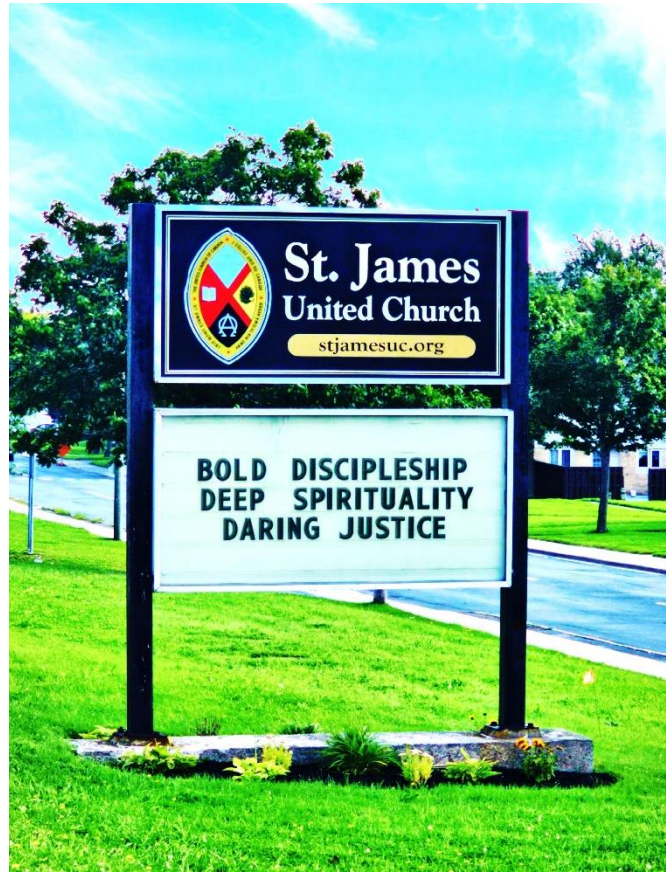


St. James United Church

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.

**September 10, 2023, First Sunday in the
Season of Creation and Camping Sunday**

Leading worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading music: Amy Dalziel and Jean Rose
Ushering: Marilyn Adams and Jean Thompson
Communion Server: Bill and Cindy Pike

*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, Shona and Sinhalese as we gather with thanks for the land and commit to be a fully inclusive community.

SHARING OF PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from 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 the light was! And continued to be!

**All: In the burning bush and in the pillar of fire,
in the bright of the day and in the sparkle of night.**

One: These fires of creation point us in the direction of God and invite us into relationship with one another and all living beings.

**All: With light in our eyes and with love in our hearts,
we worship God!**

OPENING PRAYER

Maker of All, you are the flame that warms us,
the voice that calls us in love. We long to answer.

And so just as we come together to praise you in worship, we seek you in the quiet of nature, attend to your voice not just in scripture but in birdsong, rejoice in your presence in campfire choruses along with communion meals. Thank you for this day and for the many ways you reach out in love, all ways that you guide us into deeper union with you. Amen.

* **HYMN:** “This is God’s Wondrous World” *(Voices United 296)*

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

A MINUTE FOR CAMP: *We highlight the work of Burry Heights Camp.*

* **HYMN:** “If I Were a Butterfly”

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS

READINGS: Exodus 12:1-14; Romans 13:8-14; an excerpt from
Ilia Delio, *The Hours of the Universe: Reflections on
God, Science and the Human Journey*

SOLO

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

We Respond

* **HYMN:** “As We Gather at Your Table” (Voices United 457)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: As we come to the table, we join with the sun that ripened the wheat and the rain that filled the grapes with juicy sweetness.

All: Here too are soil and wind, the birds of the air, creatures of the land, farmer and fieldworker, and each of us, called by Jesus to share together in this banquet of creation.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you. **All: And also with you.**

One: Gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of life, Source of love.

You guide the sun, cradle the moon, and toss the stars. At your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets. You breathe life into us and set us among your creatures to love and for service. So it is that we join the song of all creation to proclaim your goodness:

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.

One: Mighty and tender God, in Jesus we recognize the fullness of your grace: light, life, and love, revealed in teachings that both challenge and change us, in compassion that heals and frees us. And now we gather at this table to remember that we may rise together and to follow in your way.

We remember that when Jesus ate with his friends, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you."

Then at the end of the meal, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: "Take and drink. This cup that is poured out for you is the promise of God, made in my blood. Each time you do this, remember me."

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering Christ's life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for his return. Grant that, in thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts,
that all who share in this loaf and cup may be the body of Christ:
light, life, and love in the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours,
God most holy, now and forever.

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

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND FILLING THE CUP

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

The cup we bless, **is our communion in the blood of Christ.**

SHARING IN COMMUNION

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)*

We give thanks Creator God, for the meal we have shared, for bread, for wine, for your wisdom revealed, guiding us on the way to life renewed, and the promise of justice for all. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "Draw the Circle Wide" *(More Voices 145)*

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

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

 @StJamesUnited

 @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. All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced / broadcast under ONE LICENSE. License #: #A-700000.

Life and Work - September 10, 2023

Celebrating Burry Heights Camp:

This Sunday we are highlighting the importance of Burry Heights Camp (and other church-based summer camps) in our shared life in The United Church of Canada. There will be offering envelopes on hand if you wish to make a donation for Burry Heights. You can also make a donation online or by e-transfer. Please specify that it is for Burry Heights Camp. In addition, Saturday, September 16, 2023 from 12PM to 7PM is Burry Heights Day. This is a time of fun, friendship and music. A time to experience the magic as you reminisce with old friends and meet new. Drop up to Camp for an hour or spend the day!! Exit 35 Salmonier Line and turn left. Just 1/2 km in on the right. Sign has been removed but we're still east to find.

The Visitor: We are looking for submissions for the Thanksgiving edition of The Visitor. It could be what you did this summer, a review of a show you may have seen, or simply whatever is on your mind. Submissions are due no later than September 15. Please send your submissions to gpwarren98@yahoo.com

UCW Meeting: There will be a UCW meeting on September 11th at 2PM in the Fellowship Room.

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!

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: Would you be interested in CNIB's Vision Mate program? Please see the attached poster for more information. If you have any further questions, please contact Program Lead, Kelly Picco at (709) 754-1180 ext. 5813 or email kelly.picco@cnib.ca

CNIB

**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.**



Imagine losing some or all your vision. How would you tackle daily tasks like reading, shopping or taking a stroll down the street? Having someone to provide sighted assistance can make all the difference.

As a Vision Mate, you'll be matched with someone with sight loss in your community to help them with everyday activities such as running errands or going for coffee.

Interested?

Contact: Kelly Picco at 754-1180 (ext 5813) or kelly.picco@cnib.ca