



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship for November 30, 2025



In Loving Memory of a Cherished Mother
Roma Paul
(November 30, 1938 - April 27, 2013)
From: Nancy & Anthony
*Your kind deeds and spreading of joy manifested the
Christmas spirit.
You will always be our guiding light.*

November 30, 2025 – First Sunday of Advent

Leading worship and music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,
Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir
Ushering: Shirley McNeil, Damien Betts, Sasha Betts,
Jean Thompson, Marilyn Adams and Susan Pike

*Please rise as you are able where there is an * in the service.
Print in **bold** indicates that the portion is read or sung by everyone.*

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME; LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We share greetings in Inuktitut, French & Lingala, and give thanks for the land upon which we gather as we commit to be an inclusive community.

SHARING OF PEACE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 1: On this first Sunday of the new church year, we gather in prayer to affirm not one but many advents:

Reader 2: We remember Jesus' birth over two thousand years ago; we wait in hope for his return in glory; and we look to the many ways he returns in our lives as wrongs are forgiven, love is shared and the human family walks together in God's grace.

Reader 1: And so we light a candle, the flickering of the flame reminding us to wait in active hope of the advent of Christ.

REFRAIN: “We Light This Candle” (*Then Let us Sing* 55 v.1)
We light this candle for hope. Await the new life within. May our hearts now live each day, (so hope can find a way x2)

OPENING PRAYER:

Come Holy One, and be with your people.
**We are prayerfully waiting for your advent among us.
Open our hearts through the gifting of your Spirit,
That we may be ready to receive Jesus, your Emmanuel,
born not only two thousand years ago,
but born also within us. In his name we pray. Amen.**

* **HYMN:** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (*VU* 1, v 1,2, 6 and 7)

We Share in Love

OUR LIFE AND WORK

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 the Bleak Midwinter” (*Voices United* 55 v. 4)
**What can I give him, poor as I am. If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.**

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

We Listen and Respond

MARKING WORLD AIDS DAY

We pause to pray for all those who are impacted by HIV and AIDS, lighting candles in memory of those who have died, in prayer for those of us who are living with the virus, and all who are seeking a cure.

* **HYMN:** "Bathe Me In Your Light" (*More Voices* 82, v 1 and 3)

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
Isaiah 2:1-5 and Matthew 24:36-44

* **HYMN:** "Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies" (*VU* 336, sung to *Dix*)

READING: *At the end of the reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
"Longing" by Steve Garnaas-Holmes (<https://unfoldinglife.net/2023/11/>)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

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

ANTHEM: "Let Us Light a Candle" by Richard Shephard

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

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*based on the original Aramaic*):

Radiant One: your Name shines within us, outside us - even darkness shines in you. Create your reign now, that your one desire acts with ours. Grant what we need each day in bread and insight. Forgive our hidden past, our secret shames, as we forgive what others hide. Keep us from forgetfulness, the temptation of false appearances and free us to walk your path with light and joy. For from you arises every vision; to you returns the birthing glory of the cosmos. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** "All Earth Is Waiting" (*Voices United* 5)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: Go forth in hope, waiting for the One we call Emmanuel!

All: We go, blessed in the assurance that God is with us!

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

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. All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced/ broadcast under ONE LICENSE.

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Life and Work – November 30, 2025

Anniversary Dinner: Thank you to everyone that attended the Anniversary Dinner, thank you to everyone that donated to the Auction and the Treat Walk. It was a fun night with the Treat Walk, people bidding against each other on the auction, a lovely meal and we raised \$2864.00. Thank you to everyone that helped make the night a success and a special thank you to the Finance Committee for organizing it.

Band Instruments: We are going to be going through our band instruments inventory and are considering rehoming them. We are aware some instruments were donated but the memorial book doesn't list specific instruments. If your family has donated an instrument in the past we are wanting to connect with you. Please contact Susan Pike susanpike@warp.nfld.net or Bob Rose robertharoldrose@gmail.com

Taizé Prayer Service: Wednesday (December 3) at 6:30pm. A time of readings, singing and silent reflection.

InsideOUT LGBTQIA+ Spirituality Gathering - Sunday, December 7 2025: InsideOUT is an LGBTQIA+ an opportunity to explore the intersection between queerness and spirituality. Held in the Quadrangle Outreach Room at 7:30PM

Tapestry: Saturday, December 13 @ 5:30PM. Beginning with a potluck at 5:30 pm, this service celebrates the strands that make us who we are in terms of faith, experience, and identity.

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.

Readers Required: If anyone is interested in helping out during Sunday worship services by doing readings, please see the sign up sheet in the vestibule or please contact Barry Cutler at (709) 685-9030 or by email at newfie_1_ca@yahoo.ca. Thank you

The Winter Newsletter "News From The Pews" is here!!

The Visitor is now completely online, so please visit the church website at www.stjamesuc.org to download your edition.

If you would like a paper copy, please contact the office.
Thank you to all who contributed.

Bring Your Own Addition to the Manger Scene: In the tradition of the little drummer boy, this year we want to expand our manger scene with added characters beyond Mary, Joseph, animals, shepherds and magi. You are invited to bring someone you feel should be there, someone who represents you or what you love. Perhaps it is a baker, Barbie, a fisherman, farmer, or even a teddy bear, your choice. You can bring it anytime, even on Christmas Eve, just be aware it will need to stay until the end of the season.

Baking Spirits Bright Bake Sale: Don't have time to bake your Christmas cookies, cakes or treats? Let us help you out! On Sunday, December 14th directly after the worship service we will be hosting a Christmas Bake sale, including breads, cookies, homemade fudge and more. Lunch we will be serving, baked beans, soup, hot dogs and sweets for a free-will offering. We are asking for donations of soup, chile, rolls and sweets. Please contact Jean at treasurer@stjamesuc.org, speak with one of the ushers on Sunday or email/call the church office at info@stjamesuc.org or 709-722-1881. We hope to see you all there. We are accepting donations for the bake sale on Saturday evening Dec 13th from 4 – 6 pm. All donations are welcome.

White Gift Sunday: It's the time of year for generosity and giving to those in need. As usual, St. James is collecting donations for Stella's Circle's clients! Donations can be made to St. James United Church Office. Please bring them in on Sunday, December 7th as they will be presented during the service. (See List on following page)

Christmas Wish List

Household Items

(New items only, please!)

- * Dishes
- * Non sticks pots & frying pans
- * Cutlery & utensils
- * Cutting board
- * Kettle
- * Toaster
- * Reusable food storage containers
- * Aluminium foil, plastic wrap
- * Dish cloths & pot cloths
- * Cups, mugs & glasses
- * Baking sheets
- * Dish racks
- * Casserole dishes
- * Can openers
- * Colander
- * New bed sheets (twin & double)
- * New blankets & pillows
- * New bath towels, hand towels & face cloths
- * Mops, buckets, brooms
- * Garbage bags
- * Household cleaners, rubber gloves
- * Laundry detergent & dryer sheets
- * Paper towels & toilet paper
- * Dish liquid
- * Light bulbs, batteries, candles
- * Reusable water bottles
- * New throw blankets
- * Alarm clocks

Gifts should be new & remain unwrapped.

Please package in reusable bags for delivery no heavier than 20 pounds for the safety of staff.

Personal Care Items

(New items only, please & for all adults)

- * Shampoo
- * Conditioner
- * Dry shampoo
- * Hairspray, mousses & gels
- * Hair brushes, combs & accessories
- * Deodorant
- * Razors, shaving creams & gels
- * Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss
- * Soap
- * Body wash
- * Moisturizer & hand lotion
- * Q-tips & tweezers
- * Lip balm
- * Nail care items (clippers, nail file)
- * Face cleanser
- * Make-up remover wipes
- * *Some unscented toiletries would be helpful*

Other Helpful Items

(New items only, please & for all adults)

- * Socks
- * Slippers
- * Underwear (sizes XS – 5X)
- * Pyjama/ pyjama bottoms (sizes XS – 5X)
- * Hats, gloves, mittens, scarves
- * New winter coats & jackets
- * Leggings of all sizes
- * New outdoor footwear
- * Backpacks & reuseable bags
- * Playing cards, games, colouring supplies
- * Movie passes
- * \$5 & \$10 Gift Cards (Dollarama, Sobeys etc)

Donations can be delivered to:

Employment Services
114 Cabot St, St. John's
Mon-Fri, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Housing Services
84 Prescott St, St. John's
Mon – Fri, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Emmanuel House
83 Cochrane St, St. John's
Mon – Sun, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Monetary Donations:
Stella's Circle Foundation
142 Military Road
St. John's, NL A1C 2E6

Questions? Please contact:
Craig Drover
709-738-7730
c.drover@StellasCircle.ca

Thank you!



MEMORY CHRISTMAS TREE FORM

At this time of the year, thoughts of our loved ones are never far from our minds. One of the ways we acknowledge this is through the Memory Tree. For a donation, a coloured bulb will be changed to a white one in memory or in celebration of loved ones. We often think of this in terms remembering those who have died but we also may have happy memories that we want to acknowledge, like the birth of a child, a graduation or perhaps an important anniversary. The money raised through your gift helps to fund the many projects and activities that make St. James the vibrant faith community we love. Please have your request into the office by noon on Friday, December 12 for inclusion in the Christmas Eve bulletin insert. Best wishes for a Christmas of peace, love and joy!

Donor's Name(s):

In Memory or Celebration of:

Address:

Donation of \$5 a bulb: \$ _____

Blue Christmas Service: Tuesday, December 16 at 7 pm.

A reflective service for those who need extra support or feel blue during the holidays, especially because of a recent death, illness, break up or any other loss.

**St. James United
Church Presents**

Blue Christmas Service

December 16, 2025

7:00pm

**330 Elizabeth Avenue,
St. James United Church**





THE GREAT CHRISTMAS VISIT



The Advent-Christmas season is a great time to connect with loved ones as we share with each other the hope made real in the birth of Jesus. While we visit family and friends, our hearts go out to people who may feel isolated or lonely at this time, especially members of St. James United Church who have trouble getting around or just having a harder time this year.

So...we invite you to take part in our "**Great Christmas Visit**"!

Simply sign up and you will be linked with one of our more senior members. Visit with them at some point between December 1, 2025 and January 6, 2026, extending to them the care of this faith community. Full instructions will be given to help you share this important ministry.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

In addition, if you know someone who would appreciate a visit, please list their name and contact information below.

Name of Person(s) to be visited: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

**Thank you for sharing your gift of time
this Advent-Christmas!**

