

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 28, 2023, Pentecost Sunday
Fourth Sunday in Asian and South Asian Heritage Month

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

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

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

INTROIT: "Hail, Glad Festival Day" (Ralph Vaughan Williams)

WELCOME: *We share greetings in M'ikmawi'simk, Pashtun and Tamil.*

*** HYMN:** "Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us" (*Voices United* 198)

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *We recall bible verses for each gift of the Holy Spirit and light candles as we sing "Come, Holy Spirit" (VU 204)*

Come, Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove, come fire of love.

One: We celebrate the Spirit's gift of wisdom, who "cries out in the street and in the market raises her voice." (Proverbs 1:20)

Come, Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove, come fire of love.

One: We give thanks for courage, the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus: "When they bring you before authorities, don't be afraid. The Holy Spirit will teach you what to say." (Luke 12:11-12)

Come, Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove, come fire of love.

One: We sing praise for compassion lived out in these words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: he has sent me to bring good news to the poor and bind up the broken-hearted." (Isaiah 61:1)

Come, Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove, come fire of love.

One: We affirm the many ways spiritual understanding is lived out in our lives: "I will put my spirit within you that you may follow my laws and be careful to observe my teaching." (Ezekiel 36:27)

Come, Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove, come fire of love.

One: We rejoice in the wonder and awe we feel before God: "How weighty are your thoughts, O God! How vast their sum!" (Ps. 139)

Come, Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove, come fire of love.

One: We are grateful for Spirit's beatitude call: "Blessed are those who hunger for justice for they will be filled." (Matthew. 5:6)

Come, Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove, come fire of love.

One: We celebrate the outpouring of holy love where "Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." (1 John 4:7)

Come, Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove, come fire of love.

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison):*

Spirit of grace be with us. Breathe deeply into our hearts and open them to receive your gifts. Quicken us with new life and enable us to embody your presence with clarity and purpose. We pray in the name of the One whose promised Advocate we celebrate today. Amen.

*** PASSING THE PEACE OF PENTECOST**

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.*

*** OFFERTORY:** "Spirit of Life" *(Voices United 381)*

Spirit of Life, come unto me.

Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;

move in the hand, giving me the shape of justice.

Roots hold close; wings set me free;

Spirit of Life come to me, come to me.

*** PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

We Listen

READINGS: John 20:19-23; Acts 2:1-13

ANTHEM: "Come, Holy Ghost" *(Thomas Attwood)*

MESSAGE: "Wind and Fire"

HYMN: "Spirit of Gentleness" *(Voices United 375)*

We Respond

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: We gather at this table in the power of the Holy Spirit who calls us in love to share in the reconciling grace of Christ.

All: We gather in his memory, knowing he is with us still.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: Open your hearts.

All: We open them to God.

One: Let us give thanks.

All: It is right to give God praise.

It is right to praise you, Living God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us your holy breath, calling us to be your children. And though at times we forgot that call and wandered away from you, you remained steadfast. Again and again, you restored your people, calling them to be a source of blessing to the nations. Grateful for this abiding love we join your angels and saints in a song of praise:

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)

We praise and thank you Redeeming God, for your Son, Jesus Christ. In the power of your Spirit, you affirmed him as your child and through his death and resurrection gave birth to the church. Called to embody his love in the world, we remember how on the night before Jesus died, he took bread and after giving you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you." In the same way, he took the cup, saying: "Take, drink. This is a sign of the new covenant in my life-blood. Whenever you eat and drink, remember me."

We do remember, Sustaining God, grateful that on this day we live into the promise of your Reign, celebrating how through the unleashing of your Spirit, the risen and ever-rising Christ lives in each of us. Let us proclaim then the mystery of our faith:

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)

We pray, Gracious God, that you open our eyes to the presence of your Spirit, here with us and within these gifts of bread and wine. May all who share this living bread and saving cup be renewed in your grace and affirmed in your love, sharing what it means to be your children, a source of blessing to the nations.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Holy God, 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: We share the bread of life,

All: gift of love that brings life to the world.

One: We share the fruit of the vine,

All: blessing of love poured out that all may truly live.

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. If you’re unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you once everyone has received

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Come Holy Spirit and fan the flames of your love. As we have shared at God’s table of grace, may we be transformed into living sacraments of Christ’s love, strengthened with rushing wind and tongues of fire to speak your truth and peace. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*** HYMN:** “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” (*Voices United 481*)

*** CHORAL BENEDICTION:** “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

SENDING FORTH:

From this Pentecost 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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