



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship: January 4, 2026



January 4, 2026, Last Sunday of Christmas

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Bob Rose,
David Kellerher-Flight and the Senior Choir

Ushering: Brian Johnston, Mary Johnston, Marilyn Adams,
Susan Pike and Jean Thompson

*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

WELCOME; LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We share greetings in Innu-aimun, French and Portuguese, and give thanks for the land upon which we gather as we commit to be inclusive.

SHARING OF PEACE

INTROIT: “When Heaven’s Bright with Mystery” (VU 93 v.1)

CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHTING

As we conclude our celebration of Christmas, we pray the glow of God’s light revealed in Jesus’ birth may continue to shine in us.

REFRAIN: We light this candle for Christ.

Await the new life within. May our hearts now live each day, so Christ can find a way, so Christ can find a way.

OPENING PRAYER

God of Promise, let your Spirit burn in our hearts;

And let your love glow brightly in our world.

**May the light Jesus brings shine in our hearts,
a sign that we are all God’s Beloved.**

We pray in the name of Jesus whose birth we celebrate. Amen.

* **HYMN:** “O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word” (Voices United 84)

We Share in Love

OUR LIFE AND WORK: *We share about upcoming events and other items of interest to the congregation and to the wider community.*

OFFERTORY: *There are many ways to give to St. James. You can place an offering in the plate, scan the QR code on the left, contribute via PAR, website (www.stjamesuc.org), e-transfer (email treasurer@stjamesuc.org), mail to the church office or drop in our secure mailbox. In whatever way you choose to give, the community is grateful.*



* **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 AND GRACE

We Listen and Respond

RENEWAL OF COVENANT FOR THE NEW YEAR:

As we begin a new year..., pledging to be like Jesus.

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will. Let me be employed or laid aside for you, exalted or brought low for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to you. And now, O God, Father, Son and Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

ANTHEM: "Epiphany Alleluias" (*John Weaver*)

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*

Isaiah 60:1-5; and John 1:1-14

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

* **HYMN:** "In the Darkness Shines the Splendour" (*Voices United 92*)

WELCOMING ALL TO THE TABLE

Jesus' birth was a gift of hope to the world. We experience that hope as we pray together, for he is present, bringing us peace.

He is with us as we share in table fellowship. As we break bread and share the cup, may we know his love and his joy.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is here.

God is within and all around us.

Open your hearts.

We gladly open them to God.

Let us give thanks.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

It is good to give thanks Holy One. On this day our hearts are filled with joy. Your love is revealed in the birth of your Promised Child, a gift not only to his own people but all nations, revealing the light of your wisdom and love to a world in need of both. And so we join the angels and echo their song of wonder and praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of hosts, all praise be given!
All your glory fills the earth; all your power fills the heavens.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Blessed is the one who came,
bringing love and light divine. Blessed is the one who comes
through this meal of bread and wine. Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**
(Sing to tune for "Angels We Have Heard on High")

We give thanks for this child grew in wisdom and went on to announce your saving reign, proclaiming your hope in word and deed as he healed the sick, confronted the comfortable, revealed your mercy and love to a needy world. He embodied this love on the night before he died, when at table he took bread and offered you thanks. Then he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body, given for you." Likewise he took the cup and offered you thanks. Then he gave it to them, saying, "This is a sign of the new covenant in my blood. Do this in memory of me."

Holy One, we obey your Son's command. We celebrate his birth, give thanks for his life, proclaim his death and resurrection as we wait in hope for the coming of his kingdom.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. (x2)
(Sing to the tune of "What Child Is This")

Made one with him, we offer these gifts and ourselves, praying that you may send your Spirit upon them both, that they may be our sharing in Christ and we may grow in his likeness. Nourished by this holy meal, may we seek his presence in the world around us, and be his presence, embodying his reign of love and peace.

Holy One we offer praise: through your Word made flesh, in the power of your life-giving Spirit, all glory is yours, forever and ever.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen. (x2)

(Sing to the tune of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly")

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*Voices United* p. 918)

SHARING COMMUNION

We share the bread of life, **and that life is the light of the world.**

We share the fruit of the vine, **love poured out that all may live.**

Everyone is welcome to receive communion. A gluten free option is available for those with a gluten allergy. The 'wine' is non-alcoholic. For those who need to stay seated, someone will bring communion to you. During communion, David Kellerher-Flight will sing a solo.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and Saving God, we celebrate the gift of your grace in the birth of Jesus. In him your love is extended to all people. May this meal strengthen us as messengers of his mercy in the world. We pray in the name of Jesus, your holy child. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** "Joy Is Now In Every Place" (*Voices United* 45)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

The One we call the Light of the World has been born for us!

Let us go with love in our hearts to share this good news!

We go, blessed to be a blessing to others!

POSTLUDE - *Please remain seated during the postlude.*

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 – January 4, 2026:

InsideOUT LGBTQIA+ Spirituality Gathering - Sunday, January 4, 2026:

InsideOUT is an LGBTQIA+ an opportunity to explore the intersection between queerness and spirituality. Held in the Quadrangle Outreach Room at 7:30PM

Tune into VOWR: Today's service will be rebroadcast on VOWR at 7:00 PM. We welcome all those worshipping in person, watching via livestream, and those listening.

We accept the following donations from the General Fund:

*In memory of Ron and Nina Abbott from Terry and Debbie Abbott

*In loving memory of my parents, William and Ruby Vallis, from daughter Betty and family

We accept the following donation to the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Camp Fund:

*In loving memory of Bethany and remembering her Birthday on January 8th. Love Stephen, Susan, Rebecca, Kyle and Micah

*In memory of Bethany from Theresa Rahal and Horace Noseworthy

The UCW made our annual Christmas outreach donations this year to Stella's Circle (Tim Horton's gift cards), Bridges to Hope (monetary donation), Iris Kirby House (diapers, wipes and pillows), and to the M&S Fund. We would like to thank all those who support our fundraising efforts and will continue to do so. It is giving gifts such as these to those in need that fill our hearts during this Christmas season.

Taizé Prayer Service: Wednesday (January 7) at 6:30pm. A time of readings, singing and silent reflection.

Tapestry: Saturday, January 10 @ 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.

Buckle up for a joyride down memory lane with Spirit of Newfoundland's latest musical comedy, "Shift Happens...at 100 Smiles per Hour"! On February 26, 2026, Gower Theatre doors open at 6:30 p.m.

 Dinner, Show, and Non-Stop Entertainment – All for just \$120 per person!

This is your chance to grab your spot for an unforgettable night filled with laughter, community, and music!

Bypass the downtown parking, park at St. James and avail of our taxi service to Gower St UC. Please enquire about our childcare availability. Dietary considerations available upon request. Tax receipts (\$50.00 per ticket) will be issued for the charitable portion of the ticket.

Tickets are selling fast, so get yours today by contacting the church office by phone or email. Payment is due at the time of purchase via cheque, e-transfer, or cash.

 Hosted by Gower Street United Church, St. James United Church, and Cowan Heights United Church, proceeds will be shared between the three churches in support of their ministries. 

UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31st, 11am to 3pm: "FROM OUR CLOSET TO YOURS"

A one day pop up boutique of ladies and men's good quality/ gently used clothing, shoes/boots, handbags and accessories.

ADMISSION \$2

Donations of goods is greatly appreciated, they can be dropped off at the church on Friday, January 30th between the hours of 11am and 2 pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15th 2pm-4 pm: CONCERT. Details to follow.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6th & AUGUST 29th: RUMMAGE SALE. Details to follow