

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

**Celebration of Worship for April 7, 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 wonderful parents  
**Noel and Christine Halfyard** (founding members of St. James)  
from Son Keith and Daughter Margaret.

## **April 7, 2024, Second Sunday of Easter**

Leading Worship: Michelle Skinner and Sarah Norman  
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Newfound Sound  
Director: Phil Roberts, Assistant Director: June Cousens  
Ushers: Ben Andrews and Mischa Bahnan, Marilyn Adams,  
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

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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**

#### **WELCOME; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP**

*We give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who steward it.*

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

A week has passed but the good news hasn't changed:

**Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!**

The good news hasn't changed but it changes us:

**We are empowered to walk in the light of Christ's love.**

So let us worship the One who triumphed over death,

**who showed us the power of compassion, mercy and peace.**

\* **HYMN:** "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks" (*Voices United* 179)

#### **OPENING PRAYER** (*in unison*)

**God of surprises, we are ready for the unexpected,  
ready for the Risen Christ to suddenly appear.**

**It is not really unexpected though. Christ is here with us,  
just as he was with his disciples all those years ago.**

**Open the eyes of our hearts to his presence,  
exchanging our fears for the courage to follow his way,  
extending his compassion, mercy and peace to all.**

**In his name, 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.*

**ANTHEM:** “Hallelujah”

### We Share

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

**A MINUTE FOR MISSION:** *We share ways to support the work of the wider church in our country and around the globe.*

**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 the vision of the early church,  
modelling Christ’s love by sharing with whoever was in need.  
Their trust in your provision invites us to do the same.  
Accept then our gifts, signs of our desire to live in your Way. Amen.**

### We Listen

### **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 end of each reading please say, “Thanks be to God.”  
Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-31; “Not at our beck and call” in Walter  
Brueggemann’s *Awed by Heaven, Rooted in Earth**

**ANTHEM:** “River of Song”

### **VIDEO MESSAGE**

### We Respond

**HYMN:** “You Tell Me That the Lord Is Risen” (*Voices United* 185)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We pray for the needs of our global and local communities.*

**SUNG PRAYER OF JESUS:** *Voices United* 960

**We Leave to Serve**

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

\* **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**

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



@StJamesUCNL



@StJamesUnited



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**WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC**

**We gratefully accept this donation to the General Fund:**

(Our apologies for it not being included last week)

\* In memory of Arthur Roland Hillyard from wife Marguerite, son Geoffrey and daughter Sherry Burke and four grandsons, Daniel, Patrick, Brandon and Michael.

**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.

**Fellowship Time:** We are back upstairs this Sunday for after-church coffee/tea in the Fellowship Room. Look forward to seeing everyone there for our usual fare and conversations.

**Mark Your Calendars:** Our annual Memorial Hymn Sing is coming up on May 5 with music leadership from the St. James Guitar Group. Hymns choices can be made beginning next Thursday.

**Potluck and Games Night in the Auditorium:** On Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 6 pm. Bring something to share for supper and stay for fun playing board games and even a game of cards!

**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!

**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.

**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

**Looking for Friends:** Are you missing your Nan? Or would appreciate having a surrogate uncle or sibling? Then look no further. We are looking to connect some of our more senior members with people who will give them a call, stop by for a visit, be a friend. We are looking for 6 people. If this interests you, contact Stephanie at [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org).

**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.



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.