



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



## **Celebration of Worship for August 3, 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 3, 2025, Emancipation Sunday  
(Eighth Sunday after Pentecost)**

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,  
Bob Rose and Jean Rose

Ushers: Harvey & Paul Diamond, Gerry King, 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**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP**

*We greet each other in Mik'mawi'simk, French & Fanti as we  
acknowledge the land and local Indigenous peoples, committing to  
full inclusion for all.*

**\* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**REFLECTIVE MUSIC**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*inspired by Psalm 107:1-9*)

We come together trusting in God who set us free,  
**who redeems the people in their trouble and distress.**

God hears the cry of those who are lost,  
**gathering the people together from every direction.**

Let us give thanks to God for their steadfast love,  
**for many ways God shows us mercy and care.**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Merciful and gracious God,  
**we give thanks this day for your redeeming love,  
a love that restores and liberates every people and nation.  
Open our hearts to your Spirit that as we pray together  
we may know more deeply your way of compassion  
and learn to extend to others your merciful hand.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, your holy child. Amen.**

**HYMN:** “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” (*Voices United 271*)

## **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 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:** “God of Freedom, God of Justice” (*Voices United* 700)

**READINGS:** Hosea 11:1-11 and Luke 12:13-21

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

\* **HYMN:** “I Have Called You by Your Name” (*More Voices* 161)

**READING:** “A Tribe Called Quest” by Ghanaian poet Kofi Amed.

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

### **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS**

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

**SOLO:** “Beauty for Brokenness” (Graham Kendrick) – Jean Rose

### **LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE AND RESTORATION**

*We give voice to the people who experienced the sin of enslavement as we commit to seek healing for the past and live in a way that liberates others.*

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

## We Leave to Serve

\* **HYMN:** “From the Slave Pens of the Delta” (*Voices United* 690)

**\* BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

May Christ who comes with liberating 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

Office: 722-1881, x200; Email: [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org);  
Emergency Cellphone: 709-351-0983; Website:  
[www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)

 [@StJamesUCNL](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesUCNL)

 [@stjamesuc](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesuc)

WiFi: StJamesGuest    WiFi Password: StJamesUC