

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

Celebration of Worship for January 28, 2024



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.

January 28, 2024: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

*Please rise in body or in spirit where there is an *.
Print in **bold** indicates that the portion is read or sung by everyone.*

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We offer greetings in Innu-aimun, French and Tamil as we gather as a baptized community. We light a candle as a sign of Christ's presence.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who continue to steward it; we also commit to be an inclusive community for all.

INTROIT: "Love You, God, Who Heard My Cry" (Isaac Watts)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to worship, a diverse family from many walks of life.

We come with gratitude to God for our many experiences.

Come to worship, bringing all of your joys and sorrows.

We come because Jesus brings us strength and hope.

Come to worship, open to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We come, trusting in the healing power of God's grace.

Come to worship, one family joined in Christ's renewing love.

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Holy God, Source of grace and blessing,

we come to worship, drawn together in your love,

grateful for the witness of Jesus' teaching in our lives.

Send your Spirit upon us as we pray,

opening our hearts and minds to the wisdom of your way,

made known in the words and actions of Jesus,

in whose sweet and holy name we pray. Amen.

* **HYMN:** “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” (VU 344)

We Share with Love

OUR LIFE AND WORK: *We share what is going on in our community.*

MINUTE FOR RECONCILIATION: *We share ways we can support the work of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.*

OFFERTORY: *There are many ways to share financial gifts with St. James United Church. If you prefer not to place a contribution in the offering plate, 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:** *We dedicate our offerings to the word of God’s love as we sing “When Heaven’s Bright with Mystery” VU 93, v 4*

When heaven’s bright with mystery and stars still lead an unknown way, when love still lights a gentle path when courts of power can hold no sway, there with the Magi let us kneel, our gifts to share, God’s world to heal.

We Listen and Respond

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

LEARNING TOGETHER

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

* **HYMN:** “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” (Voices United 509)

READINGS: *As each reading concludes, please say, “Thank be to God.”*

1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Psalm 111 (VU p. 833); Mark 1:21-28;
Excerpt from *Tattoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle

ANTHEM: “Come to the Water” (John Foley)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

* **HYMN:** “Bathe Me in Your Light” (*More Voices* 82)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for the needs of our land and global communities.

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

SHARING OF PEACE: *We commit to respond to what we prayed for by sharing a sign of peace with a wave, bow, or other connecting gesture.*

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: “O for a Thousand tongues to Sing” (*Voices United* 326)

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH:

As we go forth from here:

**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

St. James United Church

Chair of Council

Michelle Skinner

Minister:

Rev. James Ravenscroft

Minister Emeritus:

Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown

Music Director:

Amy Dalziel

Associate Music Director:

Bob Rose

Technology Support:

Jake Thompson

Office Administrator:

Stephanie Harnum

Church Custodian:

Bruce Winsor

Office: 722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;
Emergency Cellphone: 351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



@StJamesUCNL



@StJamesUnited



@stjamesuc

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: 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.

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Life and Work - January 28, 2024

We accept the following donation to the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Camp Fund:

* In loving memory of Dave and Dot Hapgood from Don and Phyllis Fleming

We accept the following donation to the General Fund:

* In memory of parents Ada and Milligan Pardy and Irene and Walter Tucker as well as brother Dave Pardy from Marilyn and Kevin Pardy.

* In memory of Harvey Weir from Vern and Nellie Whelan

Lenten Book Study: Lent is less than a month away so it's time to think of a prayerful practice to take on. Why not read *Act/Fast*, a devotional focused on love for the environment and climate action written by a number of United Church and other leaders, including Rev. James. Each day there is a reflection to read and a prayerful activity to do. We will come together once a week via Zoom to discuss what we learned and experienced. If you plan to take part in the study or just read the book on your own, please email Stephanie (info@stjamesuc.org) by January 30. We get a 20% discount if we order 5 or more, plus orders of over \$100 qualify for free shipping. Look at Lent from a different perspective by deepening your love for the environment along with your commitment to climate action.

A One Time Bible Study: Rev. James needs help with a course on Anti-racist Preaching and Community Engagement. He is looking for a diverse group of people to reflect on a bible passage with him. It would be a one time gathering over Zoom in the last week of January, date decided by participants.

Request for Furniture: Do you have spare furniture that could be used to help others? There are two Ukrainian families we know of that need beds and couches. We do not need to store or deliver it, connected as we are to people who have volunteered to do that for us. They may need other items in the future. Please contact Stephanie if you can help.

A Call for Baked Snacks: This coming February 9, St. James is co-hosting a 55+ LGBTQ+ Valentine Tea and Dance. As part of this event, we are requesting help with baked goods. Please contact Rev. James (james@stjamesuc.org) if you can help.

CPR Training for AED Machine: We will be holding a training/ retraining session for St. James current registered users for CPR/AED at The Health Sciences Centre, Main Hallway, room 2J619 on Saturday, February 10 @ 10:00 am - 12:30 noon.

If you are interested in participating in a NEW Training session and becoming an attendant for St. James can you please contact Susan Pike by email susanpike@warp.nfld.net or 576-0703 by February 5th to ensure we have space for all participants. Training is certified by The Heart and Stroke Foundation and is certified for two years.

Pancake Supper: will be held on Tuesday, February 13 at 6pm. Come enjoy all the favourites; pancakes, berries, beans and sausages, coffee, tea and juice for just \$10 per person (12 years and under \$5). Tickets are available for purchase at the church office or from Aubrey Hill at (709) 726-8306 or Clyde Flight at (709) 722-9935. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

We Value Your Membership at St. James!!!

If you would like to become a full member of St. James Congregation we would be honoured to Welcome you!!

Have Questions? Unsure of your current status with the church?

I can help you and would love to chat with you to help you determine your status and become a Full Member of our Congregation.

Please contact me: Susan Pike 576-0703 or by email susanpike@warp.nfld.net or the church office.