

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

**Celebration of Worship for October 8, 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.

In memory of Parents:

*Roma & Eric Paul*

“So thankful for the love, support and guidance you provided throughout our lives. You are forever in our hearts.”

From: Nancy & Anthony

## **October 8, 2023, Thanksgiving Sunday**

(Latin American Heritage/Women’s History Month)

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft

Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Senior Choir

Ushering: Marilyn Adams, Jean Thompson, Susan Pike

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*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'kmawí'simk, Igbo and Spanish as we gather with thanks for the land and commit to be a fully inclusive community.*

#### **SHARING OF PEACE AND INTROIT “Alleluia Y'in Oluwa” (MV 59)**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In hills and valleys bursting with colour:

**All: We see your presence, O God!**

One: In fields and trees abundant with harvest:

**All: We taste your goodness, O God!**

One: In food laden tables and people gathered around them:

**All: We experience your loving, O God!**

#### **OPENING PRAYER (in unison)**

**Loving and living God, we give you thanks!**

**All that we experience, know and feel,  
every aspect of creation, is a sign of your goodness.**

**As we gather in prayer to sing your praise,**

**may our hearts be opened in gratitude**

**for the abundance of your many gifts,**

**for the harvest of your grace and your love.**

**We pray in the loving and living name of Jesus, Amen.**

\* **HYMN:** “We Plough the Fields” (*Voices United 520*)

## 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: “Bringing in the Sheaves”**

**1. Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,  
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;  
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.**

*Refrain: Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,  
we shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves. (x2)*

**2. Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,  
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;  
By and by the harvest, and the labor ended,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves. [Refrain]**

**3. Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master,  
Though the loss sustained our spirit often grieves;  
When our weeping's over, He will bid us welcome,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves. [Refrain]**

## We Listen

### PRAYER OF OPENNESS

### LEARNING TOGETHER

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

**\* HYMN:** “Ev’ry Day Is a Day for Thanksgiving” (More Voices 185)

**READINGS:** Deuteronomy 8:7-18; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15;  
Excerpt from *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

**ANTHEM:** "Tis the Gift to Be Simple"

### REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

## We Respond

\* **HYMN:** "Praise God for the Harvest" (*VU 517, v 1-2, 4-5*)

### **RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

One: Giver of all, on this Thanksgiving Sunday,  
we pause in gratitude for our many gifts,

**All: aware that we give as well as receive many blessings.**

One: We give thanks for mountain vistas and ocean views,  
for farmland and grassland, for dry deserts and humid rainforests,  
for the beauty of this planet that we call home.

**All: We give thanks too for pine trees and peonies,  
for codfish and cuttlefish, for moose, mice and marmots,  
and all the diverse life with whom we share this home.**

One: We give thanks for pumpkins and partridge berries,  
chopped salad and chowder, for toutons and tea buns and  
turkey with dressing, for foods that feed bodies but more so our spirits.

**All: We give thanks too for loved ones and liked ones,  
for nans, pops and great-ones, for siblings and niblings,  
for children and partners and for all we call family.**

One: We give thanks for our churches, for greeters and readers,  
for bakers and pray-ers, for lay-leaders and lay-visitors,  
for computer techs and fine choristers.

**All: And we give thanks for community, for teachers and tailors,  
for fishers and sailors, for late nighters, early risers,  
and our many first responders...**

One: And finally we give thanks for ourselves, for the gifts that we give,  
for the gifts first given by you the great giver. For all these  
and so much more we give thanks O God. **Amen.**

### **THE 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,  
the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **We Leave to Serve**

**HYMN:** "Now Thank We All Our God" (*Voices United 236*)

### **BENEDICTION**

One: As we go forth from here:

**All: may we be strong in spirit, courageous in will,  
and gentle of heart.**

One: Each day may our actions be:

**All: rooted in wisdom, nurtured by hope and open to love.**

One: May we meet others as we would wish to be met:

**All: with a heart of compassion, in a spirit of healing,  
and grounded in joy.**

## POSTLUDE

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### St. James United Church

Council Chair:	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](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org);

Emergency Cellphone: 351-0983; Website: [www.stjamesuc.org](http://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.

**We are saddened to share the news on the passing of two people this week. We offer our sincerest condolences to the families:**

\* On Sunday, October 1, 2023, George Senior passed away. We offer condolences to Dorothy Senior and family. A celebration of Mr. Senior's life will be at 2 pm on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at Carnell's Funeral Home. Attached is a copy of his obituary:

<https://www.carnells.com/obituaries/george-senior/>

\* On Tuesday, October 3, 2023, Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray passed away. We offer condolences to her daughter Alison and family. A celebration of Rev. Ettie's life will be held at St. James this coming Saturday (October 7, 2023) at 1 pm. Attached is a copy of her obituary: <https://www.cauls.ca/obituary/rev-ettie-gordon>

**Office Closure:** The church office will be closed on Tuesday, October 10th to observe the Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

**The Visitor:** The newest edition of The Visitor is available online at [stjamesuc.org](http://stjamesuc.org). Paper copies are 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](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org) or (709) 722-1881 Ext 200

**St. James will be having their first Trunk 'N Treat on Sunday, October 29, 2023 from 2:30 - 4:00.** For those you who are unfamiliar with the idea, children would simply come to the parking lot and go trick or treating from car to car, and people would proceed to give out treats from their trunks. Decorating their cars or wearing costumes are encouraged for those who will be attending but children are not required to have a costume. As of this time, there are no such events in our area so a large turnout is expected. These events have been very well received in other areas.

If you would like to participate on the day of, no pre-registration is required. Simply show up and get ready to have some Halloween fun! If you are unable to attend and would still like to participate in some way, we will be accepting donations of treats up until Sunday, October 22, 2023. For those unable to get out shopping, monetary donations are welcomed as we have a "Boo Crew" who would be more than happy to shop for goodies. Donations can be dropped off at the church office during regular business hours or at one of our Sunday services.



The Administration and Communications Committee is looking for you! We are looking for members and you do not have to have computer skills, just the desire to share what's happening at St. James. We only meet, at most, 6 times a year and the work can be both fun and rewarding. Just ask our volunteers who help put The Visitor together! So if this is something that may interest you, please leave your contact information with the church office and we will get right back to you.

**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

UCW Morning Coffee and Bake Stall:

St. James United Church  
330 Elizabeth Avenue

**Morning Coffee & Bake Stall**

Sponsored by the UCW  
St. James Auditorium



Saturday, November 4, 2023

Time: 9:45 – 12 Noon Cost: \$8.00

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

**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](mailto: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!

**George Street UC "Celebration of Life" Closing Worship Service:**

The congregation of George Street United Church are extending an invitation to anyone who would like to attend our closing worship service on Sunday, October 29, 2023, at 2 p.m. The service will be presided by the President of First Dawn Eastern Edge, Amanda Barnes. We are also expecting various special guests and dignitaries to be in attendance. A reception will follow the service in our Jimmy Pratt Memorial Outreach Centre. While it is with sadness that this service will be marking the disbandment of our congregation, it is the congregation's hope to highlight and celebrate the legacy of George Street United Church's ministry to our community over the past 150 years. For this historic service, we are looking forward to it being well attended by as many folks as possible from our Communities of Faith in the United Church.

**George Street UC "Open House" on Saturday Oct. 28, 2023:**

For those who may or may not be able to attend the worship service, the congregation will also be having an "Open House" on Saturday Oct. 28, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for folks to drop by and stroll through the church and sanctuary. Welcoming all to attend both events!

**Topsail United Thanksgiving Breakfast:** Topsail United Church Men's Club will be holding a Thanksgiving Breakfast on Saturday October 7th, from 8 until 11 A.M., usual great menu, \$10 Adults, \$ 5 Children, All are welcome.

**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](mailto:info@cochranestreetuc.com) or 722-3023