

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.

Sept. 11, 2022, Second Sunday in Season of Creation

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft

Leading Music: Amy Dalziel

Ushering: Marilyn Adams, Susan Pike, and Jean Thompson

Communion Servers: Bill and Cindy Pike

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

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

One: All creation is made of star-stuff,
from which comes the building blocks of the universe.

All: For this all creation sings praise to the Creator of all.

One: Standing firm on the earth, we breathe deep of the breath
of life, are blessed too by the waters of the sky,

**All: And are warmed by this flame, its shining reminding us
that we are siblings of Christ, star-child for us all.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

HONOURING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

We pause to remember those who died in James Smith Cree Nation and to honour her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

HYMN: Crashing Waters at Creation” *Voices United* 449

CALL TO WORSHIP *(in celebration of water)*

Water. Gift of grace and wellspring of all life.

Ocean. Source of our livelihood, our identity, our soul.

Rain. **Softening furrows and making deserts bloom.**

Tears. Sign of sorrow and salve for broken hearts.

We give thanks for water, oceans, rain and tears.

Sacred signs of God’s life-giving and cleansing love.

OPENING PRAYER

We Share

OUR LIFE AND WORK: *We share what is going on in our community.*

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. Tax receipts are issued at year-end.

God of relentless love, we give thanks for your constant grace, even as we are prone to wander away from your path. Receive our gifts, those offered today and at other times, as signs of our desire to follow the way that leads us to you. We pray in the name of Jesus, your light and our way! Amen.

We Listen

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

READINGS *(with musical interludes based on Skye Boat Song)*

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; “Breakage” by Mary Oliver

HYMN: "Like a Healing Stream" *More Voices* 144

MESSAGE: "From Lament to Hope"

We Respond

HYMN: "All Who Hunger" *Voices United* 460

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: Whenever we gather at table, we share as Jesus did,

All: sharing in love through a simple meal, seeking to be fed in spirit so that we in turn may be sent out to feed others.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*respond to portions in bold*)

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Open your hearts. **We open them to the Holy.**

Let us give thanks. **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

It is good to give you thanks, Maker of all. Through your gift you have formed us as part of your wonderful creation. Together with all you have made, we share the beauty of this our home. We join with all creation in an act of worship, one voice with their chorus of thanksgiving and praise. We give thanks for the land, for fertile fields and abundant orchards, rolling hills and rugged mountains, for stark tablelands and multi-coloured meadows.

We give thanks for oceans and rivers that nourish us with life-giving water, rain that falls upon gardens and fields.

We give thanks for the forests, for the great trees reaching out to the sky, aspen and birch, spruce, fir and pine.

We rejoice and join the creatures of the farm, field and forests, the rivers, seas and sky in their act of praise – horses, wolves and moose, turkeys and eagles, cod, whales and salmon.

We rejoice with those who have lived here before us, our ancestors and friends, as we also pray with hope for future generations from whom we borrow this land.

We rejoice and give thanks, joining in the hymn of all creation, both on earth and in heaven, as we sing your praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of your light. Glory to you our God. Blessed is he, blessed are we, blessed are all who come. Hosannas ring, archangels sing. Blessed are all who come.

We give thanks, Creator, for the words of blessed prophets and sages who taught your way of justice, peace, stewardship and love, who called us to tend the earth and to care for each other.

All: We give thanks most of all for your Beloved Child Jesus. We remember how he dreamed the best for us and the earth. At his invitation, we consider the lilies of the field and birds of the air. They neither spin nor sow. Yet they are blessed.

If like them you gave us only life, that would be enough. Yet we are blessed with far more than we need, enough for all of your people to be clothed and fed, and so Jesus showed us your way by reaching out to all people with a message of love, extending your compassion in witness of your caring for all of creation.

A witness for which he was betrayed and abandoned; killed for his commitment to life, to love and to justice for all.

And so we remember how on the night before his death, Jesus gathered with friends to give thanks for life and celebrate your love. He took bread and after blessing it, broke it, and gave it to them saying: "Take this all of you and eat it. This is my body which is broken for all."

In the same way at the end of the meal, he took the cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to them saying, "This is the cup of blessing, sign of the new covenant in my life's blood. Whenever you do this, remember me." Remembering him in all that we say and do, let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

In this meal we remember the love that flowed from Jesus' words and actions, a love that flows through all of creation, a love that we experience in our sharing of this bread and wine.

Open our eyes to this love, to your presence of grace flowing both within us and through our sharing in this sacred meal.

As we share in these simple gifts of both field and of vine, signs of your living presence with us, may we grow as a community concerned for all the earth, committed anew to it and to all people.

Holy One we give you praise: Creator God, we praise you, through Your Word made flesh, in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen, amen, alleluia, amen, alleluia, amen.

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.

SHARING IN COMMUNION

One: Bread of life, broken in union with the brokenness of the world. Cup of blessing, poured out as an act of hope. Sacred meal, shared in commitment to Jesus' way of caring and love.

All: Thanks be to God.

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 thanks for this meal we have shared, bread for the journey, a cup of wisdom to guide us along the way. May there be friends to share the road as we dare to dream of creation renewed, and the promise of justice for all. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus" *Voices United* 626

BENEDICTION (*Adapted from "Gaelic Blessing" by John Rutter*)

The blessing of the running wave to you.
The blessing of the flowing air to you.
The blessing of the quiet earth to you.
The blessing of the shining stars to you.
The blessing of God: Abba, Christ and Spirit to you,
and to all of creation, this day and evermore. Amen.

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