

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, 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.

**The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
2023-08-27 St. James**

Leading Worship: Rev. Stephanie Rose
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Stephanie Russell
Ushers: Marilyn Adams and Jean Thompson

Bold type indicates a congregational response.
A * is an invitation to stand either in body or, in Spirit.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Musical Prelude

Acknowledgement of the Land and Kinship

Welcome and Lighting the Christ Candle

We light the Christ candle as a symbol of the Christ-light we carry within us.

We are God's generous light in the world!

Hymn*: VU 389 – God Is Here

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 136)

We give thanks to the Lord with all our hearts,
for God's faithful love endures forever.

We sing praises to the Lord, with all our strength,
for God's promises declare God's goodness to all the earth.

We place our trust in in God with full confidence,
and so we come to worship with hearts full of praise.

Let us join our hearts together as we pray and invite the Holy Spirit into our worship.

Eternal God,

**you are the same yesterday, today and tomorrow,
and yet you come to us afresh each new day.**

You breathe new life into what has grown tired and discouraged.

You offer healing for what is worn or broken.

You restore hope when things seem impossible.

**You are the source of life and love for all your creatures,
and you renew us to put our love for you
into action for the wellbeing of your creation.**

**And so we worship you, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,
offering our prayers and praise to you,
eternal and ever-present God, now and always. Amen.**

Hymn*: VU 375 – Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

SHARING and CARING

Our Life and Work:

Invitation of Offering

Paul's letter to the Romans reminds us that we all have gifts to share. When we give, let us offer what we have generously. When compassion opens our hearts, let us share cheerfully, so that God's good work may continue.

Offering Hymn: MV 122 - This is the Day

Blessing of Gifts

O God, bless what we offer today as well as the time, talent, and concern we will offer you this week. We trust that, with your blessing, your Holy Spirit is able to accomplish more than we can ask or imagine in Christ's name. Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Let's pray together that God will aid our understanding of His word:

Source of all wisdom and understanding,

Amid so many competing voices, let us hear your word for our times. Send your Holy Spirit to help us discern your will and follow the path Jesus sets for us as your Living Word. Amen

Reading: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Hymn: VU 633 – Bless Now, O God, the Journey

Reflecting on the Word

Ministry of Music: Like a Rock (MV 92)

RESPONDING to the WORD

Praying Together

Gift-giving God, we are grateful for all the people in whom we meet your gifts at work. Inspire us to add our energy and experience to the care of creation as the loyal followers of Jesus who embodied all your gifts and taught us to pray together:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

—Matthew 6:9-13.

Hymn: VU 651 – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Commissioning:

Musical Postlude

St. James United Church

Lead Minister:	James Ravenscroft, OM
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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 @StJamesUnited

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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.

We accept the following donation to the General Fund:

* In celebration of Doug and Joan Bursey on their 58th anniversary. From Son, Douglas C.E Bursey Jr and wife Pamela and their daughter Catherine.

We accept the following donation to the Memorial Fund:

* In memory of Ruby Jolliffe from the St. James UCW

On Holiday: Rev. James is away on holiday until Tuesday, August 29. While he is away, Rev. Kathy Brett will be available in case of a pastoral emergency. Call or email the office for her contact information.

Communion on the Beach: Mark your calendars for August 30 at 7:00 pm. That is when we will have our annual communion service out at Middle Cove Beach. Bring your own communion elements (bread and juice, etc), something to sit on, and of course remember to dress for the weather. Email james@stjamesuc.org if you need a ride.

Bag to School 2023: We have the wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young students in our community through Bridges to Hope's Bag to School Program, which we have supported for over a decade. Due to the extreme demand and rising costs to provide essential school supplies and equip these children for a successful academic year, they need to raise over \$25,000 this year. Let's come together as a church family to empower these students and demonstrate the true spirit of compassion and care. You can donate directly at www.bridgestohope.ca

Bridges to Hope: Bridges to Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month and the item for **AUGUST** is Kid's snacks - applesauce, granola bars, juice boxes, etc. Other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated!

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!

Want to audition for Aurora's Women Choir! It's never been easier! We are accepting Virtual Auditions up to August 31st! If you are interested, please submit the following to Abra: aurorachoir.ad@gmail.com

- 1) A video recording of you singing (something you think would best highlight your voice, but no backing track please!)-cell phone recordings are perfect!
- 2) Why do you want to audition for Aurora Women's Choir?
- 3) What musical experience do you have?

4) What is something you are passionate about BESIDES music? Rehearsals on Sunday Evening from 7 Until 9 at Topsail United Church, Aurora Women's Choir is under the direction of Abra Whitney.