

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.

January 15, 2023: Baptism of Jesus Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft

Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose, and the Senior Choir

Ushers: Susan Pike, Jean Thompson, and Marilyn Adams

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We offer greetings in M'ikmawi'simk, Shona & Sinhalesei as we gather as a baptized community, lighting 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.

INTROIT: "Born in the Night, Mary's Child" (*Voices United 95*)

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Psalm 29*):

One: The voice of the Holy One spoke the cosmos into being.

All: We come to celebrate God's creative presence around us.

One: The voice of the Holy One was enfleshed in the life of Jesus.

All: We come with thanks for Christ's abiding companionship.

One: The voice of the Holy One echoes within and between us.

All: We come to share the gift in Spirit's all-embracing grace.

One: So let us worship the Holy One and heed their voice.

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Holy One, we hear your voice echoing – within us, between us, all around us. It is a voice of love, of compassion and of challenge, calling us to care for others, to reach out to others, to stand up for others, even if we often hold back in fear. Thank you for still speaking to us, despite how often we don't respond, offering wisdom, instilling courage, inspiring a change of heart. May this time of worship be one of listening

- to you, to each other, to those who need us to hear them.

We pray in your most holy name. Amen.

HYMN: "When Jesus Comes to Be Baptized" (*Voices United 100*)

We Share

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

OFFERTORY: "When Heaven's Bright with Mystery" (*VU 84, v 4*)

When heaven's bright with mystery and stars still lead an unknown way, when love still lights a gentle path when courts of power can hold no sway, there with the Magi let us kneel, our gifts to share, God's world to heal.

We Listen

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

LEARNING TOGETHER

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

HYMN: "God Says" (*More Voices 172*)

READINGS: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17;

"I Felt the Current Take Me" by Jalal al-Din Muhammad Rumi.

ANTHEM: "O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word" (*Voices United 84*)

MESSAGE: "Sharing a Covenant of Grace"

We Respond

COVENANT PRAYER

We prayerfully renew the commitment we share in Christ by our baptism.

One: Ever-living God,... We are no longer our own but yours.

All: I am no longer my own but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me, in all that I do and in all that I may endure; when there is work for me and when there is none; when I am troubled and when I am at peace. Your will be done. I

willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose. May it be so, Ever-living God, this day and evermore. Amen.

After the prayer, the people are sprinkled with water from the font.

HYMN: "Take My Life and Let It Be" (*Voices United 506*)

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 (Lord's Prayer)

**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,
the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "Arise Your Light Is Come" (*Voices United 79*)

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.**

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

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