

# 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.

In loving memory of:

*Harold Price*

April 5, 1929 to January 21, 2017

From Lillian Price and Family

Happy Birthday to:

*Dave Hapgood*

as we celebrate his 85th birthday on January 26th

Love Susan, Stephen, Rebecca and Kyle

## January 22, 2023: The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft  
Leading Music: Newfound Sound Women's A Cappella Chorus  
Ushers: Michelle and Wayne Skinner and Jean Thompson

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### We Come to Worship

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

*We offer greetings in Inuktitut, Bangladesh and Arabic as we gather as a spiritual 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.*

**HYMN:** "Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult" (*Voices United 562*)

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*inspired by Psalm 27:1, 4-9*):

One: We come together, seeking strength in the face of our fears.

**All: We come with confidence even when we have doubts.**

One: We come together, trusting that here we will find belonging.

**All: We come as a community, knowing that we'll find friends.**

One: We come to worship, honouring the One who guides us.

**All: We come to discover a way that leads to healing & peace.**

#### **OPENING PRAYER** (*in unison*)

**We come together from many places, Holy Companion,  
each of us with our own circumstances and needs,  
and yet deep down it is through a shared calling,  
your love whispering within and inviting us into relationship.  
Trusting that love, we pray for a yet deeper connection  
to you and each other, hearts open in this time of worship  
to your guiding wisdom and your redeeming grace.  
We pray in the name of One who came to show us your way,  
Jesus, your beloved child. Amen.**

**ANTHEM 1:** "Amazing Grace"

### We Share

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

**OFFERTORY:** "When Heaven's Bright with Mystery" (*VU 93, 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 DEDICATION AND 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 1:10-18 ; Matthew 4:12-23;  
Excerpt from "Loving Your Enemies", a sermon delivered by the  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on November 17, 1957.

**ANTHEM 2:** "Do Lord"

**MESSAGE:** "Called From and Called To"

### **We Respond**

**HYMN:** "Will You Come and Follow Me" (*Voices United 567*)

#### **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 (The 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **We Leave to Serve**

**HYMN:** "As a Fire Is Meant for Burning " (*Voices United 578*)

#### **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

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

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