



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



## **Celebration of Worship for August 24, 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 24, 2025, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,  
Katie Vardy, Amy Dalziel and Jessica Willcott  
Ushers: Frances Reardon, Leah Kirk, Skyler Simpson,  
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 AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

*We greet each other in Mik'mawi'simk, French and Portuguese.*

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

*We acknowledge the land, Indigenous people, and commit to full inclusion.*

### \* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### REFLECTIVE MUSIC

### CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Psalm 103*)

Come, O people, and bless God, let us bless their holy name.

**We bless God with all that we are, giving thanks and praise.**

Let us bless them who is forgiving, who comes in steadfast love.

**We bless our redeemer & liberator, the one who renews us.**

We are uplifted then in spirit, able to fly like eagles.

**We fly in God's mercy, God who abounds in love and grace.**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious One, you are holy love,

**and as your children, call us to extend the same,  
to take what it means to be renewed in your mercy  
and to bless others as we have been blessed.**

**Forgive us. We have not uplifted others, closing our arms,  
closing our hearts, even as you held yours open for us.**

**Send your Spirit upon us, that we may be renewed  
and learn again how to extend your loving embrace.**

**In the welcoming name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN:** “Come In, Come In and Sit Down” (*Voices United* 395)

## **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](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 upon request.*

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

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God  
all creatures high and low; 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:** “There Is Room for All” (*More Voices* 62)

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

**Isaiah 58:9b-14; and Luke 14:1, 7-14**

\* **HYMN:** “Jesus, United by Your Grace” (*Voices United* 591)

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

**Sharon Brous, *The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend Our Broken Hearts and World.* (New York: Avery, 2024), 58-59 and 61.**

### **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS**

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

**SOLO:** Child of God (Mark Miller) – Jessica Willcott

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

## \* **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

May Christ who comes with welcoming 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.*

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### **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
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