

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

Celebration of Worship for October 1, 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.

October 1, 2023, Worldwide Communion and the Fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and Senior Choir
Ushering: Marilyn Adams and Jean Thompson
Communion Servers: Michelle Skinner and Jennifer Whitfield

*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 Innu-aimun, Tagalog and French as we gather with thanks for the land and commit to be a fully inclusive community.

SHARING OF PEACE AND INTROIT

“Kyrie Eleison” - Paraguayan, arr. P. Sosa (MV 68)

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 continents and islands into being, creating a home for animals of all kinds!

**All: The land was made as our dwelling place as well,
and our ancestors were instructed to take good care of it.**

One: The earth takes care of us as long as we take care of it,
calling us to live sustainably and with respect for all living beings.

All: Let us worship God with trust and commitment. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Maker of all, we give thanks for this amazing world!

**When you fashioned it, the stars sang in praise of this gift,
and our ancestors too shouted out with joy.**

**Instill in us their sense of wonder,
and teach us to see all things as good,
that enlivened in our gratitude we may care for your creation.**

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

* **HYMN:** “It’s a Song of praise to the Maker” *(More Voices 30)*

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. 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

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS

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)

READINGS: Exodus 17: 1-7; Philippians 2:1-13;
“Nature is a Gift” Meditation of Henri Nouwen
for July 5, 2020 (see www.henrinouwen.org)

ANTHEM: “Jesus Took the Cup” - H. Hopson.

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

We Respond

* **HYMN:** “For the Beauty of the Earth” (Voices United 226)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: Welcome to this table from tables across our community.

Wherever you are, be assured that you are at Christ’s table.

**All: A table where there are no divisions, where everyone belongs,
where everyone is family in God’s love.**

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: We gather in the presence of the Holy.

All: God is around us and within us.

One: We open our hearts.

All: We open our hearts to Love.

One: Let us give thanks.

All: It is good to give thanks and praise.

One: God of Gracious Love, it is good to give you thanks! We live in a world touched by your hand. Wherever we turn, there are treasures to behold, vast fields and mountains, lakes and rivers, plants and animals, each adapted to its corner of creation. In this part of your world, the air grows colder, and we wait for a time of withdrawal and reflection. The creatures around us respond to this invitation – birds migrate to warmer lands, bears prepare to hibernate, leaves turn colour and begin to fall. We too prepare as farmers bring in crops and many of us move indoors for study and contemplation. You made us self-reflective creatures, able to ponder our place and consider our impact on one another.

And so, as we turn inward, we take time to give thanks and to ponder the connections between us, to consider our connection with all of creation with whom we join in praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your light. Glory to you our God.

Blessed is he, blessed are we, blessed are all who come.

Hosannas ring, archangels sing.

Blessed are all who come.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your light. Glory to you our God.

God of Liberating Grace, in this spirit of gratitude we pray as a worldwide community, committed to share your love for all creation as lived out in the vision of Jesus. His witness calls to us over the ages, inviting us to stand with the vulnerable, overcome divisions and seek the peace that you alone can give. Trusting that he is with us even now, we remember how on the night before his death, he gathered with his disciples. While at table, he took bread, blessed and broke it. He gave it to them saying, "Take, eat, this is my body." In the same way he took the cup and gave it to them saying "Take, drink, this cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this whenever you come together in remembrance of me."

All: Christ has died, Christ is ris'n, Christ will come again.

God of Abiding Peace, we give thanks for Jesus' commitment to your vision, even to death, and for his risen presence with us as we live into your reign. May the same Spirit that he breathed upon his disciples be present with us and these gifts, that the meal we share be our communion in him and with one another, be our communion with the world. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, now and forever.

All: Amen, amen, alleluia, amen, alleluia, amen.

PRAYER OF JESUS *(in unison)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on 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.

SHARING IN COMMUNION

The bread we share, **is our sharing in the life of Christ.**

The cup we bless, **is our blessing in the love of Christ.**

Everyone is welcome to share communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. Come to the front to receive the bread and grape juice (in a small glass). Please consume both before returning to your pew. Please let us know if you need the gluten free option. If you're unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(in unison):*

**Bountiful God, through the gift of bread and this cup,
you have made us one with you and each other.**

May the unity we find at this table be a gift that we carry out into your world.

Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" *(Voices United 651)*

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

Life and Work - October 1, 2023

We accept the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:

* In loving memory of Mother, Mildred Blackwood and Brother, Walter Blackwood Jr. from Lorna Jamieson

Office Closure: The office will be closed on Tuesday, October 3rd to observe the Truth and Reconciliation Day Holiday.

The Visitor: The newest edition of The Visitor is available online at: stjamesuc.org. Paper copies will be available at the church office. If you would like a digital copy to be sent to your email please contact the church office.

Zone Captains can pick up their Visitor packages at the church office. A review of the zones has happened, so if there are any in your Visitor packages that doesn't make sense for your zone, please bring it back to the office and we will take care of those ourselves.

If you are interested in delivering The Visitor to your neighbors, please contact the church office to let us know. info@stjamesuc.org or (709) 722-1881 Ext 200

Relaunching EvenTide services: Once again we are having Sunday evening worship services at St. James. These 7 pm services vary across the month. Come to one, come to them all, find one that suits your spirituality. This Sunday is Story and Song, a service that weaves stories and songs together to explore a spiritual theme. We will be exploring gifts this week.

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!

AOTS Fish & Brewis Dinner: Tickets are available from any member of the Men's Club or Aubrey Hill - 709-726-8306

St. James United Church,
330 Elizabeth Avenue



AOTS Men's Service Club

Fish & Brewis Dinner



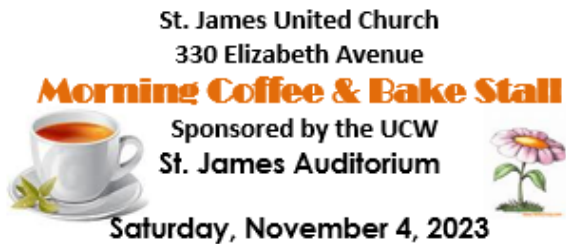
Friday, October 27, 2023

Time: 6pm Cost: \$25.00

St. James Ladies Bowling League: The St. James Ladies Bowling has been in existence for over 40 years. Ladies from this church along with other bowlers have been enjoying

fun, laughter, friendship and, of course, a little exercise at Holiday Lanes, 27 Elizabeth Avenue. St. James Ladies is a fun league, with all levels of bowlers, from beginner to experienced. Bowling is at 10 A.M Tuesday mornings at Holiday Lanes. Why don't you drop by and see what we are all about; you may even see a few familiar faces there! New members and spares are welcome! Contact Coleen Stirling at 709-739-0022 or email: coleen.stirling@gmail.com, or call Holiday Lanes at 709-754-0260 for more information.

UCW Morning Coffee and Bake Stall:



Co-conveners:
Daphne Coish: (709) 722 - 3196
Betty Pilgrim: (709) 726-6923

Time: 9:45 – 12 Noon Cost: \$8.00

Cochrane Street United Church FALL PLANT AND HARVEST SALE:

is Saturday, October 7, from 10:30am-1:00pm. Come visit us on the patio at 81 Cochrane Street to see our indoor & outdoor plants, chutneys, relishes, jams and marmalades! If you have any questions, please contact the church office by Tuesday, October 3, at info@cochranestreetuc.com or 722-3023