



**St. James United Church**



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

### **Celebration of Worship for April 6, 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 Parents  
**Noel and Christine Halfyard**  
(founding members of St James United Church)  
from son Keith and daughter Margaret.

## **April 6, 2025, Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,  
Michelle Skinner, Amy Dalziel and Becca-Ann Bartlett.  
Ushering: Pamela Norman, Sheila Strong, 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 Mi'kmawi'simk, French, Portuguese and English.*

#### **LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

\* **HYMN:** "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" (*Voices United* 658)

**PRAYING IN THE GROWING SHADOW:** *We extinguish another candle, acknowledging the coming end. After, we pray the following:*  
**Loving Christ, we are nearing the end of our journey. We have walked through the heat of the day and now the cross looms over us. We can see the hill of Calvary and feel afraid for what will soon come to pass. May we not lose our courage now but walk with you until the very end. Amen.**

**SUNG RESPONSE:** "Per Crucem"

**By your cross and all the wounds you suffered  
(grant us freedom in your love, (x3) in your love.  
By your holy, life-giving resurrection  
(grant us freedom in your love, (x3) in your love.**

## We Share in Love

### OUR LIFE AND WORK

**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](http://www.stjamesuc.org)), e-transfer (email [treasurer@stjamesuc.org](mailto:treasurer@stjamesuc.org)), or mail to the church office. However you choose to 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.

### 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" (*More Voices* 176, v. 1-3)

### TIME OF MEDITATION AND CONFESSION:

*Meditating on an image of Veronica comforting Jesus, we confess our wrongdoings and ask forgiveness.*

As Jesus nears Calvary,...Maybe she is the true image of Jesus.

**Veronica approaches Jesus with love in her heart, wanting to do a service for him as he had helped so many people before this moment of his greatest need. That is our call is it not, to be an icon of Jesus in our lives, our loving kindness and care a window into who Jesus is, an avenue by which others will come to follow him too? And yet how often is that not the case, and as we fail to show love, we shut the door of faith. Or we mix up the world's way with that of Jesus and so lead others to think that God prefers judgement over compassion, is the bearer of anger not forgiveness, we direct people away from the one who came that**

all may have life to the full. Spirit of mercy, be with us. May we seek your way of love and as we do, be a way by which others know your love as well. Amen

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND SHARING PEACE**

*The sharing of peace is drawn to a close with an instrumental introit.*

**READINGS:** Isaiah 43:16-21 and John 12:1-8

\* **HYMN:** “Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery” (*Voices United 121*)

**READING:** Excerpt from James Finley, “Mystical Sobriety” in *Living School Alumni Quarterly*, Issue 3 (Fall 2019)

## **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS**

**SOLO:** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (*tune: O Waly Waly*)

## **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:** “Restore in Us, O God” (*see projection*)

## **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**

---

**Life and Work - April 6, 2025**

**Holy Week Services:**

**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**

**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.**

**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](mailto:james@stjamesuc.org)

**Branches for Palm Sunday:** It will be Palm Sunday in a couple of weeks (April 13). As done in years past, you are invited to bring in your own branches to wave as part of the procession. It could be a cedar branch or a spruce bough or even some pussy willows (a custom from Ukraine and Poland). Equally you could wave a ribbon, or use a clapper to show your enthusiasm for Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem. This year the gospel says that the people placed cloaks on the ground. In honour of this you could also bring in a gently used coat that we will gather in anticipation of the coat drives often held in the fall.

**Online Bible Study Cancelled:** For the next two weeks the online bible study is cancelled due to low turnout. Instead, we will focus on our bible study on Sundays after worship.

**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. Use the below information to join the Zoom meeting.  
Meeting ID: 826 6779 2442  
Passcode: 401894

**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.

**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

St. James United Church  
330 Elizabeth Avenue

**Spring Tea & Bake Stall**  
Sponsored by the UCW  
St. James Auditorium



Saturday, April 12, 2025

Time: 2 – 4 pm Cost: \$10.00

## AOTS Men's Club Fish Dinner:

St. James United Church,  
330 Elizabeth Avenue



AOTS Men's Service Club  
**Fish Dinner**

Friday, April 25, 2025  
Time: 6pm Cost: \$25.00

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

**Easter Sunday Breakfast - 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 to 10:15AM. Enjoy your Breakfast before going upstairs for the Easter Sunday Service at 11:00 am.

**KEVIN COLLINS CONCERT with special guests 'The Right Fit' at First United Church:** Come and enjoy an evening of uplifting and encouraging music by our very own Kevin Collins and guests on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Tickets cost \$30. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased from the church office Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 10 am and 2 pm or after 11 am Sunday service. We accept cash or cheque only.

**Gower Street United Church's 4th Annual Dessert Auction and Concert will take place on Saturday, April 12, at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.).** The event will be held in the Gower Lecture Hall, featuring entertainment and dessert for all attendees. Entertainment will be provided by the very talented Peter Halley and Shelly Neville. Gather a group or come alone for a fun evening of great entertainment and delicious desserts. Tickets are \$30 each and are available for purchase at the church office (709) 753-7286. Office open Wednesday and Thursday, 11-4. Payment is due via e-transfer, cheque, or transfer before the event.

**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@cowanheightsunited.ca](mailto:office@cowanheightsunited.ca) or calling (709) 745-2871.



# Easter Butterflies

Butterflies have become a celebration symbol of Resurrection, spring and new life. Just as the caterpillar emerges from the cocoon a new being, the butterfly, Jesus emerges from the tomb at Easter as the Christ.

After the bareness of Lent we will be decorating the sanctuary of St. James United Church with butterflies for the Season of Easter. We invite you to sponsor a butterfly in celebration of a loved one or a significant life event. (birthday, graduation, anniversary etc.) ***To sponsor a butterfly, please fill out the form below and return to the church by Friday, April 18, with a donation of \$10 per butterfly.***

## Easter Celebration Butterflies

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

In celebration of:

---

---

---

