

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

Celebration of Worship for January 21, 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.

In Loving Memory of Husband, Father,
Grandfather:
Harold Price
April 5, 1929 – January 21, 2017
“Forever Remembered”
Love Lillian, Gail, Leah and Katie

January 21, 2024: Third Sunday after Epiphany

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Penny Paige
Ushers: Brenda and Clyde Flight, 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 Inuktitut, French and Turkish 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.

INSTRUMENTAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Look! Someone is coming! Do you see him?

We do. He must be passing by on his way somewhere.

I don't think so. It looks like he's coming toward us.

Do you think he is here for us? What do you think he wants?

He's speaking! He's inviting us to follow him.

Should we go with him? Yes! I think we should!

Let's Go! He'll show us the way into the heart of God's love.

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

You come to us in Jesus, Holy God,

**inviting us to experience the gift of your reign,
calling us to follow your way of peace and love.**

We want to go with Jesus but, something makes us pause.

**We question if we are worthy, doubt that he really wants us. Help us to
consider otherwise, Gracious God,**

**to trust that as you called him beloved, you call us that too,
and so we can be bearers of your reign in the world.**

We pray in the name of the one we seek to follow. Amen.

*** HYMN:** “Jesus Calls Us” (*Voices United 562*)

We Share with Love

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

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *We share ways we support the wider church.*

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 84, 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 7:29-31; Psalm 62 (*VU* p. 779); Mark 1:14-20;
Excerpt from *I Keep the Land Alive* by Elisabeth Penashue

SOLO: “Jesus, take the Wheel”

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

* **HYMN:** “Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore” (*VU 564*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (The Lord’s Prayer)

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: “Will You Come and Follow Me” (*Voices United 567*)

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

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Life and Work - January 21, 2024

We accept the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:

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

We accept the following donation to the Memorial Fund:

- * In loving memory of Harvey Weir from George and Jean White
- * In memory of Harvey Weir from Jack and Florence Head
- * In memory of Harvey Weir From Linda and Charlie Babstock
- * In memory of Harvey Weir From Clyde and Brenda Flight

We accept the following donation to the General Fund:

- * In memory of Harvey Weir from Aubrey and Ruby Hill
- * In memory of Harvey Weir from Menetha and Sid Dyke

We accept the following donation to the Music Program:

- * In memory of Harvey Wier from Kenneth and Phyllis Parsons
- * In memory of Roly Hillyard from the Senior Choir

Coffee Hour/Fellowship Time: Due to scheduling conflicts, there will be no coffee hour/get together after the Worship service today, Sunday, January 21.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service, Sunday, January 21 at 2:30 pm at The Salvation Army Citadel on Adam's Avenue: Each year, January 18 through to January 25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, a time to focus on what Christians share in common across denominations. As a uniting denomination, we not only pray for unity but actively seek to work with others. In that spirit, why not attend the Christian Unity service to be held at The Salvation Army Citadel, Adam's Avenue this Sunday. Major Lorne Pritchett is the guest speaker. The theme for this year's Week of Prayer is "You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbor as yourself)." (Luke 10:27)

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.

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.

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.