

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Our Father, who 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 that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN: "O for a World" (*Voices United 697*)

* **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.

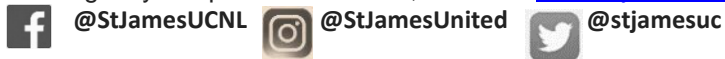
All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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: **StJamesGuest** WiFi Password: **StJames**

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

Celebration of Worship for August 6, 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.

This Bulletin is dedicated:

In loving memory of parents Margaret and Lewis Babstock who were married on August 6th, 1946.
From their Family.

**August 6, 2023, Emancipation Sunday
(Tenth Sunday after Pentecost)**

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Bob Rose and Jean Rose

*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 Innu-aimun, Swahili and Portuguese as we gather, lighting the candle as a sign of Christ's presence with us.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

*** SHARING OF PEACE**

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Psalm 17:1-7*)

One: Draw near to the One who listens to our cries for help.

All: We pray in trust that God responds to what is right.

One: Draw near to the One who calls us to follow their way.

All: We seek to walk the path that leads to fullness of life.

One: Draw near to the One who is a refuge for all in need.

All: We rest in God whose love is ever steadfast and true.

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

**Ever-faithful and ever-loving God,
we gather today in gratitude for your abundant grace,
a grace that restores and liberates every people and nation.
Be with us in our speaking and in our listening,
that we may be blessed in our understanding
and strengthened to faithfully follow your way.
We pray in the name of Jesus, your holy child. Amen.**

*** HYMN:** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (*Voices United 288*)

We Share

OUR LIFE AND WORK:

MINUTE FOR MISSION

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

LEARNING TOGETHER

We explore themes of the day in a manner that is accessible to all ages.

*** HYMN:** "God of Freedom, God of Justice" (*Voices United 700*)

PRAYER FOR GRACE

READINGS: Genesis 32:22-31; Matthew 13:54-58;
and "Spirit of Elijah" by Drew Jackson

SOLO

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

*** HYMN:** "Spirit of the Living God" (*Voices United 376*)

We Respond in Love

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE AND RESTORATION

We give voice to the people who experienced the sin of enslavement as we commit to seek healing for the past and live in a way that liberates others.