



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship for July 20, 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.

July 20, 2025, Pride Sunday (6th Sunday after Pentecost)

Leading Worship and Music: Betty Pilgrim,
Jennifer Whitfield, Amy Dalziel and Stephanie Russell
Ushers: Damien and Sascha Betts, Ovie Atamako,
Marilyn Adams and Jean Thompson

*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

*** SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

We extend welcome with a wave, a bow, a wish for God's blessings.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come together as church – faithful people of every colour, gender, class, sexual orientation, age, belief, identity and ability.

We come together as church to love and serve God.

We come together as an open, inclusive, affirming community, where all are welcome to be themselves with judgement or bias. **We come together to honour the diversity God has made.**

We come together to affirm the good news that there is a place for everyone in God's heart, at Christ's table, in the Spirit's grace. **We come together with hearts open to God and one another.**

OPENING PRAYER

Creating God,

you called us into being, delighting in all you have made!

All around us is the multicoloured wonder of your creation! That same diversity is present as we come together to pray. Be with us that our hearts be open to each other,

to all the identities, experiences, and ways of life we bring, and make us richer for them being brought together.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our brother and Lord. Amen.

* **HYMN:** “Let Us Build a House” (*More Voices 1*, v. 1, 2, 4 and 5)

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.*



* **HYMN:** “Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow” (*VU 541*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God
all creatures here below; give thanks to God in love
made known: Creator, Word and Spirit one.**

* **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: “All the Colours of the Rainbow” (by Carl P. Daw from *Songs of The Holy Other*; Tune: Abbot’s Leigh, *VU 260*)

**All the colours of the rainbow
live unseen in daily light,
but their splendours find expression
when released to human sight;
so the church reveals most beauty
where diversity is real:
breadth of race and class and gender,
room for doubt and space to heal.**

All the body’s parts are wanted,

**nor can one despise the rest:
head and hand must work together,
as must eye and ear and chest;
so the church needs all its members
for a range of ministries:
varied gifts with one great mission,
“Do this for the least of these”
Teach us, God our need of others;
through them help us fully live.
Wean us from our selfish habits;
let us listen, learn, forgive.
May we see your longed-for image
in each human heart and face,
and behold how those around us
can be channels of your grace.**

READING: Genesis 18:1-8

VIDEO REFLECTION #1

LIGHTING THE RED CANDLE

Let us affirm the worth and goodness of all,
As we celebrate the gift of life in all its diversity.

VIDEO REFLECTION #2

LIGHTING THE ORANGE CANDLE

Let us name the hurt that many people carry,
And give thanks for the healing that true welcome brings.

READING: John 15:12-17

VIDEO REFLECTION #3

LIGHTING THE YELLOW CANDLE

Let us open ourselves to the hope and promise of new life.
and affirm that we are each a gift of warmth and light.

VIDEO REFLECTION #4

LIGHTING THE GREEN CANDLE

Let us rejoice in wonder for the world around us,
and honour how we are strands of one web of creation.

VIDEO REFLECTION #5

LIGHTING THE BLUE CANDLE

Let us pray for a world that is divided and in deep conflict.
as we trust that true harmony begins with each one here.

READING: An excerpt from *She'shanu Betzelem Elohim*,
Rabbi Adam Rosenwasser

VIDEO REFLECTION #6

LIGHTING THE VIOLET CANDLE

Let us give thanks to the One who calls us together,
who joins us together in the Spirit of love.

SOLO: "We Walk in Love" (Deanna Witkowski) - Stephanie Russell

REAFFIRMATION OF OUR VISION (*see front of bulletin*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*Voices United*, p. 921)

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** "Draw the Circle Wide" (*More Voices* 145)

* **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

We go in the embrace of God who affirms each of us as we are.
We go in the grace of Christ who lived with compassion & care.
We go in the Spirit's vision of a world of justice and peace for all.
We go in the blessing of love that we may share the same.

POSTLUDE: *Please remain seated during the 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: 722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;
Emergency Cellphone: 709-351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org

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All worship services at St. James are Live Streamed via video for our online congregation. By participating in this service, you acknowledge that you may be visible on live broadcast or archived video. If you are uncomfortable about the possibility of appearing on video, please speak to an usher who can seat you in an area not visible on camera. You may also speak to Rev. James after the service if you have concerns. All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced/broadcast under ONE LICENSE. License #: #A-700000.

Life and Work – July 20, 2025

We accept the following donation to the General Protestant Cemetery:

* In memory of Husband, Art Downey, from Shirley Downey.

Away on Holiday: Our Office Administrator Stephanie will be away on holidays from July 22 to August 26th, 2025. Our new summer student Emma Rossiter will cover the office in her absence. The office hours are 8:30AM to 1:30PM Tuesday to Friday.

Tune into VOWR: This Sunday's service will be rebroadcast on VOWR on Sunday, July 20 at 7:00 PM. We welcome all those worshipping in person, watching via livestream, and those listening.

Summer Pause: Now that the warm weather has arrived we are on a break from a number of worship services and programs. There will not be Taize, Tapestry, InsideOUT, Pub Theology and Bible Study for July and August, each starting up again in September. The Silent Vigil for Peace and Justice will only be paused while Rev. James is away, scheduled to begin again at 5:30 pm on August 9. Wild Light Spiritual Oasis continues through the summer. The next gathering will be on July 27 at 3 pm, beginning in the Fluvarium parking lot.

Pride Worship Service, Parade and Festival: It is time to show our pride on July 20. There are a number of ways to do so this year.

1. Pride Worship Services 10 am at Gower Street United Church and 11 am at St. James United Church.
2. Pride Parade: The parade begins at 12 noon. Join our contingent from St. James as part of a larger joint parade entry of United Churches in Metro St. John's. Participants begin gathering at 10:30 am on New Gower Street out front of the City Hall, or watch along the route.
3. Pride in the Park: After the parade, there is a festival in the park. Come to Bannerman Park for the festivities. Drop by our table where we will be promoting Affirming United Churches as well as InsideOUT. Contact Rev. James if you would like to help with the table.

2025 Memorial Services:

The dates for the Memorial Services are as follows:

General Protestant Cemetery, Topsail Road

Monday, July 21, 2025 at 7 P.M.

Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 25 Beaumont Hamel Way

Monday, July 28, 2025 at 7 P.M.

Please note: In the event of inclement weather, the services will move ahead to 7 P.M. the next evening.