



St. James United Church



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

Celebration of Worship for March 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.

March 9, 2025, First Sunday of Lent

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,
Barbara Butt, Amy Dalziel, and Glen Warren
Ushering: Skyler Simpson, Leah Kirk, 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 Innu-aimun, French, Korean and English.

LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

* **HYMN:** “Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” (VU 108)

PRAYING IN THE GROWING SHADOW: *We extinguish a candle, acknowledging the coming dark. Afterward, we pray the following:*

Loving Christ, today we begin a holy journey, going with you to Jerusalem and the cross awaiting you there. Though we are afraid to take the first step, we pray for your strength, for the courage to take up our cross and follow you. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE: “Per Crucem”

**By your cross and all the wounds you suffered
(grant us freedom in your love, (×3) in your love.**

**By your holy, life-giving resurrection
(grant us freedom in your love, (×3) in your love.**

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:** "Giver of the Perfect Gift" (Voices United #116, v. 4)

**Oh, may these our Lenten days,
blest by thee, with thee be passed,
that with purer, nobler praise
we may keep thy feast at last.**

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:** "Three Things I Promise" (MV 176 V.1-3)

TIME OF MEDITATION AND CONFESSION:

Meditating on an image of Jesus as he goes to the cross, we pause to name where we are part of that journey, confessing our wrongdoings.

Jesus stands before Pontius...he is now condemned to death. In our complex world, it is tempting to point a finger at the many evils that beset us. And yet we know it's not so easy. Our lives are intertwined, the unthinking actions of each of us contributing to multiple hurts and injustices around the world. Spirit of mercy, be with us. Help us find forgiveness for our thoughtlessness. Unravel our intentions and help us be more mindful in the decisions we make. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND SHARING PEACE

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

Is. 65:1-9; Lk. 9:51-62; excerpt from C.S. Lewis *Mere Christianity*

* **HYMN:** "Take My Life and Let it Be" (*Voices United 506*)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

SOLO: "My Soul is Thirsting for You, O Lord" (*More Voices 109*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for the world and our community, including the concerns written on slips of paper as people arrived for worship.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (A Latin American paraphrase)

Our Father & Mother who is in us here on earth, holy is your name, in the hungry who share their bread and their song. Your Kingdom come, which is a generous land flowing with milk and honey. Let us do your will, standing up when all are sitting down, and raising our voice when all are silent. You are giving us our daily bread in the song of the bird and the miracle of the corn. Forgive us for keeping silent in the face of injustice, and burying our dreams; for not sharing bread & wine, love & the land, among us, now. Don't let us fall into

the temptation of shutting the door through fear, of resigning ourselves to injustice, of taking up the same arms as the enemy. But deliver us from evil. Give us the perseverance and solidarity to look for love, even if the path has not yet been trodden, even if we fail; so we shall have known your Kingdom which is being built forever and ever. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** “Take Up Your Cross” (*Voices United* 561)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING

Be with us, Holy One, as we follow Jesus this Lent. Bless us with perseverance as we carry our crosses, with gentleness towards ourselves when we drop them, with strength to carry them again. **Be with us as we walk toward your Easter promise. Amen.**

POSTLUDE AND OPTIONAL IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who wish may come forward during the postlude to receive a cross of ash traced on their foreheads as a sign of repentance.

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

Life and Work - March 9, 2025

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.

Prayers of the People: Throughout this Lent, we are making the Prayers of the People really of the people. Last season, we emphasized this by having the worship assistant pray the prayers (that Rev. James wrote). However, this season we will highlight this differently and invite you to let us know what you want prayed for. When you come into the church there will be slips of paper for you to write prayer intentions on and then they will be brought up the front during the offering. Alternatively email Rev. James with your prayer requests. james@stjamesuc.org

Free Will Offering Luncheon (and Learn): Our next luncheon is on March 16th. It will be a multi purpose lunch as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day (an important holiday in Newfoundland), and mark the United Church's Pie Day (PIE = Public. Intentional. Explicit, the standards we hold in our welcome as an affirming ministry), and take time to learn about the new governance proposal to be discussed at our annual Congregational meeting. All of these are important, including our commitment to the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit people in faith communities and beyond across Canada. Please join us downstairs after the service for a stew lunch, some learning and you might even get a piece of pie.

A Word from Jamie Downey: We received word recently from Donna Downey that her son Jamie's kidney function continues to worsen. We ask that you read this post through this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15xuMxT8j3/?mibextid=wWxlfr> and circulate it if you can. We join Donna and her mom Shirley in praying for Jamie and his family.

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.

Financial Update:

Financial Report to January 31, 2025

As the first month of 2025 is past us, here is our financial picture.

Receipts: Collections	12,229	Expenses: Repairs	1,865
Rentals	5,519	Heat/Lights	7,158
Other Revenue	<u>1,579</u>	Cleaning	2,699
Total Revenue	19,327	Salaries	13,421
		Other	<u>1,062</u>
		Total Expenses	26,205

Net Loss \$6,878

Our repairs are a bit high but that is due to the dishwasher and the elevator pump.

To operate the church on a weekly basis, here is a list of our expenses:

Heat	\$915
Lights	188
Phone/Copier	89
Cleaning	674
Insurance	314
UC Assessment	251
Salaries	<u>3400</u>
Total	\$5831

Our weekly guaranteed revenue is

PAR	\$1250
Rentals	<u>1141</u>
Total	\$2391

To be able to pay the bills weekly we will need \$3440 in contributions or other revenue.

Annual congregational Meeting March 23rd: The council will be serving sandwiches and sweets for lunch right after the service in the auditorium and we will go upstairs for the meeting directly after lunch to start around 12:45. For this meeting, we will be electing a number of positions on church council. We encourage you to see the list on the bulletin board in the church foyer. In addition, we will be discussing a new governance model. Both a summary and the full revised constitution are available for review. There will be a lunch and learn in regard to the model on March 16.

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).

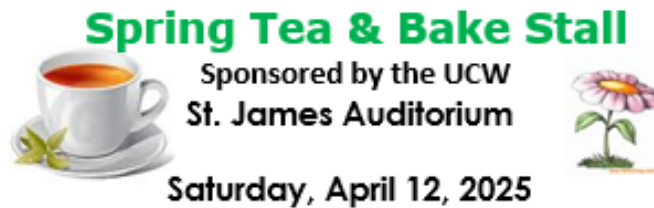
Lenten Prayer: Along with study, prayer is another important practice during Lent. To this end, Rev. James will be leading centering prayer on Thursdays at 12:15 pm. He will do so via Zoom. Centering prayer is a prayer of quiet and stillness. He will explain it more as part of the group practice.

Meeting ID: 826 6779 2442
Passcode: 401894

UCW Spring Tea and Bake Sale: The UCW will be holding the Spring Tea and Bake Sale in the auditorium on *Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 2-4pm*. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be obtained from any UCW member. Tickets will also be available at the door. We welcome any support you can give, baked goods or a monetary donation, all donations are gratefully appreciated, proceeds go to the life and work of the church. Contact Sheilah Beckett 709-726-7421 or Barbara Butt at 709-687-1041

"Happiness doesn't result for what we get, but from what we give" ~Author Unknown"

St. James United Church
330 Elizabeth Avenue



Time: 2 – 4 pm Cost: \$10.00

🎉 **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/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