



**St. James United Church**



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

### **Celebration of Worship: February 8, 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.

## February 8, 2026, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Riley Ford,  
Bob Rose and the St. James Quartet  
Ushers: Bill and Cindy Pike, Jean Thompson,  
Marilyn Adams 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

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME; LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*We share greetings in Innu-aimun, French and Twi as we give thanks for the land and commit ourselves to be a truly inclusive community.*

#### SHARING OF PEACE

**INTROIT:** “Jesus Bids Us Shine” (VU 585, v. 1 and 3)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*adapted from Psalm 112*)

Blessed are those who honour God and follow their way.

**We honour God’s way as do our children and grandchildren.**

God’s teaching is like the dawn arriving after a long, dark night.

**It is the light of mercy, the dawn of compassion and justice.**

Those who walk in this light have no need to be afraid.

**We will walk in this light and so will never be shaken.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

Perfect Light of revelation,

**we give thanks for your grace, shining in the life of Jesus.**

**As he was attentive to the wisdom of your word,**

**open our hearts that we may be attentive too.**

**Through the gifting of your Spirit,**

**may we become your dawn, and enlighten the world**

**through your justice and mercy,**

**our deeds offered in Jesus, your revelation and light.**

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN:** “Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom” (*More Voices* 10)

## 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 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.”*

1 Corinthians 2:1-16 and Matthew 5:13-20

**\*HYMN:** “I Am the Light of the World” (*Voices United* 87)

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

“Alone” by Maya Angelou

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

**ANTHEM:** “Steal Away” (*African American Spiritual*)

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PRAYER OF JESUS (VU p. 918)

## We Leave to Serve

\*HYMN: "He Leadeth Me" (*Voices United* 657)

### **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*

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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

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WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

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