



**St. James United Church**



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

## **Celebration of Worship for September 7, 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. 7, 2025, First Sunday in the Season of Creation

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,  
Amy Dalziel and Benjamin James  
Ushers: Harvey Diamond, Paul Diamond,  
Marilyn, 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 AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

*We gather in love, greeting each other in Innu-aimun, French and Shona.*

### 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 139*)

Give praise and thanks to the One who made all of creation.

**Wonderful is God, and wonderful are all their works.**

Praise the One who knit us in our mother's wombs.

**Each and every one is fearfully and wonderfully made.**

God is ever with us and we are ever with God.

**We will worship the One who is ever present and true.**

### OPENING PRAYER

Ever-present God, **we come together to praise you,**

**grateful for your abundant and creative love.**

**No matter where we go or what we do,**

**your love encircles all life, gently guiding and blessing.  
May we honour this love in our worship and in our lives,  
as through your Spirit you form us with your Word.  
We pray in Jesus, the firstborn of all creation. Amen.**

**HYMN:** “We Praise You, Creator” (*Voices United 293*)

### **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 which we give.**

**\* PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND GRACE**

### **We Listen and Respond**

**\* HYMN:** “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go” (*Voices United 658*)

**READINGS:** *At the end of each reading please say, “Thanks be to God.”*  
Jeremiah 18:1-11; and Luke 14:25-33

**SOLO**

**REFLECTION ON THE READINGS**

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

\* **HYMN:** "Here, O, My Lord" (*Voices United* 459, v. 1-3)

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

We are invited to this table, joined together as a family Christ.

**We come as his siblings, a family both grateful and graced.**

## **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Open your hearts. **We open them to God.**

Let us give thanks. **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

It is good to praise you, Ever-present God. You made all that is, one beloved community where all of creation is kin. We thank you for this gift, calling us to be your holy people, to be a sign of your love in the world. We raise our voices in praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, ever-faithful God. Even when we forgot your call, you still loved us and called us back to righteousness, raising up holy prophets to remind us of your way, and in the fullness of time sending Jesus to proclaim your kin-dom and through the cross to open a way for all creation to know your reconciling love.

We thank you for all that he did, remembering how on the night before he died, he gathered with his friends where he took a loaf of bread, blessed and broke it, giving it to them saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you." Then at the end of the meal, he took a cup, and after blessing it passed it to his friends saying: "Take, drink. This cup poured out for you is the promise of God, made in my blood. Each time you do this, remember me."

Saving God, recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we long for the banquet of the age to come and so proclaim our hope:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Open our hearts to your Spirit within us and these gifts. Through them may you nurture the bonds we share and sustain us in our call to live out all it means to be in communion with you and each other. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Holy God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND FILLING THE CUP**

The bread we break, **is our sharing in the life of Christ.**

The cup we bless, **is our communion in the blood of Christ.**

### **SHARING IN COMMUNION**

*Everyone is welcome to share communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. Come to the front to receive the bread and grape juice (in a glass). Please tell us if you need gluten free. If you prefer a blessing, cross your arms over your chest to indicate as much. If you are unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you.*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**We give thanks Saving God, for the meal we have shared, for bread, for wine, for your nurturing grace, guiding us to life renewed, and the promise of your kin-dom for all. Amen.**

### **We Leave to Serve**

\* HYMN: “Here, O, My Lord” (*Voices United* 459, v. 4-5)

### **\* 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 God’s way, in the power of the Spirit who draws us deeper into God’s kin-dom. Go and tend the earth, bringing forth the fruits of righteousness.

**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

Office: 1-709-722-1881, x200; Email: [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org);  
Emergency Cellphone: 1-709-351-0983; Website:  
[www.stjamesuc.org](http://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.

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## Life and Work – September 7, 2025

**We offer our sincere condolences** to the family of Vincent John Wiltshire who passed away on August 25, 2025. The funeral was held on Friday, Sep 5th at Barrett's Chapel.

**We accept the following donation to the Maintenance Fund:**

\* In memory of Samuel Butt from Sister-in-law Barbara Butt

**After church coffee time:** will be resuming on Sunday, September 7 in the auditorium right after the service. We are looking forward to seeing everyone and hearing how their summer went.

**Soup Luncheons:** The Soup luncheon is starting up on Sunday, September 21st.

We are looking for donations of soup, and sweets, if you wish to contribute please reach out to any team member, Linda Babstock, 709-738-2891, Catherine Rose 709-763-2310, Sheilah Beckett 709-726-7421 or Barbara Butt 709-687-1041.

We are grateful for your continued support, generosity and kindness! Thank you!

**AOTS Men's Club:** There is a men's club meeting on September 17th at 12:30 for lunch served at 1:00 PM. New members are always welcome.

**Seeking Submissions for "The Visitor":** As we head into the fall, it is time to rev up church life again. And this includes getting ready for the next edition of "The Visitor". We are seeking submissions about what is coming up, be it a gathering, a new program, the work of a committee or ministry, along with interesting ideas you may have discovered over the summer, an anecdote you would like to share. We are asking for submissions by September 10. Please send to [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org).

**Honouring Our Languages and Cultures:** Beginning in September one of the readings in worship each Sunday will be read in a language other than English. It may be read in Fanti or Spanish, French or Chinese, or another of the many first languages other than English that are spoken within our congregation. The English version will be projected on the screen (both in the sanctuary and online) or you can follow along with one of the bibles in the pew or at home. The person reading will also offer a brief introduction about their culture. In this way we lift up the diversity of our community and get a chance to learn more about each other.

**Ushering:** Thank you to all who volunteered to help with ushering throughout the summer by signing up on the sheet in the vestibule. I have placed a new sheet on the wall in the vestibule for all who might like to sign up for the fall and winter season. Feel free to add your names when it might be convenient for you and your family. Or contact Susan by phone at 709-685-5613 or by email at [susanpike@warp.nfld.net](mailto:susanpike@warp.nfld.net). Thank you in advance.

**Financial Update to July 31, 2025:**

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Collection	112,349	95,649
Rentals	30,885	25,769
Other	<u>25,322</u>	<u>17,759</u>
Total Revenue	167,556	139,077
<b>Expenses</b>		
Church	81,725	87,481
Assessments	8,680	9,852
Committees	749	882
Salaries	<u>81,920</u>	<u>99,696</u>
Total Expenses	172,974	197,911
<b>New Loss</b>	<b>-5,418</b>	<b>-58,834</b>

We have done well for the first seven months with an increase in revenue and a decrease in expenses. Thank you everyone for your help in achieving this, now lets see what we can do over the next 5 months to finish off the year with a Net Income.

Finance Committee