

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.

August 14, 2022, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Bob Rose and Jean Rose
Ushering: Marilyn Adams, Jean Thompson,
and Susan Pike

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We extend greetings in Inuktitut, Bangla and Arabic as we gather as a baptized community and light the candle as a sign of Christ's presence.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

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

HYMN: "We Praise You, Creator" *Voices United* 293

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Psalm 80:8-19*)

One: We sing praises to God, to the One who has planted us,

All: Who cultivates with hope the gardens of our lives

One: Let us give thanks to One who loves us despite ourselves,

All: Who prunes us when we become ragged and a bit wild.

One: Let us worship the one who tends us and makes us strong,

All: Who gives us life and mercifully restores us in love.

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

**Creative and creating God, we open our hearts to you,
seeking your wisdom as you tend the vines of our hearts.**

Though we come as wild grapes, we yearn to be fruitful.

Teach us then your mercy and righteousness, that we may discern the way of Jesus in our lives, and so bear the fruit of your justice in the world. We pray in the name of your holy child, Jesus. Amen.

We Share

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

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: "O God Beyond All Praising"

PRAYER FOR GRACE

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

READINGS: Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 12:49-56; an excerpt from Howard Thurman's *Meditations of the Heart* (NY: Harper and Row), 175.

MEDITATIVE INTERLUDE

MESSAGE: "Unexpected Jesus"

We Respond

HYMN: "Be Thou My Vision" *Voices United* 642

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: "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" *Voices United* 423

SENDING FORTH

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

One: We are blessed by the One who both challenges those who are comfortable and comforts all who feel challenged by this life.

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

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:	Bob Rose
Office Administrator	Stephanie Harnum
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor