

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

Celebration of Worship for April 14, 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.

April 14, 2024, Third Sunday of Easter

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir
Ushers: Susan Pike, Jean Thompson, Marilyn Adams,
Sheila Strong and Barbara Butt

*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 greet each other in Innu-aimun, French and Bangla as we acknowledge the land and local Indigenous peoples and commit to full inclusion for all.

INTROIT: “Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing” (VU 169, v. 1, 4)

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather with faith, for Easter brings us new life,

as the Risen Christ beckons to us with love.

He stands on the shore encouraging us to try again,

and so instills in us a feeling of hope and of joy.

He is the Love that breaks all bonds and lifts us from despair.

The Risen Christ defeated death. We rejoice and are glad!

* **HYMN:** “This Is the Day” (Voices United 175)

OPENING PRAYER

We praise your name, Saving God,

for in Christ you have raised us to new life,

and called us into your kin-dom of love.

Be with us as we worship, your Spirit lifting our hearts

and reorienting our lives in faithfulness and in joy.

In the name of your Risen One, we pray. Amen.

* **SHARING THE PEACE OF EASTER**

We greet one another with signs of Christ’s peace, offering a wave, a bow, a hand to the heart, a prayerful wish for the blessings of Easter.

We Share in 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 God's love as we sing:*
"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.**

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Living God, all around us we experience the promise of your blessing as life grows stronger in creation and within us too. Thank you for this gift, connecting us together and giving us hope, a gift which we in turn share with others in acts of love and service. May all that we do extend your blessing in the world and our lives. Amen.

We Listen and Respond

CELEBRATING EASTER JOY

We take time to share jokes, riddles and other expressions of joy.

HYMN: "Praise Our Maker" (*Voices United* 316)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*

Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4 (*Voices United*, p. 727),

John 21:1-14, and "Very Early Spring" by Katherine Mansfield

ANTHEM: "All Heaven Declares" by Richards and Fettke

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

HYMN: "Let us Talents and Tongues Employ" (*Voices United* 468)

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living God, you have renewed us in our sharing at this table. Strengthen us with your abiding grace and send us out with words of mercy and love to a world yearning for both. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** “Christ Is Alive” (*Voices United 158*)

*** BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH:**

Risen with Christ, **we trust in the gift of the Spirit's peace.**

Risen with Christ, **we accept the call to embody his 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

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 |
| Technology Support: | Jake Thompson |
| Office Administrator: | Stephanie Harnum |
| Church Custodian: | Bruce Winsor |

Office: 722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;

Emergency Cellphone: 709-351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



@StJamesUCNL



@StJamesUnited



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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. If you are uncomfortable about the possibility of appearing on video, please speak to an usher who can seat you in an area not visible on camera. You may also speak to Rev. James after the service if you have concerns. All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced / broadcast under ONE LICENSE. License #: #A-700000.

We offer our sincere condolences on the passing of Harry Stone who passed peacefully Saturday, April 6th after a hard-fought battle with Leukemia. Cremation has taken place, and a celebration of life was held at THE SPACE on Friday, April 12th. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife of 53 years, Pat Stone and their children.


Are you interested in learning about the United Church? Join a Zoom group to learn more about how our church is organized and what we believe about everything from climate to euthanasia and beyond. Contact Rev. James (james@stjamesuc.org) for more information.

Were you baptized as an infant and now would like to be confirmed as a full member of the church (or perhaps you had your child baptized as an infant and it is time for them to be confirmed and become a full member? We are trying to gauge interest in a confirmation course. Contact Rev. James (james@stjamesuc.org) to let him know.

Volunteer Week: Sunday, April 14 marks the start of this year's Volunteer Week. The theme is Every Moment Matters. Truer words could never be spoken. We at St. James are forever grateful for every moment that you all spend with us: be it at a service (regardless of whether you are with us in person or tuning in online), at a function or fundraiser, or simply checking up on each other. Thank you!

The Men's Club will meet on Wednesday, April 17. Lunch to be served at 1:00pm. New members always welcome!

Pub Theology: Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 pm, it's time for Pub Theology at the Guv'nor Pub. Come for a time of conversation about faith, spirituality and life's big questions. All are welcome!

Music Program Challenge: A big thank you to everyone that donated to the Music Program Challenge. We raised \$820 and with the challengers donation, there is a total of \$1,320 for the music program. Again, thank you to everyone. Let the Music begin. 

UCW Spring Tea:

St. James United Church
330 Elizabeth Avenue

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

Spring Tea & Bake Stall

Sponsored by the UCW
St. James Auditorium

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Time: 2 – 4 pm Cost: \$8.00



Donations of baked goods are greatly appreciated.

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

AOTS: Fish & Brewis Dinner: Tickets are available from any member of the AOTS Men's Club or Aubrey Hill - 709-726-8306

St. James United Church,
330 Elizabeth Avenue



AOTS Men's Service Club



Fish & Brewis Dinner

Friday, April 26, 2024

Time: 6pm Cost: \$25.00



stjamesuc.org

Want to donate online this morning?

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