



St. James United Church
Belong • Grow • Serve
330 Elizabeth Ave,
St. John's, NL, A1B 1T9



Celebration of Worship for August 17, 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.

August 17, 2025, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,
Bob Rose and Glen Warren
Ushers: Brian Johnston, Mary Johnston, 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 AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We greet each other in Innu-aimun, French and Swahili and centre in God.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We acknowledge the land, Indigenous peoples, committing to full inclusion.

* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP *(inspired by Psalm 82)*

Give praise to God who presides over the earth,

who sits in divine council, judging the nations.

God cries out in defence of the weak and of the vulnerable;

calls us to uphold the rights of the lowly over the wicked.

Praise God, father and mother of everyone, not just the powerful.

We lift our voices as beloved children of the Most High!

OPENING PRAYER

God of every nation and people,
we praise you who love justice and hate oppression,
who bring peace to those who seek it.
Open our hearts to your grace in this time of worship,
and give us the courage to take a stand for the vulnerable.
May we not let fear or threat hold us back,
but in your strength follow the way of your servants,
especially of Jesus in whose name we pray. Amen.

HYMN: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (*Voices United 220*)

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 upon 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 AND GRACE**

We Listen and Respond

LEARNING TOGETHER

We explore themes of the day in a manner that is accessible to all ages.

* **HYMN:** “I Am a Child of God” (*More Voices* 157)

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

Isaiah 5:1-7 and Luke 12:51-56

* **HYMN:** “How Firm a Foundation” (*Voices United* 660)

READING: *At the end of the reading please say, “Thanks be to God”*
“In Praise of Mystery” by Ada Limón (this poem is engraved on NASA’s Europa Clipper space probe, launched in October of 2024.)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT: *We pause for a time of quiet reflection.*

SOLO: “On the Turning Away” (David Gilmour, Anthony Moore) – Glen Warren

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for the needs of our global and local communities.

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

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** “Go to the World” (*Voices United* 420)

* **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

May Christ who comes with transforming love, fill you with hope; and the blessing of God – Abba, Christ, and Spirit – be with you now, and remain with you always. **Amen.**
Go in that blessing to serve in love and to walk humbly with God.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

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