

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

Celebration of Worship for April 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.

Dedicated in loving memory of
Mother Sadie M. Butt and Aunt Mildred Legrow
from Glenda Winsor and Gloria Le Feuvre and families.

April 28, 2024, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir
Ushers: Grace Marcoux, Skylar Simpson, 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 greet each other in Mi'kmawi'simk, French & Farsi as we acknowledge the land and local Indigenous peoples and commit to full inclusion for all.

INTROIT: "The Risen Christ" (VU 168, v. 1, 4)

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit is coming to bless us with a new song:

A song of self-giving love for one another.

We will sing together about God's gifts for all:

A song where everyone is part of God's family.

We will join together as strangers and neighbors, all one family:

A song that proclaims we are no longer servants but friends!

So come, let our worship make a joyful noise to God:

Let us sing a song of friendship in God.

* **HYMN:** "Come, Children, Join to Sing" (Voices United 345)

OPENING PRAYER

O Beloved One, we sing a song of praise,

a word of hallelujah for the power of your renewing grace.

We rejoice in your presence all around us,

a greening world a reminder of your steadfast love,

grateful for our sharing in this through the risen Christ.

Be with us in our prayers this day and fill us

with the generosity that reveals us as your friends,

called forth to befriend your world in Jesus' name. 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.*

A MINUTE FOR RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS

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

**We give thanks, Living God,
for your abundant love, experienced in the world around us,
embodied in relationships with family and friends,
modelled for us by Jesus who calls us to be as generous.
Accept then our gifts, signs of our desire to live in your Way,
and accept our hearts, open to your grace. 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 10:25-34, Psalm 98 (Voices United, p. 818), John 15:9-17; and an excerpt from Reaching Out by Henri Nouwen

ANTHEM: “What Grace is Mine”, words: K. L. Getty; arr. L. Larson

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

HYMN: “Jesus, United by Your Grace” (*Voices United 591*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We take time to pray for the needs of our global and local communities, knowing that what we pray for we also are called to do something about.

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

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** “Draw the Circle Wide” (*More Voices 145*)

* **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

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 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



@stjamesuc

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

Away for School: Rev. James will be away in Toronto from May 4 through to May 17. Rev. Rebecca will be covering pastoral emergencies while he is away.

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.

Wild light Spiritual Oasis - Love and Lament Meditation: On Sunday, April 28 at 3:00PM. Beginning at the church, we will take time to walk and connect with others about climate change. Participants will use an open-ended question format developed by activist Joanna Macy as a way to name their feelings about our world.

Summer Student: St James United Church is accepting applications for summer employment from interested, energetic youth aged 15 - 30 years under the Canada Summer Jobs initiative.

Scope of work:

Office/administrative duties; Archival preparation; Outreach; and Communications

Hours of work 35 hours per week

Hourly wage \$15.60

Anticipated start date: June 25, 2024 for a period of 8 weeks.

Application/resumes should be forwarded to:

Student Employment

St. James United Church

330 Elizabeth Avenue

St. John's NL A1B 1T9

Email: info@stjamesuc.org Subject; student employment

NO SCENTS MAKES GOOD SENSE!

A friendly reminder that members of our congregation can be sensitive to scented products. Thank you for helping create a safe environment in which we can all fully participate.

Annual *Folk of the Sea Service*, a legacy of George St. United Church, will be held at Memorial United Church, Portugal Cove-St. Philips at 2pm on Sunday, April 28th.

Spring Tea and Sale: Memorial United, Portugal Cove, will be hosting its Spring Tea and Sale on Saturday May 4th from 10-noon.

BRIDGES TO HOPE FOOD DRIVE HERE AT FIRST UNITED: We are planning a food drive in the parking lot of First United Church on Saturday, May 4th from 9:30 am to 1 pm. Please mark the date on your calendar. All donations are greatly appreciated! Help us feed the hungry!

First United Church Women Morning Coffee and Cake Walk - The UCW of First United are sponsoring a Morning Coffee Saturday, May 11th in Trinity Hall from 10:00 - 12 noon with the doors opening at 9:30. Tickets will be \$8 each and are available through UCW members, and at the Church Office (709-368-2194) weekdays Wednesday - Friday from 10:00 to 12:00 noon until May 8. Tickets WILL NOT be sold at the door so please purchase them by May 8th. Come sit, have a cup of coffee or tea and of course a sweet or two with your family and friends and participate in our Cake Walk which will take place during the Morning Coffee. Bring along a few toonies for your chance to get a wonderful cake!

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.



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