

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 7, 2022, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading music: Amy Dalziel and Andie Winsor
Ushering: Barbara Butt, Jean Thompson
and Marilyn Adams

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We extend greetings in Innu-aimun, Tigrinya and Pashtun 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: "Praise with Joy the World's Creator" *Voices United* 312

CALL TO WORSHIP *(inspired by Psalm 50:1-15)*

One: From sunrise to sunset, the Holy One calls out to the earth.

All: From God's holy hilltop, the divine light shines forth.

One: God gathers the people from every direction under heaven.

All: God tends to the needs of the earth and all that is in it.

One: **Let us give thanks for God's all-covenanting love.**

All: We sing praise to God who looks after anyone in need.

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Covenanting God, you invite your people
to contemplate the way of your heavenly reign
and so urge us to live our lives in faithfulness to your love.
Bless us with your Spirit in our gathering today,
that in your coming among us, you find our doors open,
our tables set, and all your people ready to greet you.
We pray in the name of Jesus, your Christ.
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

SOLO: Andie Winsor

READINGS: Isaiah 1:10-20 and Luke 12:32-40

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

MESSAGE: "Led From Fear"

We Respond

HYMN: "O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts" *Voices United* 472

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: Just as Jesus shared meals to show that everyone is loved by God, we gather at table to celebrate God's all-merciful grace.

All: And so, we come to celebrate, to remember, to give thanks.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you. **All: And also with you.**

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

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

It is good to praise you, God of the Covenant. In you we discover true meaning. The earth and all that dwell upon it find their source in your goodness, all humanity made in your image and invigorated with your breath of life. **Creator, we give you thanks and praise.**

We praise you for your gifts of mercy and freedom, for delivering your people from bondage, calling them at Sinai to wisdom and holiness, and through your prophets renewing your invitation to justice and to love. **Spirit, we give you thanks and praise.**

And we praise you for the life of Jesus. He healed the sick and comforted the sorrowful, challenged the powerful and uplifted the outcast, proclaiming your coming reign of peace and grace in all that he said and did. **Christ, we give you thanks and praise.**

In faithfulness to your reign, he revealed your love until the end, proclaiming your forgiveness from the cross, and walking with us in the power of resurrection. In gratitude, we join the angels' praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosana in the highest.

On the night before he died, Jesus sat at table with his friends.

After taking bread and giving thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you." In the same way, he took the cup, and gave it to them saying, "Take, drink. This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood. Each time you do this, do so in memory of me." We do remember and praise your gift of love:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Open our eyes then O God, to the presence of your Spirit here with us and within these gifts of bread and wine. May they be for us the sign of your covenant, that all who share this bread and cup may share his life, one with Christ and each other. Through Christ, with Christ, in

Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most Holy, now and forever.

All: Amen!

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *Voices United 960*

SHARING IN COMMUNION *(please respond to the bold text)*

The bread that we break, **is our sharing in the life of Christ.**

The cup for which we give thanks, **is our sharing in Christ's love.**

There is a central station to receive bread (served with tongs), and then two side stations to receive juice served in communion glasses.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(in unison):*

We give you thanks, almighty God for this sacred meal.

May the bread and wine we have shared, strengthen us to go forth to create in love, to work for justice, and to walk with hope for a world made new. 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 encourages us to follow him in simplicity of heart and faithfulness of purpose:

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