



**St. James United Church**



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

### **Celebration of Worship for May 18, 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.

## May 18, 2025, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Asian and South Asian Heritage Month

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,  
Sheilah Beckett, Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir

Ushers: Mary and Brian Johnston, Jean Thompson,  
Marilyn Adams, and Susan Pike

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*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 Mi'kmawi'simk, French and Korean, and give thanks for the land as we commit to being a just and loving community for all.*

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

**INTROIT:** "You Tell Me That the Lord Is Risen" (VU 185, v. 1, 4)

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come together praying for a new creation:

**for the hope of tears wiped away and abundant life renewed.** We

come together committed to a new creation:

**to comfort the broken and to advocate for the voiceless.**

We come together in the blessings of a new creation:

**where God's reign of peace embraces every heart.**

#### **OPENING PRAYER** *(in unison)*

Creating and Creative God,

**your loving presence fills the universe,**

**no place in all of creation absented from your grace.**

**We come together in gratitude for this love**

**praying that you may mold our hearts in your compassion,**

**that we may honour you in all that we are while we wait**

**in hope for the new heaven and the new earth you promise.**

**In the name of the Risen Christ we pray. Amen**

\* **HYMN:** “Love Divine All Loves Excelling” (*Voices United* 333)

## **We Share**

**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](http://www.stjamesuc.org)), e-transfer (email [treasurer@stjamesuc.org](mailto: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**

### **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 21:1-6 and Acts 11:1-18.

\* **HYMN:** “God of the Sparrow” (*Voices United* 229)

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

From Judy Cannato, *Field of Compassion: How the New Cosmology Is Transforming Spiritual Life* (Sorin Books: 2010), 8.

# REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

## A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

**ANTHEM:** “The Risen Christ” (*N. Weaver/W. Gratorex*)

### We Respond

**CONFESSION OF FAITH** (From the Iona Community)

**We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire. We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst and shares our humanity. We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place: into action and vulnerability and into the streets. We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God’s new community of hope. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF CONCERN & SUNG PRAYER OF JESUS** (*VU 960*)

### We Leave to Serve

\* **HYMN:** “Draw the Circle Wide” (*More Voices 145*)

\* **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH:**

Risen with Christ: **we know the reassurance of God’s presence.**

Risen with Christ: **we accept the challenge to walk God’s way.**

Risen with Christ: **we are proof God’s life will never die.**

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

Go, for Christ is Risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

**POSTLUDE** (*You are invited to remain seated during the postlude*)

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## Life and Work – May 18, 2025

**We offer our sincere condolences to** the family of Carol Marie Smith who passed peacefully away on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. Carol faced a short but courageous battle with cancer. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. The funeral service had taken place at Barrett's Chapel at 11:00 am on Saturday, May 17, 2025.

**We accept the following Mother's Day donation:**

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

**Away for Study:** Beginning on May 23, Rev. James will be in Toronto for another class. He will return on June 7 in time to celebrate Pentecost on the morning of June 8 and the United Church's 100th Anniversary celebration at Gower United that same evening. While he is away, Rev. Rebecca will be available in the event of a pastoral emergency. Call the church or email [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org) for her contact information.

**Wild Light Spiritual Oasis on Sunday, 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

**AOTS Men's Club:** There is a men's club meeting at 12:30 for lunch served at 1:00 PM next Wednesday, May 21. New members are always welcome.

**Soup Luncheon Sunday, May 25:** Folks, we are happy to report that we will be hosting the Soup Luncheon on Sunday, May 25th. It was previously announced that the month of April would be the last luncheon until the fall, however, It was brought to our attention that a decision had been made by Church Council that it would continue up to the end of May.

To make the soup luncheon possible, we are once again asking for your support, if you are able and willing to provide a pot of soup or sweets, we are eternally grateful. Please contact Sheilah Beckett @ 709-726-7421 or Barbara Butt @ 709-687-1041. It appears that the luncheons draw us together in unity and friendship, so it is our pleasure to continue this tradition.

We will be taking a break for the summer months and will start up again in September, so stay tuned for the date to see what's in store for you. Thank you in advance for your continued support. *"No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted"* ~ Unknown~

**Celebrate with Quadrangle:** On May 24 at 7 pm, Quadrangle NL celebrates their 10th anniversary supporting members of the LGBTQ+ community, two of them in person at St. James. With gratitude for our ongoing support, they would love for members of St. James to attend. The event is at the Bella Vista and you can register for tickets at: <https://forms.office.com/r/YSbZN4ERp7>.

**Welcoming Guests:** On the weekend of June 7-8, our region is hosting several people from the General Council Office as we celebrate our 100th Anniversary as a denomination. We are receiving two guests for our morning celebration on June 8 - Rev. Jennifer Henry (who will be our guest preacher) and Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa. Then on the evening of June 8, it is the United Church's 100th Anniversary celebration at Gower United. You can attend in person (go very early to get a seat) or watch online (<https://www.youtube.com/live/bh4sW1kdpWo>).

**Bible Study:** For the rest of this season, we will look at the Book of Acts, exploring the following chapters.

May 18 (on site): Chapters 1-7

May 25 (via Zoom): Chapters 8-14

June 1 (via Zoom): Chapters 15-19

June 8 (on site): Chapters 20-28

To join on May 25 and June 1, you can click here

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85863880930?pwd=RPx5RXR1qMZKSYjMfQqkViyLvbQ3Pq.1>

## **Join Team Heather at the Kicking PancreAS 5K**

The Heather Cutler Foundation, in partnership with Craig's Cause Pancreatic Cancer Society, invites you to walk or run in support of pancreatic cancer research.

May 31 | 6:30 PM | Quidi Vidi Lake

Register at [craigscouse.ca/kp](https://craigscouse.ca/kp)