

READINGS: Genesis 12:1-4a and John 3:1-17

SOLO: "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" (A. Garfunkel)

MESSAGE: "Descent and Ascent"

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: "Bless Now O God the Journey" (*Voices United 633*)

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

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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 Brother
E. Desmond Butt, P. Eng.,
(April 14, 1948 – March 5, 2018)
From sisters, Glenda Winsor and Gloria Le Feuvre
and families.

In Remembrance of
Joanne Haggood's Birthday on March 3rd
Love Dave and Family

In memory of a loving husband
Jacob (Jake) Parsons
from his wife, Effie

March 5, 2023: The Second Sunday in Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose, and Senior Choir
Ushers: Marilyn Adams, Jean Thompson, and Susan Pike

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We offer greetings in M'ikmawi'simk, Arabic and Cantonese 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.

WORDS TO CENTRE US: "Descent to the Valley" by Louise Glück

Each week we listen to a work of poetry/fiction followed by silent reflection.

CENTRING 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 outward,
telling others of his name,
telling others of his glory,
of his cross and of the shame. *Refrain***

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OPENING PRAYER

We Share

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

A MINUTE FOR OUR MAP

OFFERTORY: "Tree of Life & Awesome Mystery" (VU 121, 2nd Sun)
**In our call to be a blessing, may we be a blessing true; May
we live and die confessing (Christ as Lord of all we do. x2)**

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: "Love Divine All Loves Excelling" (Voices United 333)