



St. James United Church



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

Celebration of Worship for April 13, 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.

April 13, 2025, Palm Sunday

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,
Barbara Butt, Amy Dalziel; Bob Rose, the Senior Choir
Ushering: Marilyn Pardy, Linda Fancy, Jean Thompson,
Marilyn Adams 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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We share greetings in Inuktitut, French, Mandarin Chinese and English.

LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

OUR LIFE AND WORK

We acknowledge the connection between our work and our worship.

OFFERING: *There are many ways to financially support St. James. You can place your contribution in the plate, scan the QR code on the left, donate via PAR, website (www.stjamesuc.org), e-transfer (email treasurer@stjamesuc.org), or mail to the church office. In whatever way you support St. James, the community is grateful. Tax receipts available by request.*



* **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.**

We Listen and Respond

INTROIT: "He Came Riding on a Donkey" (VU 124 v. 1 & 2)

RECALLING JESUS' ENTERING JERUSALEM: John 12:12-16

PALM PROCESSION: “All Glory Laud and Honour” (VU 122)

After the gospel reading, we join in singing the hymn during which everyone is invited to process through the church in commemoration of Jesus’ own arrival to Jerusalem.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, on this day when we commemorate how Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, we feel the energy of the crowd, the wonder of his disciples. Like them we get swept up in the possibility of this moment, emboldened by hope, as if unaware of what happens next. Yet we are aware, our joyful hosannas mixed with sadness as a welcome is withdrawn, and on the horizon stands a cross.

Be with us as we grapple with our feelings on this day, reminding us that our *hosanna*, “Lord, save us” will bear fruit in folded graveclothes and an empty tomb.

We pray with the One accompanying us on our way.

Amen.

HYMN: “My Song Is Love Unknown” (*Voices United* 143)

REFLECTION

ANTHEM: “And Can It Be?” (Dan Forrest)

PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK

We listen to portions of the story that follow Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem.

First Reading: John 12:20-27

Second Reading: John 13:1-15

Third Reading: John 13:21-30

Fourth Reading: John 18:3-11

TIME OF MEDITATION: *With an image of Jesus on the screen to reflect upon, those who wish may take time to write on a slip of paper a burden or source of hurt that they wish to release to God, or likewise a concern for a loved and the burden that they carry.*

PRAYING IN THE GROWING SHADOW: *We extinguish the final candle, acknowledging the coming end. After, we pray the following: Loving Christ, we know the time draws near, the end coming when*

we reach Calvary. Though we are afraid to take these final steps, we walk with you, with the cross and beyond it into your promised Reign of love. 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.

ACT OF RELEASE AND RENEWAL: *Those who wish may come forward to either lay before the cross slips of paper or palm fronds.*

ANTHEM: “Lord, Beholding Thy Dread Passion”

We Leave to Serve

READING: “II: Jesus Is Given His Cross” by Malcolm Guite

HYMN: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (VU 149)

BENEDICTION

Be with us, Holy One, as we follow Jesus into Holy Week, following the path along which he walked before us.

**May we be blessed in knowing him more deeply,
and so come to Easter with renewed hope and joy.**

POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

Chair of the Church Board:	Pamela Norman
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: 1-709-722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;
Emergency Cellphone: 1-709-351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



@StJamesUCNL



@stjamesuc

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

Life and Work - April 13, 2025

Holy Week Services:

Holy Monday, April 14: Wesley United Church at 7:30PM

Holy Tuesday, April 15: Wesley United Church at 7:30PM

Holy Wednesday, April 16: Cowan Heights United Church at 7:30PM

Maundy Thursday, April 17: Cowan Heights United Church at 7:30PM

Good Friday, April 18: Gower Street United Church
Worship at 1:00PM and Prayer Walk at 2:00PM

Good Friday, April 18: St. James United Church at 7:00PM

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, April 19: St. James United Church at
8:00PM.

Easter Sunday, April 20: St. James United Church at 11:00AM
Easter Breakfast downstairs at 9:30AM to 10:15AM. Easter Egg Treasure
Hunt upstairs in the Sanctuary after the service.

**We acknowledge a donation to the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial
Camp Fund from Sorensen School of Dance - proceeds from the Annual
Christmas Show.**

Easter Envelopes: With the rise in the cost of a postage stamp, we
will not be mailing out the Easter Envelope. If you could put your
donation in an envelope and mark it "Easter Offering" or drop by the
church and pick up one or they will be available on Sunday when you
come to church. Thank you for supporting St. James.
Finance Committee

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 to the front during the offering. Alternatively, email Rev. James with your prayer requests. james@stjamesuc.org

Pub Theology: This month's Pub Theology will be delayed by a week to April 24

Online Bible Study Cancelled: The online bible study is cancelled due to low turnout. Instead, we will focus on our bible study on Sundays after worship.

Centering Prayer: Each week on Thursdays at 12:15PM, Rev. James will be leading centering prayer. 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.

AOTS Men's Club Meeting: The next AOTS Men's Club lunch Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 16th with lunch served at 1:00PM. New members are always welcome.

AOTS Men's Club Fish Dinner:



* Tickets are available from any member of the AOTS Men's Club or Aubrey Hill - 709-726-8306 *

Easter Sunday Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt - April 20: Once again the AOTS Men's Club will be hosting Breakfast Downstairs with Eggs, Toast, Jam, Juice, Tea and Coffee. We will be serving breakfast from 9:30AM - 10:15AM. Enjoy your Breakfast before going upstairs for the Easter Sunday Service at 11:00 am. There will be a free will offering. In the Sanctuary after worship there will be a Treasure hunt for Easter eggs and non-food Easter items. The young and the young at heart are free to participate.

NSO Recital 3: “The Seven Last Words of Christ”: Join the Atlantic String Quartet of the NSO for a profound and moving evening of music with Recital 3 at the Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. On Good Friday, April 18, 2025 at 8pm, experience the spiritual and emotional depth of Joseph Haydn’s masterpiece, “*The Seven Last Words of Christ*” together with a special companion oration delivered by local actor George Robertson. This extraordinary work, originally composed for the Good Friday service, consists of seven meditative sonatas, each reflecting on the final words spoken by Christ on the cross. Haydn’s music is both powerful and contemplative, offering a journey through sorrow, reflection, and ultimately, hope. The Anglican Cathedral provides a stunning and acoustically rich setting, enhancing the intimate and reverent atmosphere of this performance. Don’t miss this special opportunity to experience one of Haydn’s most profound works. Secure your tickets now for Recital 3 at the Anglican Cathedral. Tickets are available at the ACC Box Office (709-729-3900), online at www.artsandculturecentre.com and at the door.

Tyler Young Country Gospel Show: Featuring Junior Reid - Mark your calendars for an evening of wonderful music at Cowan Heights United on Saturday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. Featuring Tyler Young and Junior Reid. Tickets are \$25.00 and are available for purchase from the church office by emailing: office@cowanheightsunity.ca or calling (709) 745-2871.

Wesley Flipper Dinner: The Wesley Fall Fair Committee will be holding the first of two Flipper Dinners on Thursday May 8 starting at 5 pm for takeouts and 6 pm for eat in. Tickets are \$30 and should be paid for and picked up by Friday May 2nd. Tickets will not be sold at the door but can be picked up at the Church on Friday, May 2nd between 11 am and 1 pm. To order tickets call Marvin at 709-579-7900, Pheobe at 709-726-1689 or the church office at 709-579-3682.

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 April 2025, especially useful for Bridges To Hope - Canned Fruit. Other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated! Thank you for your support.