



**St. James United Church**



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

### **Celebration of Worship for February 16, 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 16, 2025, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**  
(Black History Month)

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,  
Clyde Flight, Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose, the Senior Choir  
Ushering: Aubrey & Ruby Hill, Marilyn Adams,  
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

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*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 Innu-aimun, French, Yoruba and in English.*

**LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**SHARING PEACE:** We greet others while conscious of their comfort with touch.  
This time is concluded with an instrumental introit.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*inspired by Psalm 1*)

Happy are those who follow God's ways.

They are happy to meditate on God's wisdom night and day.

They ponder God who is just and merciful.

**Those who follow God's ways are forever nourished in faith.**

So let us open our hearts to God's compassionate love.

Let us celebrate God's way of mercy and righteousness.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Compassionate and Redeeming One,

who sent Jesus to deliver us from all manner of injustices,

**create in us new hearts and enlarged visions**

**that we may embody your loving way in all that we do.**

**We ask this because we have too often not done so,**

**our eyes closed to recognize your image in every person,  
irrespective of background, race, culture and ethnicity.**

**Open us to your righteousness, that we may be generous  
in our love and nurture communities of human flourishing.**

**We pray through Jesus who leads us in your way. Amen.**

\* **HYMN:** "Sing of a City" (*see insert*)

## 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](http://www.stjamesuc.org)), e-transfer (email [treasurer@stjamesuc.org](mailto: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 15:12-20; Luke 6:27-38; Audio excerpt of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Where Do We Go from Here" Speech.

\* **HYMN:** "My Lord, What a Morning" (Voices United 708)

### REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

**ANTHEM:** "Alleluia, Praise to God/Alleluia Y'in Oluwa" (Yoruba)

### 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:** "Siyamba" (Voices United 646)

## **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.**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION:** "Asithi: Amen" (*VU 431*)

## **POSTLUDE**

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

**2024 Tax Receipts:** Your 2024 tax receipts went in the mail early this week. If you don't get your receipt in a couple of weeks or if there is a discrepancy, please call the church at 709-722-1881 or email the treasurer at [treasurer@stjamesuc.org](mailto:treasurer@stjamesuc.org). On behalf of the Finance Committee, thank you for your donation.

**Pub Theology:** Thursday, February 20 at 7 pm at Guv'nor Pub. A time to explore questions of faith, spirituality and ethics over a beverage. No question is too big or too small. See you there

**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](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org). Thank you.

**Ash Wednesday:** This coming March 3 is Ash Wednesday, the opening service of the Season of Lent. This day coincides with our regular Taizé service. As such the Taizé prayers and reflection will include a time when people can receive ashes. There will also be a chance to receive ashes at the end of the worship service on March 9.

**Pancake Supper:** will be held on Tuesday, March 4 at 6pm. Come enjoy all the favourites; pancakes, berries, beans and sausages, coffee, tea and juice for just \$10 per person (12 years and under \$5). Tickets are available for purchase from Aubrey Hill at (709) 726-8306 or Clyde Flight at (709) 722-9935. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

**Bring in Palm Fronds:** In preparation for Ash Wednesday (on March 5), please bring in palm fronds from last year (or earlier). They are burned and then the ash is used for the custom of having a cross traced in ash on your forehead.

**Shifting to a bulletin-free service:** Beginning on March 9, the first Sunday of Lent, we are implementing a Projection only worship service. Life and Work will be available for those who want to take it home and there will be large print orders of service for people who need it. In addition, you can still dedicate the service in memory of a loved one or to celebrate someone. A few copies of the order of service will be printed for families who wish to have a keepsake of that dedication. This decision of council is intended to not only save money on the cost of paper but will reduce our congregational carbon footprint.

**Lenten Bible Study:** This coming Lent, Rev. James will be leading a bible study exploring the significance of the cross and the different ways we understand how Jesus' death upon it is spiritually transformative. There are 2 time slots. On Sunday afternoon after fellowship (bring a lunch) and on a weekday evening (day and time TBD by those who wish to participate).

**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!