

# 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

## **February 12, 2023: The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft  
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and Senior Choir  
Ushers: Heather Hickman, Barbara Butt,  
Susan Pike and Marilyn Adams.  
Reader: Jennifer Whitfield

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### **We Come to Worship**

#### **PRELUDE**

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

*We offer greetings in Inuktitut, Urdu and Ukrainian 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, for the Indigenous peoples who continue to steward it, and commit to be an inclusive community for all people.*

**INTROIT:** "O Christ, the Word Incarnate" (*Voices United 499, v. 1*)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*inspired by Psalm 119:1-8*):

One: Blessed are those who welcome God's presence in all they do.

**All: They will know the joy of God's guidance and blessing.**

One: Blessed are those who are committed to the way of wisdom.

**All: They will discover that God's grace is shining within them.**

One: Blessed are those who reflect God's goodness in word & action.

**All: They will know the gift of God's strength and steadfast love.**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

God of blessing, we have come together, seeking wisdom,  
needing comfort or looking for a place to belong,  
in one way or another, hoping for connection,  
with others, with our deepest selves, with you.  
May we not only find that connection in this time of worship,  
but continue to nurture it within us,  
carrying it wherever we are. Amen.

**HYMN:** "Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom" (*More Voices 10*)

### **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 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37; and  
Excerpt from James Cone, *The Theology of Black Liberation*

**ANTHEM:** "Here I Am, Lord" by Dan Schute  
(*arranged by Craig Courtney*)

**MESSAGE:** "Going Deeper"

## We Respond

**HYMN:** "Loving Spirit" (*Voices United* 387)

### **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 king-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## We Leave to Serve

**HYMN:** "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" (*VU* 575)

### **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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