

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. We are committed to being an Affirming Ministry. We realize that this is a learning and growing experience and ask for God's guidance as we travel this road.

March 26, 2023: The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft

Leading Music: Bob Rose and 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, Tigrinya and Pashtun as we gather as a spiritual community, lighting a 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: “Jesus Christ is Waiting” (VU 117, verses 1 and 5)

CENTERING WORDS: From Kalil Gibran, *author of The Prophet*
Each week we listen to a work of poetry/fiction followed by silent reflection.

CENTERING HYMN: “Come and Journey with a Saviour” (*seated*)

**Come and journey, journey inward,
come and seek Christ deep within,
where he meets us in our living,
in our striving and our sin.**

***Refrain: Come and journey, come and journey
with a Saviour who has come.
We are all God's sons and daughters;
in the Spirit we are one.***

**Come and journey, journey onward,
sing his praises, offer prayer,
in the storm and in the stillness,
find his presence ev'rywhere. *Refrain***

(used with permission)

OPENING PRAYER

We Share

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

A MINUTE FOR MISSION: *We learn about a program supported by donations to the Mission & Service Fund of The United Church of Canada.*

OFFERTORY: “Tree of Life & Awesome Mystery” VU 121, 5th Sun.
**God of all our fear and sorrow, God who lives beyond our death,
hold us close through each tomorrow (love as near as every breath)**

PRAYERS OF COMMITMENT AND CONCERN

We name concerns for our community and world and commit to respond.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*based on the spoken language of Jesus*)

Name of names, our small identity unravels in you; you give it back as a lesson. Help us let go, clear the space inside, so your Name comes to live. Let your counsel rule our lives, clearing our intention for co-creation. Help us love beyond our ideals with acts of compassion for all. Give us the food we need to grow each day; untangle the knots within so we can mend our hearts' ties with others. Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back. From you is born all will, from age to age renewed. Amen.

We Listen and Respond

LEARNING TOGETHER

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

HYMN: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (*Voices United 326*)

READINGS: Ezekiel 37:1-14 and John 11:1-7, 17-27 33b-45

ANTHEM: "My Lord, What a Morning" - Spiritual (*VU 708*)

MESSAGE: "Set Free to Rise"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *Beginning and ending with "Take, O Take Me as I Am" (MV 85), we name the ways we have hurt others.*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "As the Sun with Longer Journey" (*Voices United 111*)

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH:

One: As we go from here in this time of self reflection,

All: may we be blessed in also knowing Jesus more deeply.

One: May we follow along the path he has walked before us,

All: arriving at Easter in a spirit of renewed hope and 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

Office: 722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;
Emergency Cellphone: 351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



@StJamesUCNL



@StJamesUnited



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WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

All worship services at St. James are Live Streamed via video for our online congregation. By participating in this service, you acknowledge that you may be visible on live broadcast or archived video. If you are uncomfortable about the possibility of appearing on video, please speak to an usher who can seat you in an area not visible on camera. You may also speak to Rev. James after the service if you have concerns. All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced / broadcast under ONE LICENSE. License #: #A-700000.

Life and Work - March 26, 2023

Congratulations to Gilbert and Lillian Thomas who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Wednesday, March 22nd. Gilbert and Lillian now reside at Tiffany Towers in St. John's.

Book Fair Thank you! Many thanks to the hard-working volunteers that surely have some sore muscles after this week: Glenda Winsor, Gloria Le Feuvre, Linda Babstock, Vicki Gill, Susan Pike, Janice Coates, Joel Le Feuvre, Keith Le Feuvre, James Ravenscroft, and Bruce Winsor. Thank you also to Robin Bartlett for getting the word out (and people had mentioned they had heard about it in quite a few places), the UCW and the AOTS for volunteering their time during the fair, and of course the congregation for all their donations. As a result, the Book Fair exceeded all expectations - \$1,510 was our total raised. Thank you again to everyone for their support!!

Sewing Studio: on Mondays in Fellowship Room 7-9 p.m. or at Memorial United, Portugal Cove 1-3p.m. All sewers, knitters, needleworkers and crafters welcome.

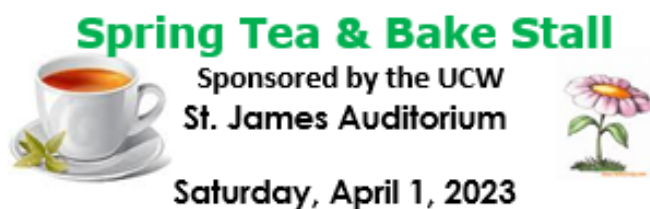
Reflective Wednesdays at Noon: Each Wednesday throughout Lent, (Rev.) James will lead an informal communion service and bible study focused on the readings for the upcoming Sunday in the Fellowship Room. Communion is at noon, followed by the discussion. Bring a bag lunch if you wish.

Guaranteed Living Income Vigil, March 25 at 2:30 pm: On March 25 our Social and Eco Action Team are co-hosting a GLI Vigil along with Gower St. United Church. Come to the sanctuary as the Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parady and various interfaith leaders join together with federal, provincial and municipal leaders in voicing their commitment to making a guaranteed living income a policy priority. Together we can help to eradicate poverty in our local community and all across Canada.

Potluck and Games night rescheduled: The Potluck and Games night scheduled for Saturday, March 25th at 6 pm is cancelled due to impending weather. Will be rescheduled for a date in April.

UCW Spring Tea:

St. James United Church
330 Elizabeth Avenue



Time: 2 – 4 pm Cost: \$8.00

Co-Conveners: Barbara Butt: (709) 687-1041
Sheilah Beckett: (709) 726-7421

Tickets: May be purchased at the door or from UCW members.

Donations: Donations of baked goods would be most appreciated.

*We also ask if everyone can please bring their own shopping bag

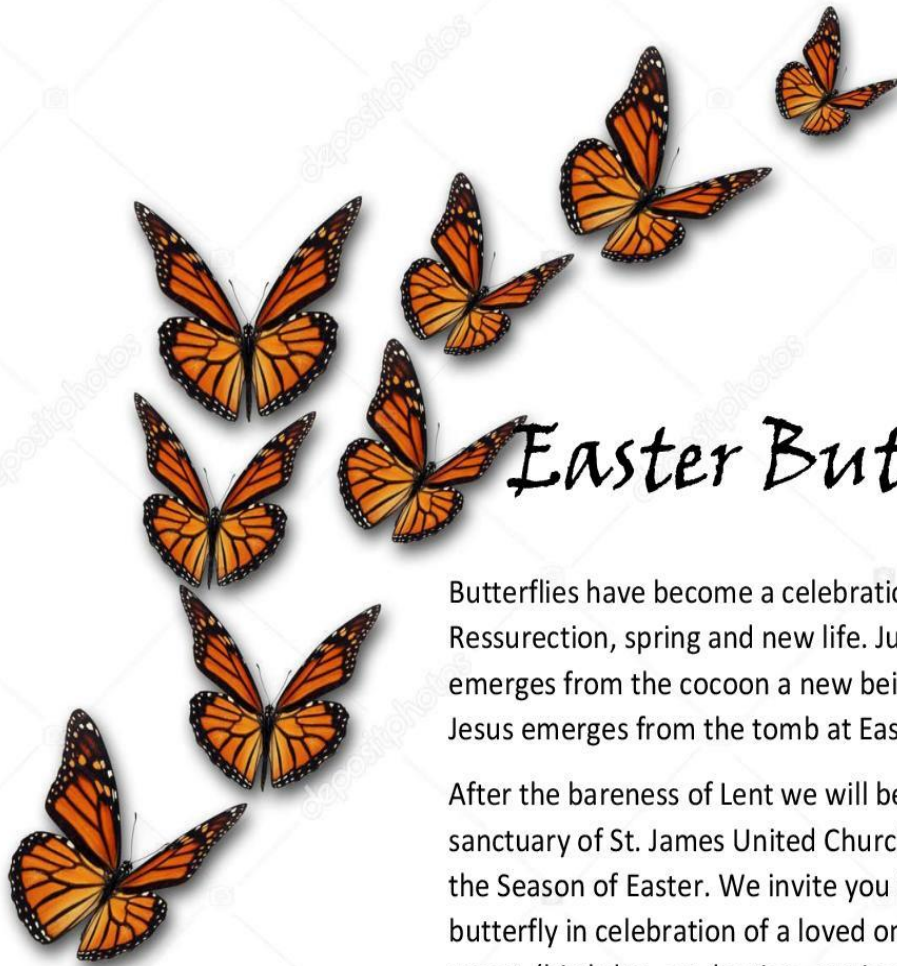
Local Branches for Palm Sunday: April 2 is Palm Sunday. Like last year, you are encouraged to bring a piece of a branch that is locally sourced, for example cedar or spruce or juniper, as part of our celebration. You could also bring a piece of ribbon or cloth to wave. In this we are mirroring what the people did in Jesus' day as they cut branches from the local area and took their cloaks as well to place on the road in front of Jesus.

Join Us: You are invited to come to church early on Easter Sunday and join the Men's club for breakfast. We will begin breakfast service around 9:30 and conclude just before the church service. Free will offering appreciated.

A Petition to Help Kids in Our Neighbourhood: Did you know that there are **29 students** living in the area of Terra Nova Road/ Valleyview Apartments/ Crosbie Road/ Portia Place **that are being denied access to education?** They attend St. Andrews Elementary School but are not given a bus because they are included in the 'family responsibility zone'. Few of these families, many of whom are newcomers to Canada, have vehicles. These children have no other choice but to make a **3 km** round trip twice a day along busy roads. In the winter it is **very dangerous** because few of the sidewalks are passable. Parents must walk with their young children to school. It is not uncommon for a parent to accompany their school aged child while also pushing a stroller or holding a toddler's hand. **Without safe transportation, many of these children miss school.** A group of parents have been trying to get their children bussed to school but have been ignored by the School District for **two years**. These families need our help to amplify their voices. **Please sign the petition asking the school district to finally help these families.**

Reducing Paper Use for Lent: Traditionally during Lent people will give something up. This year at St. James, we are doing this collectively by reducing our paper use during worship on Sunday mornings. We are using the overhead slides more thoroughly. We encourage people who like to use bulletins to share and for those who wish, the bulletin can be accessed through your smartphone.

Topsail United Church Men's Club will be Holding a Breakfast With the Easter Bunny: on Saturday April 1 from 8 Until 11 A.M. Usual Great Menu. Cost \$10 Adults, Children \$5, Face Painting, Colouring, Pictures with the Easter Bunny. All are Welcome.



Easter Butterflies

Butterflies have become a celebration symbol of Resurrection, spring and new life. Just as the caterpillar emerges from the cocoon a new being, the butterfly, Jesus emerges from the tomb at Easter as the Christ.

After the bareness of Lent we will be decorating the sanctuary of St. James United Church with butterflies for the Season of Easter. We invite you to sponsor a butterfly in celebration of a loved one or a significant life event. (birthday, graduation, anniversary etc.) To sponsor a butterfly, please fill out the form below and return to the church by Palm Sunday, April 2nd, with a donation of \$10 per butterfly.

Easter Celebration Butterflies

Name: _____ Envelope Number: _____

Amount: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

In celebration of:
