

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.

April 9, 2023, Easter Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and Senior Choir
Ushers: Marilyn Adams, Susan Pike, Jean Thompson,
Jan Winsor and Glenn Hiscock
Communion Servers: Eric King and Betty Pilgrim

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

EASTER READING: John 20:1-9

HYMN: “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” (*Voices United #155*)

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE (*based on Psalm 118*)

One: Give thanks for God is good! God’s love is ever-steadfast!

All: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

One: Sing glad songs! God is exalted! Praise God’s great deeds!

All: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

One: The Holy One suffered but did not die! Let us give thanks!

All: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

One: The stone the builders rejected is now the chief cornerstone.

All: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

One: This is the day God has made; let us rejoice and be glad!

All: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

OPENING PRAYER

WELCOME; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We offer greetings in Innu-Aimun, French and Bangla as we take time to give thanks for the land and commit to be an inclusive community for all.

PASSING THE PEACE OF EASTER

We Share

OFFERTORY: “Hallelujah, Hallelujah” (*Voices United 179, v 4*)

Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ; hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God’s name. Come

let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour;

Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;

hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God’s name.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison)

Living God, we give you thanks! All around us we see your life, reminders that life is stronger than death, day dawns as surely as night falls, hope overcomes our deepest despair! And so we offer back to you what you so freely give, praying that our lives may be a gift of new life for others. Amen.

We Listen

ANTHEM: “Gloria” (*Antonio Vivaldi*)

CONTINUATION OF EASTER READING: John 20:11-18

RESPONSE: “Praise Our Maker” (*Voices United 316, v.2*)

EPISTLE READING: Colossians 3:1-4

RESPONSE: “Praise Our Maker” (*Voices United 316, v.3*)

POETIC READING: “Invitation” by Mary Oliver

RESPONSE: “Praise Our Maker” (*Voices United 316, v.1*)

MESSAGE: “Back to the Garden”

We Respond

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL FAITH

One: Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus the word made flesh, and works in us and others through the Spirit?

All: I do, by God’s grace.

One: Will you follow Jesus, living with respect for creation, loving and serving others, seeking justice and resisting evil?

All: I will, by God’s grace.

One: Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope, and join with others to make known God’s reign?

All: I will, by God’s grace. Renew your baptism and be thankful!

Following the renewal, everyone is sprinkled with water as a reminder of their baptism. Everyone sings “Spirit Dancing” (Voices United 388).

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Christ is risen! **All: Hallelujah! Christ is risen indeed!**

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

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

One: Holy God, we praise you. You are beyond our understanding, but we know one thing – you are love. Through your love, you made everything – the stars and planets, the sun and moon, trees, flowers, birds, animals, and us, your children. **All: Hallelujah!**

One: With that same love you taught us how to live, called on holy people to remind us what is good, and sent Jesus to show us what it means to truly live. **All: Hallelujah!**

One: He drew on your love in everything he did. He healed sick people, cared for those who were poor, wept with people who were sad, forgave people and taught us to forgive each other. He loved everyone and showed us how to be kind. **All: Hallelujah!**

One: And with love you bring us together so we can praise you:

Holy God of Power of Might! Hallelujah!
Heav'n and earth shine with your light! Hallelujah!
Loud Hosannas now we sing! Hallelujah!
Blessings to our Risen King! Hallelujah!

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

One: Holy God, we thank and praise you for this time each year when we celebrate the power of your love! Faithful to you until the very end, Jesus died on a cross. His friends wept as they placed his body in a tomb, but three days later when they went to the tomb it was empty, and an angel told them Jesus was no longer there. With them we shout in joy. **All: Hallelujah!**

One: Holy God, we thank you that Jesus continues to be with us, reminding us how to share your love. We thank you for this meal as we recall how on the night before he died, he shared supper with his friends. While they were eating, he took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you." After supper, he took a cup of wine. Again he thanked you, and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take, drink. This is a sign of the new covenant in my life's blood. Whenever you do this, remember me."

One: Holy God, we do remember. We remember Jesus' love, his friendship, his teaching, his dying, and his rising to life again:

All: Dying, Christ destroyed our death! Hallelujah!
Rising, Christ restores our life! Hallelujah!
We believe and we proclaim, Hallelujah!
Jesus Christ will come again! Hallelujah!

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

One: Holy God, we thank and praise you for this special way to remember Jesus. Open our hearts to the gift of your Spirit here with us at your table and strengthening us in this meal. May she open our minds to recognize where we can be a blessing wherever there is need for new life, and open our hands so that we may bring peace, healing and love wherever there is need. **All: Hallelujah!**

One: Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

All: "Amen, Amen." Hear our prayer, Hallelujah!
As the bread and cup we share! Hallelujah!
At this table, Christ we meet, Hallelujah!
Present here with wounded feet, Hallelujah!

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

SUNG PRAYER OF JESUS (Lord's Prayer): *(Voices United 960)*

SHARING IN COMMUNION

One: This is the bread of life, Christ shared in hope for the world.
This the fruit of the vine, Christ shared in a spirit of peace & joy.
This is the banquet of blessing, Christ inviting everyone in love.

All: Thanks be to God.

Everyone is welcome to share communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. There is a centre station to receive the bread and two side stations to receive juice in small glasses. Please consume the bread and juice before returning to your pew. Please let us know if you need the gluten free option for bread. If you're unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you once everyone has received.

During communion we sing "Joy Comes with the Dawn (VU 166)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(in unison)*

Spirit of life, in this feast we are fed by your love, nourished in your grace, and enlivened to live in your joy. Send us into your world to feed as we've been fed, forgive as we've been forgiven, and love others as we've been loved by you. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "Thine Is the Glory" *(Voices United 173)*

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH:

From this Easter celebration we go:

**Blessed by God who raises us to new life;
in the company of the Risen One who walks with us still;
in the power of the Spirit who renews us in grace. Amen.**

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

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Life and Work - April 9, 2023

We accept the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:

* In loving memory of Wayne Dim, Ross, Gertie and Blaine Blackwood from Sharon, Michelle and Families.

We accept the following donation to the General Fund:

* In memory of my parents, William and Ruby Vallis from Daughter, Betty (Vallis) Sherstan.

A UCW thank you! Sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who supported our Spring Sale and Afternoon Tea on April 1st. We are extremely grateful to our members, the men and women of the congregation, who, when called upon, so willingly helped in many ways. We are very thankful for the donations of baked goods and financial contributions. It was heartwarming to see the number of people that came out to support us and help make it a tremendous success. THANK YOU!

Sewing Studio: A reminder that we are now on a two-week Easter break. Following the break, we will return on April 17th for 6 weeks on the following schedule. St. James 1-3 and Memorial United 7-9. All sewers, knitters, needleworkers and crafters welcome.

Reflective Wednesdays at Noon: Each Wednesday throughout Easter, (Rev.) James will continue leading an informal communion service and bible study focused on the readings for the upcoming Sunday in the Fellowship Room.

Pub Theology Delayed by a Week: With the first week of April being Holy Week, our monthly Pub Theology gathering will be this week, April 12. At that time, we will gather at Guv'nors at 7:30 pm.


Easter Egg Hunt: Following the Easter Worship service, we are having an Easter Egg hunt for our young and the young at heart. Search the Sanctuary, Porch, Balcony, and Chancel for some sweet treats!

Holy Humor: Throughout the Easter Season (beginning on April 16) we will include a time of humor.


Potluck and Games Night in the Auditorium: On Saturday, April 22nd at 6pm. Bring something to share for supper, and stay for fun playing board games and even a game of cards!

Wildlight Spiritual Oasis: Gathering on April 22 @ 2PM. More details to come next week.

AOTS: Fish & Brewis Dinner: We will be having our Spring Fish Dinner again this year on Friday, April 28, 2023 at 6:00 PM. The cost will be \$25.00. Tickets are available from any member of the Men's Club or Aubrey Hill - 709-726-8306



St. James United Church
330 Elizabeth Avenue



AOTS Men's Service Club
Fish Dinner
Friday, April 28, 2023
Time: 6:00 PM Cost: \$25.00

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. The petition is available to sign at the church.

Bridges to Hope is looking for a volunteer bread maker: for Wednesday mornings from 9:00am - 1:00pm, commencing at the end of April. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering your time and talents, please contact Jody Williams by phone - 709-722-9225 or by email - j.williams@bridgestohope.ca