



St. James United Church



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

Celebration of Worship for February 9, 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 9, 2025, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,
Jennifer Whitfield, Amy Dalziel,
and the St. James Young Adult Band
Ushering: Carol and Geoffrey Pike, 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 Inuktitut, French, Ukrainian and in English.

LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

INTROIT: "Take, O Take Me As I Am"

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Psalm 138*)

We have come from every corner of our community,
drawn together to give thanks to God with all our hearts.
We have responded to the Spirit's prompting,
to give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.
We are here with diverse needs, yet we are one body in Christ,
praising the one who lifts up the lowly and holds us in love.

OPENING PRAYER

God of grace and blessing,
we praise you who created us and made us for love,
fashioning us to not only speak, but to live your word.
Be with us as we worship,
opening our hearts to hear your wisdom,
strengthening our voices to proclaim your goodness,
and unclenching our hands to reach out in service and love. We pray in the
name of Jesus your servant.
Amen.

* **HYMN:** "Your Love Is Amazing" (*More Voices 26*)

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.**

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

We Listen and Respond

LEARNING TOGETHER

We explore themes of the day in a manner that is accessible to all ages.

* **HYMN:** "Know That God Is Good" (More Voices 104)

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

1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 6:17-26; An excerpt from Howard Thurman's *Meditations of the Heart* (p. 28)

* **HYMN:** "O for a World" (Voices United 697)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

ANTHEM: "When a Poor One" (Voices United 702)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

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

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" (see insert)

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

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: 709-722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;
Emergency Cellphone: 709-351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



@StJamesUCNL



@stjamesuc

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.

Life and Work - February 9, 2025

Tune into VOWR: Today's service will be rebroadcast on VOWR on this evening, Sunday, February 9 at 7:00 pm. We welcome all those worshipping in person, watching via livestream, and those listening.

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.

Supporting our Lunch to Celebrate Love and Companionship on Sunday, February 16th: As announced earlier, our February Soup lunch will have an extra zip for Valentine's Day! In addition to our regular soup and rolls, there will be fancy cupcakes, a wine wall and an opportunity to order desserts for a later date for you and your loved ones.

You can help in the following ways:

- Bake cupcakes with a Valentine theme. Email james@stjamesuc.org to confirm.
- Donate a bottle of wine (minimum value of \$20) and drop off at the church office (with a wine gift bag if you can) by Friday the 14th.
- Volunteer to bake an item at a future date. Let us know what you would be willing to bake, the maximum number of items, and the dates that you are willing to accept orders for. Email james@stjamesuc.org to volunteer or if you have any questions.
- Set up tables/chairs and help decorate the auditorium (please arrive at 10:15 am).
- Staff the wine wall table, the baking order table and the entrance table.
- Help clean up after the event.
- If you are willing to be a Luncheon Coordinator. Please email james@stjamesuc.org

Thank you in advance for your help in making this event a success,
The Stewardship Committee

Silent Vigil for Peace: This Wednesday, February 13 @ 5:30PM here at St. James United Church. Silent Prayer and reflection for those affected by war. No signs, no slogans, no discussions. Come and go as you wish.

SILENT VIGIL FOR PEACE

EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
5:30 - 6:30 PM



INDIVIDUALS ARE FREE TO COME AND GO AS THEY WISH.

NO SLOGANS

NO DISCUSSIONS

NO SIGNS

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY WAR.

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH - 330 ELIZABETH AVENUE

CPR Training for AED Machine:

New participants welcomed

We will be holding a training/retraining session for CPR/AED here at St. James on Monday, February 17th @ 7:00 pm. If you are interested in participating in a Training session and becoming an attendant for your church please contact Susan Pike by email susanpike@warp.nfld.net or 709-576-0703 or 709-685-5613 by 10:00am February 14th to ensure we have space for all participants. Training is certified by The Heart and Stroke Foundation and certification is for two years.

Annual Reports Deadline: The deadline for the Annual Reports to be submitted into the office is by Friday, February 21st. Please send to info@stjamesuc.org. Thank you.

Annual Congregational Meeting: The Annual Congregational Meeting is on Sunday, March 23 at noon. Refreshments will be provided.

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.

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 you for your support!

Cowan Heights United Church is seeking a permanent, part-time (20 hours/week) Office Administrator to join our staff team. The Office Administrator provides administrative support for the Minister, assists with the day-to-day operations of the church, and carries out front office reception and office duties.

Cowan Heights United Church is a growing congregation of The United Church of Canada comprised of over 300 members who seek to be engaged in the community, outreach-focused, and experiential in living out their faith. Cowan Heights United Church believes in the values of diversity, equity, and inclusivity for people of all ages, gender identities, ethnic origins, social statuses, abilities, and sexual orientations.

Please view our full job description (<https://shorturl.at/rSSgA>) before applying. To apply, please email your resume, along with the names and contact information for two (2) references to personnel@cowanheightsunited.ca. Applications will be accepted until Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at midnight

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 NL at 753-3090 ext. 201. Please leave a message and your call will be returned within 2 days.