

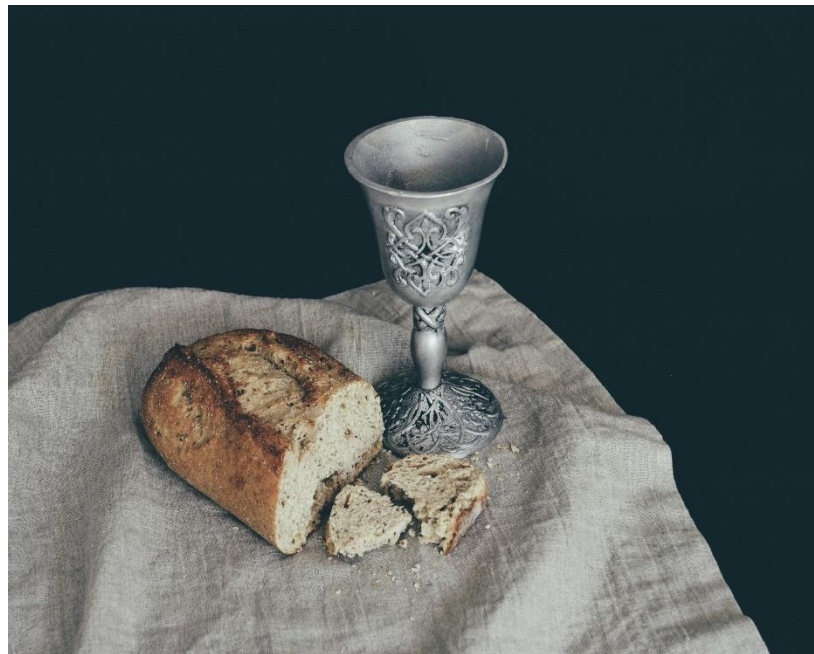


St. James United Church



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

Celebration of Worship for February 2, 2025



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 2, 2025, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
(Black History Month)

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft and Paul Walsh
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir
Ushering: Shirley McNeil, Skyler Simpson, Marilyn Adams,
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

*Please rise as you are able where there is an * in the service.
Print in **bold** indicates that the portion is read or sung by everyone.*

We Come to Worship

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We share greetings in Mik'mawi'simk, French, Urdu and in English.

LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

SHARING PEACE: *We greet others while conscious of their comfort.*

INTROIT: “Now with the Mind of Christ” (VU 194, v. 2)

CALL TO WORSHIP *(inspired by Psalm 71:1-6)*

Come and worship the One who is our refuge and hope,
Worship God who is our shelter and protection.

**From our first breath to our last we worship God
whose love and compassion never fails.**

Come and worship, lift your voices in praise
and give thanks for God's mercy and love.

**As every generation, from youngest to eldest,
we will proclaim God's glory to one and all.**

OPENING PRAYER

Compassionate One, **we have come together as your people,
your call of loving mercy having touched our hearts.**

**Open us then to your Spirit, to your wisdom and grace,
that as we reflect on your word and nourished at your table,
we may grow in love for others as you have first loved us,
may call others to your saving mercy as you have called us.
We pray in the name of Jesus, your living Christ. Amen.**

* **HYMN:** “Love Who Made Me in Your Likeness” (VU 565)

We Share in Love

OUR LIFE AND WORK



OFFERTORY: *There are many ways to give to St. James. You can place an offering in the plate, scan the QR code on the left, contribute via PAR, website (www.stjamesuc.org), e-transfer (email treasurer@stjamesuc.org), mail to the church office or drop in our secure mailbox. In whatever way you choose to give, the community is grateful.*

* **HYMN:** “When Heaven’s Bright with Mystery” (VU 93, v. 4)

**When heaven’s bright with mystery and stars still lead
an unknown way, when love still lights a gentle path where courts
of power can hold no sway, there with the Magi, let us kneel,
our gifts to share, God’s world to heal.**

PPRAYER OF GRATITUDE

We Listen and Respond

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

1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 5:1-11 and an excerpt from James Finley, *The Healing Path: A Memoir and an Invitation* (p. 161-62)

ANTHEM: “Come to the Banquet” - Joseph M. Martin

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

* **HYMN:** “As We Gather at Your Table” (*Voices United* 457)

WELCOMING ALL TO THE TABLE

Jesus welcomed everyone to eat with him as a sign of God’s love.

He welcomes us too and calls us to bring that love to the world.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Holy One is here. **God’s Spirit is with us.**

Open your hearts. **We open them to God.**

Let us give thanks. **It is right to give God thanks & praise.**

It is right to praise you, Holy God. In you the heavens are joyful and earth is glad. We praise you for creating the universe, for your wisdom revealed to all peoples, for your promises to your people Israel, for Jesus in whom you reveal your life and love.

Born of Mary, he shares our humanity;

calling his disciples, he invites us to share his mission.

Eating with sinners, he welcomes us;

visiting the sick, he heals us that we may serve one another.

Dying on the cross, he reveals your love;

raised from the dead, he lifts us up and offers new life.

Sitting at your right hand, he prays for us;

sharing his Spirit, he enables us to live your hope in the world.

With thanksgiving, we join the angels song of praise:

O holy, holy, holy Lord, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creations sing your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always. (MV 203)

Holy God, as we gather at this table, we give thanks for Jesus. We give thanks for the many ways he revealed your life and love, especially how on the night before he died he had supper with his friends. There he took bread, blessed it, broke and gave it to them saying, "Take, eat. This is my body given for you." After the meal he took the cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to them saying, "Take, drink. This is the cup of the new covenant, sealed in my blood. Whenever you do this, remember me."

In grateful memory, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,

Christ will come again! (x2) (More Voices 204)

Be with us through your Spirit, Holy God, that this meal may be our communion in the body of Christ.

Make us one with him and all who share this feast, that we be united in faith, encouraged with hope, inspired to love.

May we share his mission in welcome and service, revealing his goodness as we serve you faithfully until we feast in your glory.

We praise you, Holy God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

Amen, amen, O Holy one! Hosanna and Amen! (x2) (MV 205)

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*Voices United*, p. 921)

SHARING COMMUNION

This is the bread of life, **broken to give life to the world.**

This the fruit of the vine, **love poured out that all may truly live.**

This is the banquet of blessing, **Christ among us in our sharing.**

There is a station for bread and side stations with juice in small glasses. Consume both before returning to your seat. If you are unable to come forward to share communion, someone will bring it to you once everyone who wishes to has already received. If you would prefer a blessing, come forward with arms crossed over your chest as a sign of that request.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)

We give thanks, saving God that you have called us to your table and through this meal nurtured us as disciples of your servant Jesus. In union with him, strengthen our faith, increase our love and send us to serve you in the care we show to others. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*** HYMN: "Jesus Calls Us"** (*Voices United* 562)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

As we go forth from here:

**may we be strong in spirit, courageous in will,
and gentle of heart.**

Each day may our actions:

be rooted in wisdom, nurtured by hope and open to love.

May we meet others as we would wish to be met:

**with a heart of compassion, in a spirit of healing
and grounded in joy.**

POSTLUDE

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.

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

Office: 722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;
Emergency Cellphone: 351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



@StJamesUCNL



@stjamesuc

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

We accept the following donations to the UCW:

*In memory of Nina Abbott from Marion and Hayward Stratton; Trudy, Derrick, Alexander and Spencer Pittman; Ruby, Aubrey, David, Scott and Andrea Hill; Muriel Cole; Barbara Butt; Sheilah Beckett; Vera Marshall; Shirley Downey; Lorne and Mary Goodyear; Marjorie and Carl Gaulton; Wayne and Madeline Rideout; Lorraine Price; Josie and Eric Puddester; Victoria Styles; Wayne Tiller; Nancy Paul; and the Raymond Family.

We accept the following donations to the Memorial Fund:

- * In memory of Irene Bursey from the UCW
- * In memory of Nina Abbott from the UCW

The Visitor: Now accepting submissions for the Spring edition of The Visitor. Do you have an Easter story you would like to share? A springtime memory connected to the church? Is your group doing anything fun this spring season? Send submissions to info@stjamesuc.org with "Spring newsletter" in the subject line. Accepting submissions up to 300 words until Feb. 5, 2025.

AOTS Men's Club: Please be reminded that the next regular meeting of the men's club will be held at 12:30 for 1:00 on *Wednesday, February 12*. New members are always welcome.

St. James Calendar: 2025 Calendars are available to purchase. If you wish to buy one, please contact the office during regular business hours. The cost is \$20.

Tutor-training Workshop, Saturday, February 8: Teachers on Wheels, a local literacy organization, needs volunteer tutors! There's a high demand for tutors to help people improve their literacy, confidentially one-on-one -- especially for some newcomers to improve their understanding and use of English as another language (EAL). They will be holding a tutor-training workshop on Saturday, February 8. No teaching experience or detailed knowledge of grammar is needed. Tutoring can be done in-person or by video-conferencing. For more information and to help, please contact Tom Dawe, Executive Director at

teachersonwheels@nl.rogers.com or (709) 738-3975. Thank you in advance. - Robin Bartlett, TOW, and St. James' Social Action

Bridges to Hope: Bridges to Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month. Of course, this item, and other non-perishable food items, can be given any other Sunday as well. These items are staples in the food hampers distributed and will go a long way to ensuring that hampers can be filled.

The suggested item(s) for February 2025, especially useful for Bridges To Hope - Juice - 1 Litre. Other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated!

Thank your for your support!

Memorial United Church, Portugal Cove will be holding a tea and Cakewalk on Saturday, February 8 at 2 pm. Admission for the tea is \$5, tickets for each cakewalk are just \$2 each. Don't know what a cakewalk is? It's a bit like musical chairs but everyone lands on a number, if that number is drawn from the hat, you win a beautiful and yummy homemade cake. There will be a wide variety of cakes to choose from.

Members of the Association of Chartered Professional Accountants of Newfoundland and Labrador are once again offering free income tax services to senior citizens and low-income residents of the St. John's, Mount Pearl and surrounding areas.

Senior citizens with total personal income of \$35,000 or less and other individuals with income of \$25,000 or less qualify for this free service. The program excludes all persons with self-employment or rental income or income from foreign sources.

For more information or to arrange for an appointment, please call the Association of Chartered Professional Accountants of Newfoundland and Labrador at 753-3090 ext. 201. Please leave a message and your call will be returned within 2 days.

Please note we will start booking appointments Monday, February 3, 2025.