

## March 31, 2024, Easter Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft  
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and Senior Choir  
Ushers: Kim and Gerry Mayo, Marilyn Adams,  
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike  
Communion Servers: Kim and Gerry Mayo

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*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

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!	<b>Christ has risen indeed!</b>
Death could not hold him!	<b>The stone is rolled away!</b>
A new age is dawning!	<b>Creation shouts with joy!</b>
The world is awakening!	<b>We are all risen in Christ!</b>

**INTROIT:** “Introit for Easter Day” by Charles Cooke

#### OPENING PRAYER

**Living God, as we celebrate Easter,  
we experience the promise of new life in Christ!  
He is risen and all of creation rises with him!  
May the wonder of this day take hold of our hearts,  
and we share in the gift of resurrection life!  
In the name of the Risen One, we pray. Amen.**

\* **HYMN:** “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” (*Voices United 157*)

#### WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE OF EASTER

### We Share with Love

**OFFERTORY:** “Hallelujah, Hallelujah” *Voices United 179, v 4*

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ; hallelujah, hallelujah! Give  
praise to God’s name. Come  
let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour;  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;  
hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God’s name.**

### We Listen and Respond

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**EASTER READING:** John 20:1-10

## **CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

### **Statement of Purpose and Presentation of the Family**

*We welcome Lesley and Adam Pardy as they present William Stanley to be welcomed into the Body of Christ.*

### **Profession of Faith**

### **Congregational Commitment**

Do you promise to love and support this child and his family in their journey of faith as together we serve God's world and extend Christ's love? **We do with God's help.**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Act of Baptism followed by Blessing, Laying on of Hands, Lighting of Baptismal Candle**

### **Welcome by Congregation**

Sharing the joy of his family, we welcome William into the Body of Christ, each of us children of God, Mother and Father of us all.

**As your siblings in Christ, we welcome you William Stanley into this congregation and into the universal church.**

*(The congregation may applaud as a sign of welcome.)*

**CHORAL RESPONSE: "Halle, Halle, Halle" (Voices United 958)**

**CONTINUATION OF EASTER READING:** John 20:11-18

**ANTHEM:** "Hallelujah (from 'Messiah') by G. F. Handel

**EPISTLE READING:** 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

## **EASTER MESSAGE**

\* **HYMN:** "Praise our Maker" (*Voices United* 316)

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

## **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Christ is risen! **Hallelujah! Christ is risen indeed!**  
Open your hearts. **We open them to God.**  
Let us give thanks. **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, we praise you. You are beyond our understanding, but we know one thing – you are love. Through your love, you made everything – the stars and planets, the sun and moon, trees, flowers, birds, animals, and us, your children. **Hallelujah!**

With that same love you taught us how to live, calling on holy people to remind us of what is good, and sent Jesus to teach us your way of love. He modelled this in everything he did, healing the sick, caring for those who were poor, offering forgiveness and teaching us to forgive each other. He loved everyone and showed us how to be compassionate and kind to all. **Hallelujah!**

With thanks for all that he did in witness to your healing love, we echo the angels and saints as they sing to your glory:

**Holy God of Power of Might! Hallelujah! Heav'n and earth shine with your light!  
Hallelujah! Loud Hosannas now we sing! Hallelujah! Blessings to our Risen  
King! Hallelujah!**

*(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)*

Blessings to you, Saving God, for this day each year when we celebrate the power of your love! We honour Jesus who was faithful to you until the very end. After he died on the cross, his friends placed his body in a tomb, but three days later they found it empty, an angel telling them that Jesus was no longer there but had risen and would continue to be with them.

Even now we experience his living presence, especially as we recall how on the night before he died he shared supper with his friends. While they were eating, he took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.” After supper, he took a cup of wine. Again he thanked you, and gave it to his friends, saying, “Take, drink. This is a sign of the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you do this, remember me.”

We remember, Sustaining God, grateful that on this day we experience the in-breaking of your kin-dom, your new life revealed in resurrection. Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Dying, Christ destroyed our death! Hallelujah! Rising, Christ restores our life!  
Hallelujah! We believe and we proclaim, Hallelujah! Jesus Christ will come again!  
Hallelujah!**

*(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)*

We thank you Gracious God, for this special way that we remember Jesus as we share a meal together in your love. **Hallelujah!**

In his name we pray that your Spirit take this bread and wine and let them echo with the whisper of resurrection; take this table that it be the place where grave clothes are folded; and take this community, infusing it with fresh spirit, living hope, risen life. **Hallelujah!**

Enlivened in your grace, may we go into the world as witnesses of the resurrection of Christ, bearing to all the gift of your redeeming love. Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

**“Amen, Amen.” Hear our prayer, Hallelujah! As the bread and cup we share! Hallelujah! At this table, Christ we meet, Hallelujah! Present here with wounded feet, Hallelujah!**

*(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)*

**SUNG PRAYER OF JESUS (Lord’s Prayer):** *Voices United 960*

### **SHARING IN COMMUNION**

One: This is the bread of life, Christ shared in hope for the world.  
This the fruit of the vine, Christ shared in a spirit of peace and joy.  
This is the banquet of blessing, Christ inviting everyone in love.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Everyone is welcome to share communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. There is a centre station to receive the bread and two side stations to receive juice in small glasses. Please consume the bread and juice before returning to your pew. Please let us know if you need the gluten free option for bread. If you’re unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you once everyone has received.*

**COMMUNION ANTHEM:** “Joy Comes with the Dawn” (*VU 166*)

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *(in unison)*

**Spirit of life, in this feast we are fed by your love, nourished in your grace, and enlivened to live in your joy. Send us into your world to feed as we’ve been fed, forgive as we’ve been forgiven, and love others as we’ve been loved by you. Amen.**

### **We Leave to Serve**

**HYMN:** “Thine Is the Glory” (*Voices United 173*)

**POETIC WORD:** “spring song” by Lucille Clifton

## **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

Risen with Christ, **we know the sweetness of God's presence.**

Risen with Christ, **we accept the call to dance in God's way.**

Risen with Christ, **we are proof that God's life will never die.**

So go in joy! Christ is Risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

## **POSTLUDE**

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### **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](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org);  
Emergency Cellphone: 709-351-0983; Website: [www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)



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**We gratefully accept these donations to the Cemetery Fund:**

\* In loving memory of Wayne Dinn, Ross, Gertie and Blaine Blackwood from Sharon, Michelle and Families.

\* In loving memory of Father, Capt. Walter Blackwood, Mother Mildred Blackwood, Brother Walter Blackwood and Sister Ida Blackwood from Lorna Jamieson.

**Gathering to Honour Rev. Dr. Morley Hodder**

You are invited to a gathering to honour the life and legacy of our dear friend, colleague and mentor Morley Hodder. We will do this in a way that will truly embody the essence of who Morley was, as we gather in community to share in stories and hospitality. Representatives of Queen's College, Memorial University, and the United Church of Canada will briefly share their memories and stories of Morley. Then, in the spirit and memory of Morley, we will gather around tables for a cup of tea and share our own stories and memories of Morley with each other in joy and thanksgiving for a life well lived. This gathering will take place on Wednesday, April 3 at 2:00 pm at St. Mark's Anglican Church Parish Hall, 203 Logy Bay Road.

**Time off for Study:** Rev. James will be taking time to finish up his latest course in the two weeks after Easter. He will be leading worship on the Sundays and will be available in case of emergency.

**Purdy's Chocolates:** Your orders have arrived! They can be picked up on Sunday or from the church office during office hours. (Tues-Fri 8:30AM to 1:30PM)

**Support our Music Program Challenge:** The congregation has been challenged by one of our regular financial givers to raise money dedicated to our music program at St. James. They will match donations to a total of \$500.00. They encourage other members to consider a special contribution to support the music enjoyed during our services. Council is currently considering the budget for 2024 and special contributions, in addition to your regular annual financial gift, will help considerably in this process. Please make a donation to this worthy cause and identify it as "Music Program Challenge". Let's watch the total grow as we record it weekly.

**UCW Spring Tea:**

St. James United Church  
330 Elizabeth Avenue

**Spring Tea & Bake Stall**

Sponsored by the UCW  
St. James Auditorium



Saturday, April 20, 2024

Time: 2 – 4 pm Cost: \$8.00

**Co-Conveners:** Barbara Butt: (709) 687-1041  
Sheilah Beckett: (709) 726-7421

\*Donations of baked goods are greatly appreciated.\*

**Tickets:** May be purchased at the door. Please contact the church office for more information.

**Social Action and Outreach Group to provide meals to people that are housing insecure:** St. James has been asked to join other churches and community groups to provide a hot meal once a day, in rotation, to the five homeless people who remain in the encampment in Bannerman Park. They've hardly had a hot meal this year! **We will need volunteers** to buy meals, or to prepare meals in our church's kitchen. We also need **donations of money and groceries**. Processes will be worked out according to our resources. If you can help in any way, please contact the church office at: [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org) or (709) 722-1881 ext. 200



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Scan this QR code with your phone and it will take you to our website. Then click "Donate". Thank you for your support.