

# 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. 4, 2022, First Sunday in the Season of Creation**

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft  
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Marion Davis  
Ushering: Susan Pike and Jean Thompson

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### **We Come to Worship**

**MUSICAL PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE**

*We extend greetings in Innu-aimun, Mandarin and Igbo 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**

*We acknowledge Indigenous peoples and commit to being inclusive.*

**HYMN:** "For the Beauty of the Earth" *Voices United 226*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(in celebration of earth)*

One: Earth. **All: Solid foundation upon which we stand.**  
One: Land. **All: Our heritage, deep connection to this place.**  
One: Clay. **All: Gift of creation used to in turn create.**  
One: Soil. **All: Place of growth, of nourishment, of life.**  
One: We give thanks for earth, land, clay, and soil.  
**All: Sacred signs of God's constant and abiding love.**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

### **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.*

**Divine Potter, we give thanks for all that you have made,  
for your gifts freely offered in creativity and grace.  
We in turn give back to you, our lives, our love, our offerings, praying that they may help  
grow your realm in our midst, evident in the love and care people experience each day.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, your Word made flesh. Amen.**

### **We Listen**

## **LEARNING TOGETHER**

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

**SOLO:** Marion Davis

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*We open our hearts in preparation to hear the day's readings, lighting candles as a sign that we are seeking God's Wisdom in our hearts.*

**READINGS:** Jeremiah 18:1-11; Philemon 1:1-17;  
"The Hidden Singer" by Wendell Berry

**HYMN:** "God Who Touches Earth with Beauty" *VU 310*

**MESSAGE:** "More Than Golems"

## **We Respond**

### **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

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

**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**

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## 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           |