

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

Celebration of Worship for September 17, 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.

**September 17, 2023, Second Sunday
in the Season of Creation**

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir
Ushering: Susan Pike, Marilyn Adams, and Jean Thompson

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

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We share greetings in Mi'kmawi'simk, Bangla and Farsi as we gather with thanks for the land and commit to be a fully inclusive community.

SHARING OF PEACE

INTROIT: "Holy Sacred Spirit" by Monica Brown (MV 15)

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by a prayer by Rev. Richard Bott*)

One: In the beginning, when it was very dark, God said,

All: "Let there be light!" (*the Christ candle is lit*)

One: And there was light. From there God spoke the waters into being, separating the waters above from the waters below!

All: The people came to the waters, to the river to seek new life, crossed the sea to begin walking a new path with God.

One: Water continues to be a source of renewal and freedom, inviting us into relationship with one another and all living beings.

All: We worship God with gratitude and love in our hearts!

OPENING PRAYER

One: Creator God, you are the one who gathers the sea into its place, and sends rain upon the Earth that it may bring forth life:

All: we delight in your gift of water and praise you for this source of grace.

Create in us such a sense of wonder for all your gifts, that we might receive them with gratitude, care for them with love, and share them with all your creatures.

We pray in the name of Jesus, firstborn of creation. Amen.

* **HYMN:** "Crashing Waters at Creation" (*Voices United 449*)

We Share

OUR LIFE AND WORK

A 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. In whatever way you give, the community is grateful.*

* **PRESENTATION HYMN:** “For the Gift of Creation” (VU 538)

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts which we give.**

We Listen

LEARNING TOGETHER

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

* **HYMN:** “If I Were a Butterfly” (see overhead projection)

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS

READINGS: Exodus 14:19-27; Romans 14:1-12; excerpt from
The Letters of Pelagius: Celtic Soul Friend

ANTHEM: “For the Beauty of the Earth” by David Evans (VU 226)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

We Respond

* **HYMN:** “All Praise to You” (Voices United 297)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We take time to pray for the needs of our global and local communities, knowing that what we pray for we also are called to do something about.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: “How Great Thou Art” (*Voices United 238, v. 1 and 2*)

BENEDICTION (*Adapted from “Gaelic Blessing” by John Rutter*)

The blessing of the running wave to you.
The blessing of the flowing air to you.
The blessing of the quiet earth to you.
The blessing of the shining stars to you.
The blessing of God: Abba, Christ and Spirit to you,
and to all of creation, this day and evermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

Chair of Council:	Michelle Skinner
Lead Minister:	Rev. James Ravenscroft
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Associate Music Director	Bob Rose
Office Administrator	Stephanie Harnum
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

Office: 722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;

Emergency Cellphone: 351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org

 [@StJamesUCNL](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesUCNL)

 [@StJamesUnited](https://www.instagram.com/StJamesUnited)

 [@stjamesuc](https://twitter.com/stjamesuc)

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.

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Life and Work - September 17, 2023

Rev. James' Office Hours: If you would like to see Rev. James, he is in the church office on Tuesdays between 1:00 pm and 3:30 pm and on Thursdays between 10:00 am and 12:30 pm. If he is not in during those times, he has been called out on an emergency. Should that happen Stephanie can arrange an alternate time.

Open for a Visit: Rev. James loves coming to people's homes for a visit. If you would like him to come by, feel free to call him at 709-351-0983 to arrange a visit or you can email him at james@stjamesuc.org.

Climate Change March from MUN to the Confederation Building: From 1 - 3 pm on Friday, September 15, there is a climate change march planned. Beginning at the MUN clock tower, participants will be walking over to the Confederation building. If you can't attend, be sure to let loved ones who might one to participate to know about it and of course pause for prayer in support of our environment. This is part of a series of events taking place around the world over the weekend to highlight the need to phase out fossil fuels if we're going to take serious action on global heating.

Men's Club Meeting: Our Men's Club will hold its first fall meeting on September 20, with lunch served downstairs at 1:00 pm. A warm welcome is extended to all members of the congregation. Why not come along for lunch and consider getting involved in this aspect of fellowship within our church. Please contact any current member if you would like further information.

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!

Coastal Sounds Choir Association: are delighted to announce that registration for the 10th Anniversary Christmas Cantata is now open! We are looking to have a 100-person choir, we will have school choir guests (who will be writing their own narrations!), and a Celtic Consort! We are going to have a TIME! If you are interested in learning more, check out the link below (which will also allow you to register!),

Link to register: <https://forms.gle/V4hESArjqE3oyiHv8>

Stories and Songs: will be a monthly service held on the 3rd Sunday at Memorial United beginning September 17 at 7pm. Come for a service of stories, music and conversation.

Loose Threads Sewing Studio: will reconvene on Monday, September 18 at Memorial United, Portugal Cove, afternoon 1-3 and evening 7-9. New and beginning sewers, knitters and crafters welcome.

Musical Variety Show and 'Bed' lunch: September 23 at 7pm, Memorial United Church, Portugal Cove. Performers include Mackenzie Critch, Rick Bishop, Wayne Butto, Olivia and Addison King, Nancy Oates, Michael Gardner and friends. Tickets are just \$15.00 and are available by calling the church office 709-895-6525 and leaving a message or Sid Woolfrey at 709 770-1245.

CNIB Vision Mate Program: Do you have what it takes to become a Vision Mate? Join CNIB and make a difference in the life of someone who is blind or partially sighted by volunteering just a couple of hours a week. Would you be interested in CNIB's Vision Mate program? If you have any further questions, please contact Program Lead, Kelly Picco at (709) 754-1180 ext. 5813 or email kelly.picco@cnib.ca