

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

**Celebration of Worship for October 15, 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 15, 2023, World Food Sunday**  
(Latin American Heritage/Women's History Month)

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft  
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Newfound Sound  
Ushering: Susan Pike, Marilyn Adams  
and Jean Thompson

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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 Inuktitut, Tamil and Portuguese as we gather with thanks for the land and commit to be a fully inclusive community.*

**SHARING OF PEACE AND INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(adapted from CGF resources for today)*

One: Each day God prepares a feast for all people;

**All: And the whole world is invited!**

One: There God seeks to wipe away the tears from every face,

**All: and to lift the despair from every heart.**

One: Let God's people proclaim:

**All: This is our God, in whom we place our trust!**

**Let us rejoice in God's salvation**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God, in love you open wide the doors

**and welcome all people into your presence,**

**to feast on your mercy and to be nourished in your love.**

**Be with us now that we may taste and see your goodness,**

**and celebrate your living and liberating grace,**

**in the name of Jesus, our companion and host. Amen.**

\* **HYMN:** "Let us Build a House" *(More Voices 1, v. 1, 2, 3 and 5)*

**We Share**

**VIDEO:** What is the Canadian Foodgrains Bank?

**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:** "In Gratitude & Humble Trust" (VU 544)  
**In gratitude and humble trust, we bring our best today to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way. O God, you give yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son, teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

### 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:** Isaiah 25:1-9; Matthew 22:1-10;

#### **ANTHEM**

#### **DRAMATIC REFLECTION**

### We Respond

**\* HYMN:** "For the Fruit of All Creation" (*Voices United 227*)

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND COMMITMENT**

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS** (*Voices United, p. 921; in unison*)

### We Leave to Serve

**HYMN:** "O God You Send Us Out to Walk" (*used with permission*)

- 1. O God, you send us out to walk,  
For faith is more than idle talk;  
It's more than saying, "Be well fed!"  
When others don't have daily bread.**
- 2. We walk with joyful, eager feet  
So others will have food to eat.**

3. We staff the checkpoints, offer rest,  
And serve you, Lord, for we've been blessed.
4. When we grow weary, may we know  
That some must walk where'er they go.  
For water, food, or work to do,  
They walk till they grow weary, too.
5. O Lord, we walk in safety here  
And know that others walk in fear.  
They flee oppression, flood or war;  
Each fear-filled day, they walk some more.
6. Not all here walk with strength or speed  
But all can give to those in need.  
And as we serve you, may we know  
You walk with us where'er we go.

## **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

## Life and Work - October 15, 2023

We extend a warm welcome to Newfound Sound Women's A Cappella Chorus (Director: Anita Power). Newfound Sound rehearses in St. James' Fellowship Room on Wednesday evenings, and we are thrilled that they are joining us this morning to enhance our musical worship.

**EventTide Prayers for Peace:** This evening's EventTide worship will be in the style of Taizé. This meditative service of both silence and song will be dedicated to peace - peace in our hearts, peace in the Middle East, peace in our world.

**Helping our Neighbours:** As you no doubt are aware, a tent community has popped up across from the Confederation Building as a way for those most impacted by the housing crisis to bring attention to the matter. They plan to stay for as long as it takes to have their concerns heard, and so are in need of support, especially as temperatures drop. Of course, knowing the best kind of support that we can offer as a congregation needs to be discerned. If you want to help figure that out, please contact Rev. James ([james@stjamesuc.org](mailto:james@stjamesuc.org)) and we will form an ad hoc assistance group. In the meantime, let's keep praying for our neighbours who need our support.

**UCW Meeting:** The next UCW meeting is on Monday, October 16th in the Fellowship room.

**AOTS Men's Club Meeting:** Our Men's Club will hold its regular meeting on October 18 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.

**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.

**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



**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



**Fish & Brewis Dinner**

Friday, October 27, 2023  
Time: 6pm Cost: \$25.00

**UCW Fall Sale - November 4, 2023:** Our Fall sale is approaching! It's November 4th. Get your ticket beforehand, or else at the door. For an \$8 ticket, this will enable all hungry patrons to sit at a table.

With servers all ready for you to come in. The coffee and tea cups, they will fill to the brim. Try muffins and tea buns and along with all these, good raisin bread, tasty jam and hard cheese.

Move along to home bakery, there's no need to bake! Buy tea rings and cookies, and a favourite cake, muffins or fruit loaves, fine sponges or tortes, light crusty rolls, or pleasures of all sorts.

We'll have two lovely baskets, try your luck! If you win it, we're sure you'll be pleased with all that is in it. The success of our sale surely depends on support we receive from church family and friends.

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

St. James United 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:



# St. James United 65th Anniversary Dinner Celebrations

LIVE MUSIC | FOODS | PARTY

**Friday, November 17, 2023**

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Start at 6 for Emcee: Gary & Lou of NL Now  
6:30 pm (Jake Thompson)

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**Tickets**  
**\$45**

Featuring:  
Wayne Button and Friends  
Rachel Cousins



**Bridges to Hope Food Donation:** Bridges to Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month to the food bank and the item for **OCTOBER** is **Canned Milk**. Other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated