



St. James United Church



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

Celebration of Worship for March 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.

In Loving Memory of Brother:
E. Desmond Butt, P. Eng.,
(April 14, 1948 – March 5, 2018)
From sisters, Glenda Winsor and Gloria Le Feuvre and families.

In Loving Memory of
Joanne Hapgood, BN, RN
March 3, 1959- April 19, 2013
Forever loved and in our hearts
Susan, Stephen, Rebecca and Kyle

March 2, 2025, Transfiguration Sunday
(Last Sunday before the Season of Lent)

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,
Sheilah Beckett, Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir
Ushering: Grace Marcoux, Sarah Nolan, 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 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 99*)

We come in reverent awe before the glory of the Everlasting,
to honour One whose sovereignty is mercy and justice.
We come in trust of God's compassion and understanding,
to worship and honour the One who is ever Holy!
We come to be still in the presence of the Most High,
to be open to Holy Wisdom and embody it in our lives.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy and Everlasting God, you are Mystery,
shining brightly yet in unapproachable darkness,

shown in Jesus' glory even as he readied himself for death.
Help us, through the wisdom of your Spirit,
to embrace the paradox of the spiritual journey
that the path to resurrection passes through the cross.
We pray in solidarity with Christ,
whose suffering was transformed into glory. Amen.

* **HYMN:** "Fairest Lord Jesus" (*Voices United* 341)

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

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
2 Corinthians 3:12-13, 16-18; Luke 9:28-36; Conclusion of "Power and Time" in
Upstream by Mary Oliver.

* **HYMN:** "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding" (*VU* 104)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

ANTHEM: "Wondrous Love" *Trad. Folk Hymn, arr. Paul Christiansen*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Jesus welcomed everyone to the table as a sign that all people shine in God's love.
Here we experience that same renewing gift.
We share this meal knowing God shines within & around us.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Open your hearts. **We open them to the Holy.**

Let us give thanks. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is good to give thanks to you, Maker of heaven and earth. At the beginning of time, light blazed forth from your splendour, and the cosmos was born – stars, quasars, planets and moons, and the gift of life in all its dazzling array. Among the living you made and called humankind, imprinting us with your image and calling us to bear your presence in the world. And yet we often hid your image within us, and denied that you shone in others as well. We seek forgiveness, grateful that you kept inviting us into relationship and called a people to bear your light in the world. With thanks, we join with the whole company of heaven in their hymn of praise:

O Holy, holy, holy God. O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sing your praise. And blessed is the one who comes and bears your name always!

Hosanna to you, Holy God, and blessed is your Child Jesus whom you sent in your name. In him we not only see the fullness of your glory, but in his life of mercy and love he helped all that he met to see again your image shining in them. For this we thank you and are grateful too that as his journey to Jerusalem drew near, Jesus took his closest friends up a high mountain where you pulled back the veil of heaven and revealed your light shining through him. We glimpse that light now as we gather at this table.

Here we remember how on the night before his death he and his friends gathered at table. During the meal, he took bread, gave you thanks, broke it and shared it with them, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body, given for you." In the same way, he took the cup, gave you thanks, and shared it with them saying: "Drink from this, all of you; this is the sign of the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you eat and drink, do so in memory of me."

In his memory, we offer you our work and our lives, the power of his death and resurrection imaged in our lives of mercy and love:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Open our hearts to the gift of your Spirit present here, revealed in bread and wine. Make them to be for us the living presence of your Beloved Child, that we too may be his beloved, one family in that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters. Make us one with him and each other, one in ministry as we are called in his name to shine with his transforming love in the world.

Creator God, we praise you, through Your Word made flesh, in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

Amen, amen, O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen.

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

SHARING IN COMMUNION

This is the Bread of Life and this is the Cup of Love.
Come and be nourished. Thanks be to God.

Everyone is welcome to share communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. Come to the front to receive the bread and grape juice (in a glass). Consume both before returning to your pew. Please let us know if you need the gluten free option. If you're unable to come to the front, someone will bring communion to you. During communion the choir will sing "Bread of Life, Feed my Soul" (Rick Gunn)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gift of grace and goodness, we give thanks that we have been refreshed at your table through the illuminating presence of your Beloved Child Jesus. Also called to be your beloved children, send us forth to shine with your peace and love, rejoicing always in your Holy Spirit. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** "You Shall Go Out with Joy" (*Voices United* 884)

COMMISSIONING IN PREPARATION FOR LENT

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



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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.

We accept the following donations to the UCW:

* In memory of Nina Abbott from Menetha Dyke, Carol Butters, and Phyllis Hoskins.

We accept the following donation to the General Fund:

* In memory of Margaret Quick Babstock, our loving Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother from her family.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family of George William Smith who passed away peacefully on February 23, 2025. Aged 74 years. Funeral service had taken place on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 10 a.m. from Caul's Chapel. Inurnment followed at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

<https://www.cauls.ca/obituary/george-smith>

Bulletins: After some careful thought, our church council has reversed the decision to move to a paperless service. We will continue to print bulletins but to shrink our carbon footprint we would like to reduce the number of bulletins that we print. To this end, we encourage people to follow the service via projection, to share bulletins when possible, or to download a digital version of the bulletin on their phones.

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.

The Spring Visitor is here!

The Visitor is now completely online, so please visit the church website at www.stjamesuc.org to download your edition.

If you would like a paper copy, please contact the office.

Thank you to all who contributed.

CBC Radio Story: Here is the link to the CBC/Radio Canada story about us here at St. James that was recently broadcast on TV. Please **use** the link below to watch or check our website.

<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/tele/le-telejournal-acadie/site/episodes/1005113/episode-du-18-fevrier-2025>

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.

Taizé /Ash Wednesday: This coming March 5 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.

Tapestry - Saturday, March 8 @ 5:30PM: Beginning with a potluck at 5:30 pm, this service celebrates the strands that make us who we are in terms of faith and experience. Based on a theme, "Women of the Bible". For those who are attending, come with thoughts to share on who your favorite woman in the Bible may be.

Lenten Bible Study: This coming Lent, Rev. James will be leading a bible study exploring the **meaning** of the cross. There are 2 time slots. On Sunday afternoon after fellowship (bring a lunch) and on a weekday evening (day and time TBD by participants).

Lenten Prayer: Along with study, prayer is another important practice during Lent. To this end, Rev. James will be leading centering prayer on Thursdays at 12:15 pm. He will do so via Zoom. Centering prayer is a prayer of quiet and stillness. He will explain it more as part of the group practice.

Follow this link to take part:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82667792442?pwd=AMc6XzwxdKVpDcpiGlbRQoUHnXbhW0.1>

Meeting ID: 826 6779 2442

Passcode: 401894

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.

You're Invited!: The United Church Women are inviting all seniors to a meeting with the Office of the Senior's Advocate, so you can share your concerns and ideas to improve services for seniors on Monday, March 10, 2025 @ 2pm here at St. James United Church. Open to the public. All seniors welcome, men and women!

Baked Goods Available for Order: If you still want to order baked goods, you can! See list below of what's available. Contact info@stjamesuc.org to place your order.

Baked by Marilyn Adams

Batch of Cream Puffs (fresh crease or lactose free)	\$15.00
Lemon Meringue Pie, 9-inch	\$15.00
Drumstick Pie (regular or lactose free)	\$20.00
Coconut Cream Pie, 9-inch (regular or lactose free)	\$15.00
Iced Chocolate Pound cake	\$15.00
Lemon Drop Cake	\$20.00

Baked by Jennifer Whitfield

Single-tier Ginger Cake (with whipped cream)	\$20.00
2-tier Devil's Food Cake with chocolate ganache	\$35.00

Baked by Glen Warren

2-tier Iced Pina Colada Cake	\$35.00
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Baked by Sharon Seaward

Coconut Rum Cake	\$35.00
Lemon Poppy Seed Cake	\$20.00

🎉 Get Ready for a Night of Laughter, Mystery, and Mischief! 🎉

It's Prohibition time in Newfoundland, and Spirit of Newfoundland is bringing you the most exciting show of the year—*Lover's Lies and Libations - A Prohibition Tale!* On March 28, 2025, Gower St UC doors open at 6:30 p.m. to a rollicking evening full of chaos, mistaken identities, and bootlegged spirits! The irrepressible Doyle family has transformed their family-owned pub into a funeral home with a hidden gem—Prohibition Hall, a speakeasy tucked away in the shadows. But when opening night brings a flurry of mistaken identities, unexpected guests, and a flurry of uproarious shenanigans, this is an evening of fun you'll never forget.

🍸 Dinner, Show & Non-Stop Entertainment - All just \$120 per person! 🍸

This is your chance to grab your spot for an unforgettable night filled with laughter, libations, and the kind of drama you'll be talking about for months! Bypass the downtown parking, park at St. James and avail of our taxi service to Gower St UC. Enquire about our childcare availability. Dietary considerations available upon request.

Tax receipts issued for a \$50 portion of the ticket.

🎉 Tickets are selling fast, so get yours today! 🎉

Hosted by Gower St, St. James, and Cowan Heights United Churches. Don't wait—this night promises to be an absolute blast, and you're going to want to be there when the Prohibition Hall shenanigans unfold.

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