



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship: January 18, 2026



The people of St. James United Church are eternal seekers who value diversity within our congregation, our 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.

January 18, 2026, Second Sunday after Epiphany

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Owen Sinyard, Amy Dalziel,
Bob Rose, the Senior Choir and Heather McMaster
Ushers: Ovie Atamako, Wisdom Edhonion,
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 Inuktitut, French and Finnish, and give thanks for the land upon which we gather as we commit to be inclusive.

SHARING OF PEACE

INTROIT: “Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Psalm 40:1-11*)

We come together in prayer, perhaps feeling bogged down and in need of help, perhaps more secure as we stand on solid ground.

However we feel, we wait on God; patiently seek their aid.

We recall God’s saving deeds, remember help in seasons past.

And so we sing songs of praise, placing our trust in God.

We will not turn from God and align with the haughty and proud.

We proclaim God’s steadfast love, trust their mercy always.

OPENING PRAYER

God of steadfast mercy and grace,

**we come together with open hearts, ready to seek you
and the wisdom you revealed in your eternal Christ.**

**Send your Spirit upon us, enlightening our minds and hearts,
that we may be strengthened to walk your path,
and in so word and deed manifest your faithful love.**

We pray in the name of Jesus, your eternal Lamb.

Amen.

* **HYMN:** “Come to My Heart” (*Voices United* 661)

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:** “When Heaven’s Bright with Mystery” (*VU* 93, v. 4)
When heaven’s bright with mystery and stars still lead an unknown way, when love still lights a gentle path where courts of power can hold no sway, there with the Magi, let us kneel, our gifts to share, God’s world to heal.

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:** “Take, O Take me As I Am” (*More Voices* 85)

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, “Thanks be to God.”*
Isaiah 49:1-7 and John 1:29-42

* **HYMN:** “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” (*VU* 378)

READING: *At the end of the reading please say, “Thanks be to God.”*
From Tara Bach, *Trusting the Gold: Uncovering Your Natural Goodness* (Louisville, Colorado: Sounds True: 2021), 1–2.

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

ANTHEM: "Here I Am Lord"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for the needs of our global and local communities.

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

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** "I Have Called You by Your Name" (*More Voices* 161)

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

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 & Bob Rose
Office Administrator	Stephanie Harnum
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
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

Life and Work – January 18, 2026:

We accept the following donation to the Music Fund:

* In loving memory of Harvey Weir from the Guitar Group

We accept the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:

* In loving memory of Husband Bas Jamieson from Lorna Jamieson

AOTS Men's Club: The men's club will meet 12:30 for 1:00 on Wednesday, January 21. New members are always welcome. Why not consider joining the group? we would love it if you would!

Meditation for Busy People, each Wednesday, 5:45-6:30 pm: Who doesn't need a moment of peace and centered calm in the midst of our busy world. Come each week for a time of quiet meditation in the Christian tradition. Don't worry if you have never practiced Christian meditation. Rev. James will teach you how.

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.

ONE DAY POP UP BOUTIQUE:

"FROM OUR CLOSET TO YOURS"

GOOD QUALITY & GENTLY USED LADIES & MENS CLOTHING
SHOES, BOOTS, HANDBAGS AND ACCESSORIES
EXCELLENT PRICES! *CASH SALE ONLY*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST

ST.JAMES UNITED CHURCH (AUDITORIUM)
330 ELIZABETH AVE
ST.JOHN'S NL
11 AM - 3 PM
ADMISSION: \$2

GET YOUR TICKETS FOR SHIFT HAPPENS, MUSICAL COMEDY!

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! Get yours today by contacting the St. James church office by phone or email at info@stjamesuc.org or 722-1881. 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. 

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

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: January 18 begins this annual week of prayer. This special service is hosted by Cowan Heights United Church on January 25 at 2pm.

Bridges to Hope: For 2026, Bridges to Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month. Of course, this item, and other non-perishable food items, can be given any other Sunday as well. These items are staples in the food hampers distributed and will go a long way to ensuring that hampers can be filled. The item for January is ***Canned Meat***