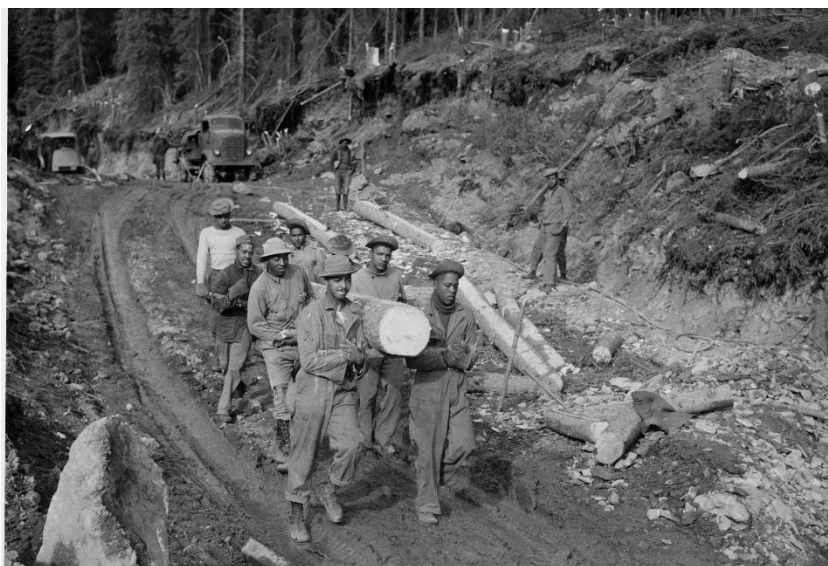


St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

Celebration of Worship for February 4, 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.

February 4, 2024: First Sunday of Black History Month

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Sarah Norman,
Alice Quainoo and Paul Walsh

Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose, Jean Rose & John Austin

Ushers: Guy and Julie Hollett, 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; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We offer greetings in Mi'kmawi'simk, French and Fanti; give thanks for the land and First peoples; and commit to be an inclusive community for all.

INTROIT: "Siyahamba" (Zulu, South African traditional)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus enters our church today, into our spiritual village.

**He enters to the laughter of our children
and the graciousness of our elders.**

He experiences the excitement of our friends

and joins in the harmonies of our choir.

He has come to us, to the burdens that we carry,
bringing peace and hope.

Jesus enters our village today, and we receive him gladly.

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Loving Creator,

we come today in thanksgiving and with reverence.

**As we meet today we pray that our hearts be opened
to hearing the stories of Black siblings.**

We celebrate and honour them,

for all they have contributed to our world,

not just in far away places but also personally to us.

Bless our time this day, in the reading of scripture,

in the prayers of our hearts,

**and in the joy of meeting each other, in this spiritual village
where you have made your presence known. Amen.**

* **HYMN:** “In Christ There Is No East or West” (*Voices United 606*)

We Share with Love

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

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 “Every Day is a Day of Thanksgiving” MV185.*

**Every day is a day of thanksgiving.
God you’ve been so good to me.
Ev’ry day you’re blessing me.
Ev’ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
I will glorify you, O my Lord, today!
You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
You opened the door that I might see, you’re blessing me.
And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
I will glorify you, O my Lord, today!**

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:** “Kumbaya, My Lord” (Spiritual, Gullah culture)
**Kum ba ya, my Lord, kum ba ya; (x3) O Lord, kum ba ya
Someone’s.... Lord, Kum ba ya (x3) O Lord, kum ba ya**

READING: Psalm 147:1-11

ANTHEM: “Aleluya Y’in Oluwa” (Yoruba)

READING: Mark 1: 29-391 (Response: **Thanks be to God**)

REFLECTION (*Written by Pastor Charmaine Bailey*)

ANTHEM: “My Lord What a Morning” (Spiritual)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we pray with humble hearts, bringing our shortcomings, confessing that at times we have hindered another’s blessing by words spoken and actions undertaken. Forgive us for when we have failed to support, encourage, or uplift those in need: and for when we have undermined the dreams and aspirations of others or withheld our assistance out of fear and indifference. In your grace lead us to a path of restoration and healing. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

* **HYMN:** “I’ve Got Peace Like a River” (*Voices United 577*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS

* **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:** “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” (*VU 575*)

* **SENDING FORTH**

* **CHORAL BLESSING:** “Sing Amen” (Xhosa, South African)

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

Life and Work - February 4, 2024

We accept the following donation to the General Fund:

* In memory of Donald R. Bartlett, James and Anne Walsh, and family members from Paul Walsh and Robin Bartlett

We accept the following donation to the Music Program Fund:

* In loving memory of Harvey Weir from Wesley Drodge

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). 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.

Pilot Project Update: The joint committee met this past Monday evening. The posting for the new part time position will be posted on Church Hub regionally by this Monday. Our plan is to start living into this partnership on March 1st. Our various groups are excited to begin sharing and collaborating together and we are all looking forward to a great partnership. Updates will follow as things progress.

Volunteer Opportunity: Are you someone who tries to make sure everyone is included? Do you believe strongly in St. James as a congregation where people of all identities, backgrounds, sexualities and experiences belong? Then you should consider joining our Diversity Committee. Please contact Paul Walsh at jpaulwalsh1209@yahoo.com

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 CE Committee is co-hosting a 55+ LGBTQ+ Valentine Social and Dance. As part of this event, we are requesting help with baked goods. In addition, we are seeking 3 or 4 people to assist at the event on Feb. 9th. 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.