



**St. James United Church**



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

### **Celebration of Worship: January 11, 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 11, 2026, Baptism of Jesus Sunday**  
(First Sunday after Epiphany)

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Paul Walsh, Bob Rose  
and Jean Rose

Ushers: Jena Earle, Riley Ford, Marilyn Adams,  
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

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*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 Mi'kmawí'simk, French and Tagalog, and give thanks for the land upon which we gather as we commit to be inclusive.*

**SHARING OF PEACE:** *We greet others while conscious of their comfort with touch. This time is concluded with an instrumental introit.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(inspired by Psalm 29)*

The voice of the Holy One spoke the cosmos into being.

**We come to celebrate God's creative presence around us.**

The voice of the Holy One was enfleshed in the life of Jesus.

**We come to give thanks for Christ's abiding companionship.**

The voice of the Holy One still echoes deep within and between us.

**We come to live in the gift of the Spirit's all-embracing grace.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Holy One, we hear your voice - within us, between us, around us.

**It is a voice of love, proclaiming us in Christ as your beloved.**

**This claim is not for us alone but challenges us to care,  
to reach out with compassion and to stand up for others.**

**We hear your voice but don't always respond,  
thinking we know best, unsure what to do, afraid to act. Thank you  
for still speaking, still claiming us as your own,  
extending mercy, offering wisdom, instilling courage.**

**May this time of worship and prayer be one of listening  
- to you, to each other, to those who need us to hear them.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus, your first beloved. Amen.**

**\*HYMN:** “Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized” (VU 99)

## 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](http://www.stjamesuc.org)), e-transfer (email [treasurer@stjamesuc.org](mailto: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 42:1-9 and Matthew 3:13-17

**\*HYMN:** “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” (*Voices United* 101)

**READING:** *At the end of the reading please say, “Thanks be to God.”*

Illia Delio, *The Hours of the Universe* (Orbis Books: 2021), 41-42, 43

#### **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS**

**SOLO:** “Mary Did You Know”

## **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:** “Arise, Your Light Is Come” (*Voices United* 79)

## **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**

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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-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](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org);  
Emergency Cellphone: 1-709-351-0983; Website: [www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)



@StJamesUCNL



@stjamesuc

## Life and Work – January 11, 2026:

### **We accept the following donations from the General Fund:**

\*Belated Birthday wishes, December 26, to Claire Higdon from Stephen O'Dea

### **We accept the following donation to the Memory Tree:**

\*In memory of Grace Howell from DRs, Karen and Michael Woolfrey

**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.

**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](mailto:newfie_1_ca@yahoo.ca). Thank you

### **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, MUSIC 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 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.

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**