

# 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  
***Bethany Danielle Pike***  
As we remember you on your birthday on January 8th  
Love Stephen, Susan, Rebecca and Kyle

## **January 8, 2023: Epiphany Sunday and Communion**

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft  
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Andie Winsor  
Ushers: Marilyn Adams, Jean Thompson, Susan Pike  
and Donna Downey

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**We Come to Worship**

**PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP**

*We give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who steward it.*

## **LIGHTING OF CHRISTMAS CANDLE AND OPENING PRAYER**

One: As we gather on this last Sunday of the Christmas season,  
we once again light our candle,  
grateful for the growing light of the sun.

Two: *And for the light that was born into the world in Jesus' birth,  
a light that grew yet stronger  
as it shone on every people and nation.*

*(We light the centre candle.)*

**All: Creator of day and night,**

**today we celebrate the Epiphany of your Holy Child.**

**May the star that rose to reveal his birth shine in our hearts, leading us toward your light  
and drawing all people into the unity made possible in your grace.**

**We pray in the name of the One whose coming we celebrate. Amen.**

**HYMN:** "A Light Is Gleaming" (*Voices United 82*)

### **We Share**

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

**OFFERTORY:** "In the Bleak Midwinter" (*Voices United 55, v 4*)

**What can I give him, poor as I am. If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise one, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him, give my heart**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*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.*

### **We Listen**

## **SOLO**

**READINGS:** Is. 60:1-6; Mat. 2:1-12; an excerpt from G. Boyle,  
*The Whole Language: The Power of Extravagant Tenderness.*

**MESSAGE:** "In Humble Homage"

### **We Respond**

**HYMN:** "In the Darkness Shines the Splendour" (*Voices United 92*)

## **WELCOMING ALL TO THE TABLE**

One: ...Jesus' birth was a gift of hope to the world. We experience that same hope this night, for he  
is present, bringing us peace.

**All: He is with us as we share in table fellowship. As we break bread and share the cup, may  
we know his love and his joy.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

One: God be with you. **All: And also with you.**

One: Open your hearts. **All: We gladly open them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks. **All: It is good to give thanks and praise.**

Gracious God, it is good to give thanks, for you have always been, creative and creating, sharing your hope-filled love with all that is.

Within the darkness of an unborn universe, you dwelt in eternal possibility. But then you spoke your Word and all of time and space sprang into light and life. In the embrace of your creative love, you brought to birth shining suns and awesome planets, the life-light of blue-green earth, blessed with abundant life.

But that was not the end of your speaking. In many places and times, you shared your wisdom, including with your people Israel,

and blessed with Torah, called them to be a light to all nations.

With gratitude for all the ways you have entered covenant with us, we join the whole company of heaven in singing your glory:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of hosts, all praise be given!**

**All your glory fills the earth; all your power fills the heavens. Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Blessed is the one who came,**

**bringing love and light divine. Blessed is the one who comes through this meal of bread and wine. Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

*(Sing to tune for "Angels We Have Heard on High")*

One: Redeeming God, you spoke once more to a young woman named Mary, giving life to the dreams of your prophets in the birth of her blessed child Jesus. Like the star that appeared to magi, he revealed the light of your wisdom and love in all he said and did.

Then, ever faithful to you, on the night before he died, Jesus sat at table with his friends. He took bread, blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them saying, "This is my body, given for you."

Likewise, he took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to them saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant in my life's blood.

Whenever you do this, remember me."

Remembering his birth, affirming his ministry, proclaiming his death and risen life, trusting that you continue to speak in our lives,

we give voice to your mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. (x2)**

*(Sing to Greensleeves, that is, the tune of "What Child Is This")*

One: Living God, as we celebrate his memory, we honour your abiding presence with us. Open our hearts to your Spirit with us and in this meal. As the gifts of bread and wine are a sharing in Christ, so may we grow in his likeness, living expressions of your Word, sent out, both blessed and a blessing, to proclaim your wisdom and peace with our words and with our lives.

Eternal God, we give you praise: Through Your Word made flesh, in the power of your Spirit, all glory is yours God forever and ever.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen. (x2)**

*(Sing to the tune of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly")*

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS (Lord's Prayer)** *(Voices United p. 921)*

## **SHARING COMMUNION**

One: This is the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

This the fruit of the vine, love poured out that all may truly live. This is the banquet of blessing, Christ among us as we share together.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*There is a main station for bread and side stations with juice in communion glasses. Please consume the bread and juice before returning to your pew.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *(in unison)*  
**God of grace, we celebrate the gift of your love  
revealed in Jesus' birth,  
a love extended to every people and nation.  
May this love experienced in this meal,  
strengthen us to extend it widely to all.  
We pray in the name of Jesus-Emmanuel. Amen.**

**We Leave to Serve**

**HYMN:** "As with Gladness Men of Old" *(Voices United 81, v1, 2 & 4)*

**BLESSING:**

One: Go forth with joy and hope, go forth in love and peace:  
for the One we call Emmanuel, God-with-us, has been born.

**All: We go forth blessed to share God's blessing to the world!**

**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
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**Announcements:**

**We offer our condolences to:** Elsene Brace and family on the passing of Elsene's brother, John (Jack) Parsons on December 18, 2022. Funeral took place on December 21st, 2022. St John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Coley's Point.

**We offer our condolences to:** Brenda McClellan and family on the passing of Brenda's sister, Joan Roberts on December 16, 2022. Funeral took place on December 27th, 2022 from the Anglican Cathedral.

**We Acknowledge the following donation to the General Fund:**

\* In Loving memory of my Husband, Ed Stratton from Judy Stratton.

**We Acknowledge the following donation to the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Camp Fund:**

\* In Loving memory of Bethany Danielle Pike as we remember you on your birthday January 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Love Stephen, Susan, Rebecca and Kyle.

**Memory Tree:**

\*In Loving memory of Walter Gard, Erna Gard, Jennifer (Gard) Peddigrew from Judy Gard Puddester.