

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 21, 2022, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft

Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Andie Winsor

Ushering: Marilyn Adams, Jean Thompson, and Linda Babstock

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We extend greetings in M'ikmawi'simk, Hindi & Swahili.

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: "There Is Room for All" *More Voices* 62

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Psalm 71:1-6*)

One: We take shelter in the Holy One,

All: Seek protection in God's justice and grace.

One: We trust in God, have done since we were children,

All: have depended on God since we took our first breath.

One: God alone is our hope and our strength,

All: to God belongs our song of thanks and praise.

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

We give thanks, O God, for your holy blessing, for your spirit-breath animating us in your grace. Long before our birth, you consecrated us for your work, calling us to speak your word and enact your love. Be with us in our worship with wisdom and understanding, that with hearts open to your goodness, we may be assured that we are known and loved by you, and called to ensure that all experience the same. We pray in the name of Jesus, our elder sibling. Amen.

We Celebrate Baptism

HYMN: "God, We Pray at this Beginning" *Voices United* 443

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, PRESENTATION OF CHILD FOR BAPTISM AND LIGHTING OF BAPTISMAL CANDLE

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT (*congregation stands*)

One: Do you, as a church community, promise to love and support this child and her family in their journey of faith, together serving God's world and extending Christ's love?

All: We do with God's help.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR WATER AND BAPTISM

BLESSINGS AND PRESENTATION OF BAPTISMAL CANDLE

BLESSING OF PARENTS AND FAMILY

WELCOME BY THE CONGREGATION

Sharing in the joy of Sophia's family, we welcome her into the church, each of us children of God, the Mother and Father of us all.

All: As sisters and brothers in Christ, we welcome you Sophia Elisabeth into the household of faith.

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

SOLO: Andie Winsor

PRAYER FOR GRACE

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

READINGS: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Luke 13:10-17; Excerpt from Nicetas of Remesiana, "The Names and Titles of Our Saviour" as quoted in Gail Ramshaw's *Treasures Old and New: Images in the Lectionary*

MESSAGE: "Wide Mercy"

We Respond

HYMN: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" *Voices United* 271

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

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

One: We are blessed by the One who calls us in love,
who heals us in grace, who helps us to grow and change,

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