



St. James United Church



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

Celebration of Worship for February 23, 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.

In Loving Memory of
Son Brian and Husband Clyde Taylor
with love from Wife Helen and Family

In Loving Memory of
Don Marshall
June 6, 1933 - Feb. 22, 1993
From his wife Vera, Daughters Janet and
Joanne and Families

February 23, 2025, Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
(Pink Shirt Sunday)

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,
Amy Dalziel and Jessica Willcott
Ushering: Brent and Pamela Hollett, 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 Mi'kmawí'simk, French, Twi 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 9)*

We come together with grateful hearts to the Most-High,
to praise God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

We sing out in the morning and again at night for all God's deeds,
with lute and harp, organ and guitar we sing in loving praise.

We join with the righteous from age to age in worshipping God.
Those who follow God's way will flourish in God's sight.

OPENING PRAYER

We praise you, Sovereign God,
from whom comes an abundance of mercy and love,
love revealed in Jesus, your **Servant Son**.
Through that same love may we follow your teachings,
at every hour and in every place,
living in a way befitting of a people made in your image
and baptized into the dying and rising of your Son,
in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

* **HYMN:** "Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet" (VU 245)

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 15:35-50; Luke 6:39-45; excerpt from Plotinus, *Enneads*, 1:9; in *Porphyry, Life of Plotinus* (Turnbull, 1936) p. 49

* **HYMN:** "Nearer My God to Thee" (*Voices United* 497)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

SOLO: “Deep River” - *African American Spiritual*

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:** “How Firm a Foundation” (*Voices United* 660)

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

Life and Work - February 23, 2025

No Wild Light Spiritual Oasis this Month: Over the last couple of years, we have scheduled a Wild Light gathering in February, but no one has attended. Given this we will not have a Wild Light gathering this year but focus on coming together to mark the Spring Equinox in March. See you then.

2025 Envelopes: If you have not received your 2025 envelopes, please arrange with the office to pick them up or ask a friend to get them for you. If you are using old envelopes cross of the number and print your name on the envelope. The reason for this is your number might change from year to year and then it gets posted to the wrong account and if there is no name on the envelope we have no way to make sure it gets posted to the correct person. Thank you for your help in this.

A One Stop Shop for Information: Have you seen our Bulletin Boards in the Main Foyer? It is a spot to see upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, information about social action issues, in general a spot to get your information.

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 a couple of 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.

Recycling: Did you know that St. James United has its very own Recycling Account? If you'd like to donate your empty bottles, bring them to the Recycling Depot on O'Leary Avenue. Tell them it's for us and we get the refund.

Leaders for Children and Youth at Region: We are looking for volunteer leaders to help plan and lead children and youth at the region. If you are interested in helping plan and offer leadership with Children or Youth at the regional meetings in Corner Brook, NL, May 2-4, 2025, please contact Rev. Catherine (CStuart@united-church.ca) or Rev. Rebecca(rebecca.pike@nl.rogers.com) by March 2, 2025.

East District UCW: East District United Church Women will be holding a special service to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada on *Sunday, March 02 at 3:00 pm at Wesley United Church*. All are invited to attend and to be part of this special celebration.

Turkey Dinner: *Wesley United Church* will be holding a turkey dinner with all the trimmings right after the church service at *12:30 pm on Sunday, March 2nd*. Tickets cost \$20 and must be paid for and picked up on or before February 24th. Call Pheobe at 726-1689, Marvin at 579-7900 or Nancy in the Church Office at 579-3682.

People of the Sea Service: *Memorial United Church in Portugal Cove* is excited to be hosting the People of the Sea Service again this year. 62 years ago, George Street United Church held the first of these services to honor all those who make their living on or from the sea. Many years before, the event was known as the blessing of the fleet as people gathered at the local wharves to bless the sealers and their ships as they headed for the front. In 1963 Rev. Naboth Winsor began to hold the service in George Street United. Over the years the focus grew to include all those who harvest the sea and those who make a living on the sea. In 2023 George Street United was decommissioned.

On behalf of Memorial United Church, it is my pleasure to invite you to the 62nd Annual Service for "The People of the Sea". *This year's service will be held on Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 2pm. Please RSVP by Friday, March 21, 2025. Please RSVP by calling the Chair of the Board, Sid Woolfrey at 709-770-1245 or email: sidwoolfrey@gmail.com.*

We look forward to your attendance at this special service celebrating the lives of those whose work is focused on the sea. A reception will follow the service.

Save the Date for the Lenten Lunch and Learns: Wednesdays- March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 12:30-1:30 p.m. (12 noon in Labrador). This year we will have presenters from a number of faith groups in the Province. Lunch and Learn sessions are FREE but registration will be required. Details of how to register will be sent out.

JOIN



AT SPIRIT OF NEWFOUNDLAND FOR



MAR 28
7:00 PM

A THREE-COURSE DINNER THEATRE
GOWER THEATER , 208 GOWER STREET
TICKETS \$120

PLEASE PURCHASE IN ADVANCE
(709) 722-1881 - INFO@STJAMESUC.ORG