

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

March 19, 2023: The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Bob Rose and Glenda Winsor
Ushers: Marilyn Adams, Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We offer greetings in Innu-aimun, Swahili and Portuguese 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.

SOLO INTROIT

WORDS TO CENTRE US: “Six Facts about Light” by Rachel Rooney
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 upward.
Sing his praises, offer prayer.
In the storm and in the stillness
find his presence everywhere. Refrain**

(used with permission)

OPENING PRAYER

We Share

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

A MINUTE FOR GRATITUDE: *We take time to express our thanks to Marilyn Adams for her leadership as the chair of our church council.*

OFFERTORY: “Tree of Life & Awesome Mystery” (*VU 121, 4th Sun.*)
**Give us eyes to see you clearly, make us children of your light; give us hearts to live more nearly
(as your gospel shining bright.)**

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: “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” (*Voices United 626*)

READINGS: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and John 9:1-17 and 28-41

SOLO: “Compassion Hymn” by Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.

MESSAGE: “Seeing Anew”

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: “Arise Your Light Is Come” (*Voices United 79*)

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 19, 2023

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.

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

MAP Input Session on Sunday: Following worship on March 19th, the MAP Team is hosting the first of a series of input sessions, this one focused on naming together our history as a congregation. This is a way to lift up what has been important for us in the past and so to help us define our ongoing purpose and identity. Coffee and tea will be available. Afterwards you can go downstairs to get first crack at the Book Fair.

Book Fair: Just a reminder that St. James is having their book fair this weekend: Today, Sunday, March 19 from 2-6 pm and Monday, March 20 from 10 am - 5 pm. Admission is \$2 and only cash will be accepted. Members of the congregation are invited to come down and shop after the service before we open to the public.

Office Closure: The office at St. James will be closed on Tuesday, March 21st to observe the St. Patrick's Day holiday and will reopen on Wednesday morning.

AOTS Luncheon: The Men's Club will meet on Wednesday, March 22 with lunch served at 1:00 pm. A member of our club, Don Blackmore, will speak on his newly released book: "Born with the Sea in his Blood", a biography of Captain John Hann Blackmore, MBE: Honoured Mariner and Humanitarian. Captain John was Don's grandfather. Members will have the opportunity to purchase a copy of this book at a cost of \$20. New members are always welcome.

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 Parry 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.

UCW Spring Tea & Bake Stall:

Co-Conveners:

Barbara Butt:
(709) 687-1041

Sheilah Beckett:
(709) 726-7421

St. James United Church
330 Elizabeth Avenue

Spring Tea & Bake Stall
Sponsored by the UCW
St. James Auditorium



Saturday, April 1, 2023
Time: 2 – 4 pm Cost: \$8.00

Spring Tea 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

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.

Out in Faith: Out in Faith presents Exploring Queer Spirituality on Thursday, March 23 at 7:00PM at The Lantern, Bonavista Room @ 35 Barnes Road, St. John's. Music is by Spectrum Queer Choir. ASL interpretation by Triangular communications. All are welcome. Accessible Venue (Parking at the Basilica) Masks are requested. For information, please contact the email below:

OutinFaithNL@gmail.com