

## RESPONDING to the WORD

### Praying Together

We are led in a time of prayer together which offers ample periods of silence so that we can fill in our personal concerns. We conclude with the prayer Jesus taught us:

**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 238 “How Great Thou Art”**

**Commissioning:**

**Musical Postlude**

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<sup>1</sup> adapted from the work of Joanna Harader, Spacious Faith:  
<https://spaciousfaith.com/2011/09/15/wednesday-worship-piece-psalm-133/>

<sup>2</sup> Gill LeFevre, Walton Memorial UC., Oakville Ont. Gathering 2023, P1 (49).

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 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
2023-08-20 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.

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**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 401 "Worship the Lord" (vs. 1, 2 & 5)**

**Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 133)<sup>i</sup>**

If we are inclined to brag, let us gather together with humility

**How good it is when all of God's people live together in unity.**

If we are tempted to use harsh words, let us gather together with  
gentleness.

**How good it is when all of God's people live together in unity.**

If we are impatient, let us gather together with patience.

**How good it is when all of God's people live together in unity.**

If the world outside feels hate-full, let us gather in the fullness love.

**How good it is when all of God's people live together in unity.**

With humility, gentleness, patience, and love

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

**Meet us here Holy One, in this sanctuary of time and space that we  
have set apart in our week as an opening for your Spirit into our  
hearts and homes. In a world that is aching and divided, may our  
worship together be a gentle and soothing gift to all who have  
gathered in your name. Amen**

**Passing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

Let us greet one another in the peace of Christ.

*As you are comfortable, please greet your neighbours with a wave,  
elbow bump, or handshake. Feel free to move about the sanctuary.*

**Hymn\*: VU 602 Blest Be the Tie that Binds**

**SHARING and CARING**

**Our Life and Work:**

**Stewardship Reflection:**

**Offering Hymn: MV 122 "This is the day"**

**Blessing of Gifts**

**With these gifts, we seek to follow Christ's example;  
creating a world where love is known,  
sharing the beauty of kindness,  
loving our neighbour**

**Bless these gifts and may they be a foreshadowing of your  
heavenly kingdom. Amen.**

**Ministry of Music:**

**LEARNING TOGETHER**

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

**Encouraging God, open our hearts to hard words and deep truths.**

**Nudge us with your Spirit to recognize the message you have for us  
today. Inspire us, with your love, to take your message into our hearts  
and into our lives. Amen.<sup>ii</sup>**

**Reading:** Genesis 45:1–15

**Reading:** Matthew 15:(10–20), 21–28

**Reading:** Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

**Hymn: VU 271 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"**

**Reflecting on the Word**

