



**St. James United Church**



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

## **Celebration of Worship for September 28, 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.

**Sept. 28, 2025, Reconciliation Sunday  
(Orange Shirt Sunday and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Creation)**

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,  
Canon Tom Mugford, Bob Rose and Sophie Angnatok  
Ushers: Gerry King, Judy Molyneux, Marilyn Adams,  
Jean Thompson, 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; LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE & KULLIK**

*We gather in love, greeting each other in Inuktitut, French & Finnish.  
We kindle both candle and traditional Inuit lamp to call us together in love.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP**

*We give thanks for the land, First Peoples and commit to full inclusion.*

\* **SHARING OF PEACE:** We greet others while also conscious of their comfort with touch. This time is concluded with a choral introit.

**REFLECTIVE MUSIC**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather in the name of Christ who came among us as a child,  
who challenged those who tried to bar a child from his blessing,  
who calls us to treat every child as a messenger of his love.

**We gather in the name of the church which failed to honour his  
command, especially failed Indigenous children forcibly raised in  
residential schools, barred from the blessing of their families,  
leaving childhoods stolen and hearts deeply broken.**

We gather in sadness, our hearts open to the Spirit's wisdom,  
to discover how to dismantle colonialism and seek reconciliation.

**We gather to pray for healing, so we who live in this land can build a future where all children are cherished and blessed.**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

God of deep compassion,

**we come together with aching hearts.**

**You have called us to follow the teachings of Jesus;**

**yet those same teachings were twisted**

**to burden with shame peoples that are blessed by you.**

**Be with us as we confront the actions of our ancestors,**

**are challenged too by the actions that are happening still,**

**that in your grace we seek reconciliation with all our relations.**

**We pray through Jesus, your blessing of reconciling love. Amen.**

**\* HYMN: “Spirit, Open My Heart” (*More Voices* 79)**

## **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: “For the Gift of Creation” (*Voices United* 538)**

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,**

**and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,**

**we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.**

**May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

**\* 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:** “Many and Great, O God Are Your Works” (VU 308)

**READINGS:** *At the end of each reading please say, “Thanks be to God.”*  
Micah 6:6-8; and Luke 24:13-35

**SOLO** *by Sophie Anagnatok*

## **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS**

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

\* **HYMN:** “Sisters Let Us Walk Together” (*More Voices* 179)

## **PRAYER FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**

*We honour those who attended Indian Residential Schools and pray for a renewed relationship between First Peoples, Settlers and Immigrants.*

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS** (VU p. 921)

### **We Leave to Serve**

\* **HYMN:** “God Who Spread the Boundless Prairie” (MV 53, *sung to tune for “God Who Gives to Life It’s Goodness” Abbot’s Leigh*)

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

Go in the blessing of God whose abundant loves hold all creation,  
in the companionship of Christ who encourages us in his loving way,  
in the power of the Spirit who draws us deeper into God’s kin-dom.  
Go in love for all our relations, seeking reconciliation and peace.

**We go in the love of Christ. 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
Co-Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Co- Music Director:	Bob Rose
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Office Administrator:	Stephanie Harnum
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

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