



St. James United Church



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

Celebration of Worship for May 11, 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 a Cherished Mother
Roma Paul
From: Nancy & Anthony
“Mom’s love, compassion and zest for life will never be
forgotten. She will always be our guiding light”.

May 11, 2025, Fourth Sunday of Easter
Mother’s Day and Asian Heritage Month

Leading worship and music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,
Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and Senior Choir
Ushers: Jenna Earle and Jennifer Whitfield,
Mairlyn Adams, Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

*Please rise in body or in spirit where there is an *.*
Print in bold indicates that the portion is read or sung by everyone.

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

*We offer greetings in Innu-aimun, French and Urdu, and give thanks for
the land as we commit to being a just and loving community for everyone.*

SHARING THE PEACE OF EASTER: *We greet one another with signs of
Christ’s peace with a wave, bow, prayerful wish for blessing.*

INTROIT: Gather Us In (*More Voices 7*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come together at God’s prompting,
the call of One who longs to gather us under her wings.
We have come together as those who need to rest,
drawn to the comfort of the Divine heartbeat.
In this worship, God’s longing and our longing meet:
Like sheltered chicks, weaned children,
we rest in God’s love and are renewed.

* **HYMN:** “Bring Many Names” (*Voices United 268*)

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Mother of all, **we come together with open hearts,**
yearning for the sheltering warmth of your ever-present love.
Be with us now in your nurture and compassionate care,
giving us the strength and insight to go into your world
to embody the caring and liberating love of the Risen Christ,
in whose saving name, we pray. Amen.

We Share in Love

OUR LIFE AND WORK: *We share what is going on in our community.*

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.*



OFFERTORY: "Hallelujah, Hallelujah" *Voices United* 179, v 4
Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ; hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.
Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour;
Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

We Listen and Respond

LEARNING TOGETHER

We explore the theme of the day in an age appropriate format.

HYMN: "Come, Children, Join to Sing" (*Voices United* 345)

READINGS: *At end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
Revelation 7:9-17 and Acts 9:36-43.

ANTHEM: "Feed Me, Lord", by Patrick M. Liebergen

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

Excerpt from *The Revelations of Divine Love of Julian of Norwich*, trans. James Walsh (Harper and Brothers: 1961), 162

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

* **HYMN:** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" (VU 468)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Christ is risen! **Hallelujah! Christ is risen indeed!**

Open your hearts. **We open them to God.**

Let us give thanks. **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

It is good to thank and praise you, Living God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us your holy breath, calling us to be your children. And though at times we forgot that call and wandered from you, you remained steadfast, again and again restoring your people and calling them to be a blessing to the nations. Grateful for this abiding love we join all of your angels and saints in a song of praise:

Holy God of Power of Might! Hallelujah! Heav'n and earth shine with your light! Hallelujah! Loud Hosannas now we sing! Hallelujah! Blessings to our Risen King! Hallelujah!

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

We praise and thank you Redeeming God, for your Son, Jesus Christ, who through his death, and resurrection, gave birth to your Church. Called to embody his love in the world, we remember how on the night before Jesus died, he took bread and after giving you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you." In the same way, he took the cup, saying: "Take, drink. This is a sign of the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you eat and drink, remember me."

We remember, Sustaining God, grateful that on this day we experience the in-breaking of your kin-dom, your new life revealed in resurrection. We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Dying, Christ destroyed our death! Hallelujah! Rising, Christ restores our life! Hallelujah! We believe and we proclaim, Hallelujah! Jesus Christ will come again! Hallelujah!

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

We pray, Gracious God, that you animate your Spirit in us and these gifts, that all who share this living bread and saving cup may be renewed in your grace, affirmed in your love to share what it means to be your children, a blessing to the nations.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Holy God, now and forever.

“Amen, Amen.” Hear our prayer, Hallelujah! As the bread and cup we share! Hallelujah! At this table, Christ we meet, Hallelujah! Present here with wounded feet, Hallelujah!

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

SUNG PRAYER OF JESUS (Lord’s Prayer): *Voices United 960*

SHARING IN COMMUNION

This is the bread of life, **Christ shared in hope for the world.**

This is the fruit of the vine, **Christ shared in openness and joy.**

This is the banquet of blessing, **Christ inviting everyone in love.**

Everyone is welcome to share communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. There is a centre station to receive the bread and two side stations to receive non-alcoholic juice in small glasses. Consume both before returning to your pew. A gluten free option is available. If you are unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(in unison)*

Spirit of life, in this feast we are fed by your love, nourished in your grace, and enlivened to live in your joy. Send us into your world to feed as we’ve been fed, forgive as we’ve been forgiven, and love others as we’ve been loved by you. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: “Maker in Whom We Live” (*Voices United* 321)

A BLESSING FOR MOTHER’S DAY

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH:

Called by the Risen Christ: **we trust in God’s presence with us.**

Called by the Risen Christ: **we live in the Spirit’s nurturing love.**

Called by the Risen Christ: **we the hope of a better tomorrow.**

Go then in the blessing of God: Abba, Christ and Spirit!

Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

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

Technology Support:

Jake Thompson

Office Administrator:

Stephanie Harnum

Church Custodian:

Bruce Winsor

Office: 1-709-722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;
Emergency Cellphone: 1-709-351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



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WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC



Easy Peasy Fun

We gratefully accept a donation from the UCW who has donated \$4000 for the operating expenses of the church.

We accept the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:

* In loving memory of Wayne Dinn, Ross, Gertie and Blaine Blackwood from Sharon, Michelle and Families.

We accept the following Mother's Day donation:

*In memory of our Mother's Anastasia Hann and Mary Dyke from Menetha and Sidney Dyke.

* In memory of our Mothers, Margaret Babstock and Mildred Murphy from Linda and Ed Murphy

Congratulations twofold: Two great things happened at our Regional Council meeting this past weekend. First, Rev. Susan Sheppard was elected as President Elect. This means that beginning in 2026, Susan will be our Regional Council President. Congratulations Susan! Plus, we also voted in favour of becoming an Affirming Region. This doesn't mean that all congregations will be Affirming. They will still need to decide that on their own. But it does mean that we will be collectively and so all meetings, committees, teams and events are to be safe, and inclusive spaces for everyone. Congratulations to FDEE Regional Council and to the Affirm Committee of the Region for getting us there.

Learn about the city plan for the University Area Neighbourhood: The City Of St John's has been working on a development plan for our congregational neighbourhood. To learn more consider attending an Open House this evening (May 8) from 5-8 pm at the Community Market, 245 Freshwater Rd. or fill out the survey. Go to <https://www.engagestjohns.ca/university-area-neighbourhood-plan>

Turn Debt into Hope Petition: Kairos, the ecumenical justice coalition of which the United Church is a part, has launched the Jubilee 2025: Turn Debt into Hope campaign. They are asking people to sign a petition to encourage governments to forgive the debt of the world's poorest nations. The petition is on the Social Action bulletin board in the foyer. Please consider signing. Kairos and the Canadian Council of Churches are trying to collect 100 thousand signatures in Canada and 10 million worldwide.

G7 People's Forum: This coming June 12-15, Kairos is hosting a People's Forum in Calgary. It is focused on the Jubilee 2025 Campaign, a year long push coordinated by the Canadian Council of Churches asking for governments to forgive the debt of the world's poorest countries. If you are going to be in Calgary, why not consider making the Forum part of your trip.

Wild Light Spiritual Oasis on May 18 at 3:00 pm: Our May gathering is a week early this month. We will meet in the parking lot of the Fluvarium for a meditation walk focused on trees. All are welcome

Easter Season Bible Study: Following up from our Lenten Bible Study, we will meet at 12:45 pm each Sunday during the Easter Season, began on April 27. The focus is on Resurrection and the Early Church.

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.

Follow this link to take part:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82667792442?pwd=AMc6XzwxdKVpDcpiGlbRQoUHnXbhw0.1>

Meeting ID: 826 6779 2442 Passcode: 401894

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.

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.

Memorial Hymn Sing: Sunday, May 25, 2025

Each year, we take time to remember our loved ones through the fellowship of song. By selecting a hymn in dedication to your loved ones, you are contributing to the life and work of our church, supporting and enhancing the various programs and activities that make St. James United Church the faith community that we love. St. James Guitar Group and our Music Director, Amy Dalziel, will provide the music.

Simply print and complete the form below or write out your requests on a sheet of paper with the required information. Drop them off with your cash or cheque payment (payable to “St. James United Church”) at the office, in the secure drop-box to the right of the office entrance, or by e-mailing them to info@stjamesuc.org. Payments can also be made by e-transfer to treasurer@stjamesuc.org.

Please ensure to note “Hymn Sing” on your envelope or in the subject line online.

Submission deadline: Monday, May 12, 2025

Hymn Selections from which to choose:

- 1. All the Way My Saviour Leads Me**
- 2. How Great Thou Art**
- 3. I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am Lord)**
- 4. In the Bulb There Is a Flower**
- 5. In the Garden**
- 6. Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore**
- 7. Morning Has Broken**
- 8. Precious Memories**
- 9. What a Friend We Have in Jesus**
- 10. Will Your Anchor Hold**

Name(s) of Contributor: _____

Envelope No. OR Address: _____

Donation: _____

Hymn Choice: _____

In memory of: _____

To contribute more “in memoriums”, please use a separate sheet for each, clearly attributing the contributor’s name to loved one’s name & selected hymn no.; amount; & envelope no. or address.

Silent Vigil: Wednesday, May 14, 2025

**SILENT VIGIL FOR
PEACE & JUSTICE**
EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
5:30 - 6:30 PM



INDIVIDUALS ARE FREE TO COME AND GO AS THEY WISH.
NO SLOGANS NO DISCUSSIONS NO SIGNS
SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY WAR.
ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH - 330 ELIZABETH AVENUE