

# 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 29, 2023: The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft  
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir  
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 Innu-aimun, Igbo and Mandarin Chinese as we gather as a 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:** “God of Grace and God of Glory” (VU 686, v. 1)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*inspired by Psalm 15*):

One: Welcome to this place as we honour the One we call God,

**All: as we seek to abide in the presence of the Holy.**

One: Welcome as we discern how to walk faithfully in this life,

**All: as we come not just to listen but to speak from our hearts.**

One: Welcome as we let go of our burdens that we may be renewed,

**All: as we are encouraged in our life-long pilgrimage of faith.**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Faithful One, ever-present, ready to welcome in love,

we have come, prompted by your Spirit,

yearning for belonging, searching for answers

in a world that makes little sense anymore.

May we be drawn to your heart in this time of worship,

that we may find comfort in the midst of our confusion,

discover wisdom in the face of our foolishness.

As we seek to walk in humility and with peace,

may your rule and not the world's be our source of blessing.

We pray in the name of the One who came to show us your way,

Jesus, your Beloved Child. Amen.

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

### **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 1:18-31 ; Matthew 5:1-12; “Just Beyond Yourself” by David Whyte

**ANTHEM:** “Lead Me, Lord” by Samuel Sebastian Wesley

**MESSAGE:** “Called to Belove the World”

### **We Respond**

**HYMN:** “Seek Ye First” (*Voices United 356*)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*We take time to pray for the needs of our global and local communities.*

### 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:** "Master Let Me Walk with Thee" (*Voices United 560*)

### **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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