

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

This Bulletin is dedicated in memory of my beloved husband
Jonathan Richards
who died on September 26, 2018.
With love from Olga Broomfield-Richards

Sept. 25, 2022, Welcome Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Contemporary Ensemble
Ushering: Susan Pike, Marilyn Adams, and Jean Thompson

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We extend greetings in Inuttitut, Korean and Yoruba 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Welcome to this place of love and grace,

All: To this place of hope and perseverance.

One: Welcomed by God to be a part of the beloved community,

All: All of us invited to share the good news.

One: And what is that good news?

All: We are welcome, just as we are; loved, just as we are.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: "Let Us Build a House" *More Voices* 1, verses 1, 4, 5

We Share

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

OFFERTORY: "For the Gift of Creation" *Voices United* 538

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,

and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,

we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.

May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts which we give.

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(in unison)*

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.

With gratitude for the gift each of us is, Holy One, to ourselves, our families, our communities, this world, we offer our time, our passions, our resources, in the knowledge that they multiply within community, and are used wherever the sense of being a gift is held back, by bringing love in the face of anger, compassion wherever there is hurt, and hope where there is despair. Amen.

We Listen

LEARNING TOGETHER

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

HYMN: "Jesus Loves Me" Voices United 365

CENTERING PRAYER

We quiet our minds in preparation to hear the readings of the day.

READINGS: Luke 17:5-10; 1 Timothy 6:11-16;

Excerpt from *You Are the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen

ANTHEM: "Welcome" by Mark Miller

MESSAGE: "The Meaning of Faith"

We Respond

HYMN: "Deep in Our Hearts" *More Voices* 154

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 *(version of the Lord's Prayer found in resources from Elk Grove United Methodist Church, Elk Grove, CA)*

Dear One, closer to us than our hearts, farther from us than the most distant star, you are beyond naming. May your presence become obvious not only in the undeniable sky but also the seemingly base and common processes of the earth. Give us what we need, day by day, to keep body and soul together, because clever as you have made us, we owe our existence to you. We recognize that to be reconciled with you, we must live peaceably and justly with other human beings, putting hate and bitterness behind us. We are torn between our faith in your goodness and awareness of evil in the world, so deliver us from the temptation to despair. Yours alone is the universe in all its majesty and beauty. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "Go to the World" *Voices United* 420

AN INVITATION TO FURTHER CONVERSATION

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

One: As we go forth from here:

**All: may we be strong in spirit, courageous in will,
and gentle of heart.**

One: Each day may our actions be:

All: rooted in wisdom, nurtured by hope and open to love.

One: May we meet others as we would wish to be met:

**All: with a heart of compassion, in a spirit of healing,
and grounded in joy.**

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
Associate Music Director	Bob Rose
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor