who cry out, that we may work to end all forms of captivity and bondage, sharing your abundant love and life with any and all in need. We pray in the name of Jesus your great liberator. Amen.**

## **We Share**

## **OUR LIFE AND WORK**

**OFFERTORY:** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings" *VU 541*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures high and low, give thanks to God in love made known, Creator, Word, and Spirit one.**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*We dedicate our offerings to the work of God's love and justice. Tax receipts issued at year-end if donor's name and address are provided.*

## **We Listen**

## **LEARNING TOGETHER**

*We explore themes of the day in a manner that is accessible to all ages.*

**SOLO:** "Down to the River to Pray" Stephanie Russell

## **PRAYER FOR GRACE**

*We open our hearts in preparation to hear the readings of the day.*

**READINGS:** Hosea 11:1-11; Luke 12:13-21 and an excerpt from *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas* by Frederick Douglas

## **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**MESSAGE:** "The Cry for Freedom"

**We Respond**

**HYMN:** "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" VU 681  
(Tune of O Waly, Waly)

**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 also are called to do something about.*

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS** (please pray in your first language)

**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 and the power and the glory, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**We Leave to Serve**

**HYMN:** "We Shall Overcome" (See insert)

**BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

One: We are blessed by the One who comforts the broken-hearted, who gives sight to the blind and sets the captives free:

**All: And so, we go to share God's justice and compassion for all; together we will journey towards God's reign of love.**

**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
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Office Administrator:	Stephanie Harnum
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor