

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

* **HYMN:** "Take Time to Be Holy" (*Voices United 672*)

We Respond in Love

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS

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

* **BENEDICTION** (*adapted from a prayer by David Sparks*)

One: Live wholeheartedly!

All: God calls us to make every minute count.

One: Live with generosity!

All: God calls us to give of ourselves beyond our limits.

One: Live faithfully!

All: God calls us to remember to whom we belong.

One: Live lovingly!

All: God calls us to reach out to those who are forgotten.

One: Blessed by God and empowered by the Spirit,
let's go out to be the living and loving Body of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

Chair of Council:	Michelle Skinner
Lead Minister:	James Ravenscroft, OM
Youth/Christian Education Minister:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Assistant Music Director:	Bob Rose
Office Administrator:	Stephanie Harnum
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

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WiFi Name: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

330 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's, NL, A1B 1T9

Celebration of Worship for July 30, 2023



The people of St. James United Church are eternal seekers who value diversity within our congregation, 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.

July 30, 2023, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We share greetings in Inuktitut, German and Twi as we gather in prayer, lighting the candle as a sign of Christ's presence with us.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

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

* SHARING OF PEACE

We share a sign of peace, conscious of the need to be respectful of each other's health and comfort in this time.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(inspired by Psalm 139:1-13)*

One: We come to God who has searched us and known us.

All: to God who in love knows us through and through.

One: Who is there when we speak, and knows all our words.

All: We come to God who is before us and behind us.

One: So let us praise God who is always with us.

All: Let us praise God for the wonders of life!

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Faithful and Ever-present God,
you draw near to us with compassion and encouragement,
urging us to grow in love for you and for all of your world.
Open our hearts and minds as we pray together today,
that through the wisdom and word of Christ,
we may hear more deeply the call of your Reign,
and commit our lives to your service.
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

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

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Statement of Purpose and Presentation of the Family

We welcome Christopher Deir and Denelle Stone as they seek for their child Ryan James Darrin to be baptized.

Profession of Faith and Family Promises

Congregational Commitment

One: Do you, promise to love and support this child and her family in their journey of faith, together serving God's world and extending Christ's love?

All: We do with God's help.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Act of Baptism

Blessing, Laying on of Hands & Lighting of Baptismal Candle followed by Blessing of Family

Welcome by Congregation *(congregation responds to bold text):*

Sharing in the joy of his family, we welcome Ryan into the Body of Christ, each of us children of God, Mother and Father of us all.

As your siblings in Christ, we welcome you Ryan James Darrin into this congregation and into the universal church.

* **HYMN:** "I Have Called you By Your Name" (*More Voices* 161)

We Share

OUR LIFE AND WORK

OFFERING: *There are many ways to share your financial gifts with St. James United Church. There are plates as you enter the church in which to place your offering, you may contribute by pre-authorized remittance (PAR), via e-transfer (email treasurer@stjamesuc.org), sent through the website (www.stjamesuc.org), mailed to the church office or dropped into our secure mailbox. However you give, the congregation is grateful.*

* **PRESENTATION HYMN:** "This Is the Day" (*More Voices* 122)

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We Listen

READINGS: Genesis 29:15-28; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-46

SOLO: "Wonderful Words of Life" (*Philip P. Bliss*)