



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship for October 26, 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.

October 26, 2025, Reformation Sunday

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Barbara Butt,
Jenny Ezeh, Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose, and the Senior Choir
Ushers: Gerry King, Harvey Diamond, Paul Diamond,
Jean Thompson and Marilyn Adams

*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 Farsi.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SHARING OF PEACE

INTROIT: “A Mighty Fortress” (*Voices United 262, V. 1, 4*)

CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Ps. 46, Martin Luther’s Favourite*)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

We will not fear though earth should change and sea should roar.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved.

God will help as morning dawns, the God of Jacob our refuge.

We behold the works of God, God who breaks the warrior’s bow.

“Be still,” God says, “I am exalted among the nations.”

We rest in God, our refuge and strength, our help in trouble.

OPENING PRAYER (*adapted from prayer written by John Knox*)

Gracious God, strengthen our faith.

**Kindle in our hearts greater fervour and love towards you,
and to our neighbours also.**

May we not receive your word in vain,

but grant us the assistance of your saving grace,

that in heart, word, and deed, we may sanctify your name. Amen.

HYMN: “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (*Voices United 326*)

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:** “In Gratitude & Humble Trust” (VU 544)

In gratitude and humble trust, we bring our best today to serve your cause and share your love with all along life’s way. O God, you give yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son, teach us to give ourselves each day until life’s work is done.

* **PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

We Listen and Respond

LEARNING TOGETHER

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

* **HYMN:** “Like a Rock” (*More Voices* 92)

PRAYER FOR HEALING AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, “Thanks be to God.”*
Joel 2:23-32 (read in Igbo) and Luke 18:9-14

* **HYMN:** “Breathe On Me, Breath of God” (*Voices United* 382)

READING: *At the end of the reading please say, “Thanks be to God.”*
Humorous retelling of excerpts from *The Journal of John Wesley* as found on “Hacking Christianity” <https://hackingchristianity.net/2018/10/wesley-didnt-say-it-persistence-and-preaching.html>

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

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

ANTHEM: “What Grace is Mine” (K. L. Getty/arr. L. Larson)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, PRAYER OF JESUS (VU p. 921)

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** “All the Way My Saviour Leads Me” (*Voices United* 635)

* **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

As we go forth from here may we be:

strong in spirit, courageous in will, and gentle of heart.

Each day may our actions be:

rooted in wisdom, nurtured by hope and open to love.

May we meet others as we would wish to be met:

**with a heart of compassion, in a spirit of healing,
and grounded in joy.**

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

Co-Directors of Music:

Amy Dalziel and Bob Rose

Technology Support:

Jake Thompson

Office Administrator:

Stephanie Harnum

Church Custodian:

Bruce Winsor

Office: 1-709-722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;
Emergency Cellphone: 1-709-351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



@StJamesUCNL



@stjamesuc

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

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. License #: #A-700000.

Life and Work – October 26, 2025

Rev. James' Study Time: Over the next month, Rev. James will be taking an extra day or two each week to work on a major paper. This is a comprehensive paper he is writing as part of his doctoral program. He will be around to prepare and lead the service, as well as for pastoral emergencies. He will also keep his Thursday office hours from 1PM to 3:30PM.

After Worship Bible Study: Rev. James will lead a Bible study each Sunday after the coffee time. This will be a chance to explore the lectionary readings in more detail. Gather in the library 30 minutes after worship for an hour-long study.

Harvest Afternoon Tea & Bake Sale: Saturday, November 8th 2-4 pm. Tickets \$10 and available at the church office 709-722-1881 and at the door.

Sponsored by the St. James Fundraising Committee

St. James United Church
330 Elizabeth Avenue

Harvest Tea & Bake Stall



St. James Auditorium

Saturday, Nov 8, 2025



Time: 2 – 4 pm Cost: \$10.00

Audio-visual Technician - Volunteer position: Interested in Technology and need your volunteer hours topped up? This could be the volunteer position for you!! The Audio-Visual Technician is responsible for the operation of the audio systems for worship services at St. James United Church. Candidate would be responsible for preparing the audio systems 1 hour prior to all services, sound checks, preparing the projector, loading and operation of the power point, and assistance to the livestream technician if needed. Training on our systems will be provided. If you or someone you know is interested please send along a resume to Susan Pike, Chair, Worship & Sacraments Committee by November 5th to susanpike@warp.nfld.net

St. James United 67th Anniversary Celebrations: Friday, November 21, 2025. Tickets can be purchased at the church office during office hours, by E-transfer at treasurer@stjamesuc.org or by Paypal. Also, tickets can be purchased from Jean Thompson (709) 728-5048 and Aubrey Hill (709) 726-8306.

The deadline to get your tickets is November 17th. For additional information please contact the church office at info@stjamesuc.org.

Donations for the treat walk and silent auction would be greatly appreciated! They can be dropped off to the church office up to November 20th.

