

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.

May 21, 2023, Ascension Sunday (Seventh of Easter)
Third Sunday in Asian and South Asian Heritage Month

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Andie Winsor
Ushers: Marilyn Adams, Aubrey & Ruby Hill,
Susan Pike, and Jean Thompson

*Please rise in body or in spirit where there is an *.*

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME: *We share greetings in Innu-aimun, Cantonese and Farsi.*

*** HYMN:** "We Are One" (Voices United 402, v. 1, 2 and 4)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We take time to give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who continue to steward it; we also commit to be an inclusive community for all.

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE (based on Psalm 68)

One: Come one and all as we celebrate God's Holy Presence.

All: We join together to praise God's Holy and Saving Name.

One: Come one and all as we sing of all that God has done.

All: We join together to experience again God's blessing.

One: Come one and all, everyone welcomed into God's family.

All: We join together as children of God, our hope & our joy.

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

**Holy and Saving God, we trust in your goodness and love,
like a parent nurturing us with care, comforting us in grace
and strengthening us in the vulnerability of our need.**

**Through the wisdom and power of your Spirit,
may we may extend to all the same gifts that you have given,
that together we may be blessed as one family in your name.
We pray in the name of Jesus our eldest brother. Amen.**

CELEBRATING EASTER JOY

We take time to share jokes, riddles and other expressions of joy.

*** PASSING THE PEACE OF EASTER**

We greet one another with signs of Christ's peace, conscious of the need to be respectful each other's health and comfort in this time.

We Share

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

A MINUTE FOR ECOLOGY

*** 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.

*** PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

We Listen

LEARNING TOGETHER

We introduce Sunday's theme in a manner that is accessible to all ages.

HYMN: "Praise Our Maker" (*Voices United 316*)

READINGS: John 17:1-11; Acts 1:6-14;
"Ascension Day" by Malcolm Guite

SOLO

MESSAGE: "Ascend or Extend?"

We Respond

HYMN: "Rejoice the Lord Is King" (*Voices United 213*)

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

We Leave to Serve

*** HYMN:** "Go to the World" (*Voices United 420*)

*** 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



@StJamesUCNL



@StJamesUnited



@stjamesuc

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

Life and Work - May 21, 2023

Office Holiday: The office at St. James will be closed on Tuesday, May 23rd to observe the Victoria Day Holiday. The office will reopen Wednesday Morning, May 24th at 8:30AM.

Rev. James Away on Study Break: Rev James will be away at school to pursue his Doctorate of Ministry from May 29 to June 12, 2023. Susan Sheppard and Rev. Rebecca Pike will be taking care of any emergencies while he is away.

Congratulations to Gloria LeFeuvre: We have some wonderful news to share. On May 11, Gloria received a Diploma in Theology and Ministry from Queen's College. Congratulations Gloria on a job well done. We are all very proud of your accomplishment.

Sewing Studio: No Sewing Studio on Monday, May 22nd.

Sewing Studio will resume on Monday, May 29th from 1pm-3pm at St. James and Memorial United 7pm-9pm. All sewers, knitters, needleworkers and crafters welcome. Also, a reminder that the last class of Sewing Studio will take place on June 5th, 2023.

Sharing in the Celebration Church: Each Sunday morning during worship at St. James we take time for people to share something that they are celebrating, like a Birthday, Anniversary, Graduation, or anything at all! If you are joining worship from home, we would love to include you in this time. So, email us at info@stjamesuc.org with information on what you would like to celebrate, and we will include it as part of our "Celebration Church" time during the Sunday Service! Let's all celebrate together!

Reflective Wednesdays at Noon: We have finished our Bible Study with Communion for the season. We will begin a weekly lunch time Bible Study in the Fall, if requested.

Pub Theology wrapped for the Summer: Our monthly Pub Theology sessions have wrapped up for the season. We will reconvene on the first Wednesday of October.

Stewardship Committee:

Our first "Swing into Spring" Dessert party was a success with:
48 tickets sold;

6 volunteers for set up and 10 for serving and clean up,
20 desserts & 30 bottles of wine.

We raised \$835

"A special thank you for everyone's time, talents and treasure"

The Stewardship Committee continues to swing into spring. It plans to hold St. James very first on-line auction, June 8 to 13, with the administrative help of Bartlett Auction's Online Services.

The committee will gather 40 to 50 interesting auction lots of a wide variety of items, activities, and experiences that will appeal to a wide audience. The deadline for auction lot donations is June 2 and bidding procedure details will be provided later.

May Wild Light Spiritual Oasis: Saturday, May 27 at 2 pm. This month's eco-spiritual gathering is a time to reflect on the new life emerging around us as the days slowly warm. The question is, what new life is emerging within us as well? We will gather at Susan's. Contact info@stjamesuc.org for the address.

Wednesday, May 24: Pop-Up Yoga at Gower Street United Church, 11am - noon in the Lecture Hall. Enjoy chair and walking yoga for better balance and a happy heart. Donate your appreciation via cash, cheque to Gower Street UC, or e-transfer to gsuc@nl.rogers.com All proceeds go to the underwear fundraiser. Wear loose clothing and comfortable walking shoes. We love to see you there.

Bridges To Hope Annual General Meeting - June 5th, 2023: The Bridges to Hope AGM will take place on Monday, June 5th at 7 pm. The meeting will be held at St. James United Church in the auditorium. All are welcome to attend.