



**St. James United Church**



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

### **Celebration of Worship: February 22, 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.

In Loving Memory of:  
*son Brian and husband Clyde Taylor*  
with love from wife Helen and family

## **February 22, 2026: The First Sunday in Lent**

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Jalna McMaster,  
Paul Walsh, Bob Rose and the Guitar Group.  
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**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **WELCOME; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP**

*We say welcome in Innu, French & Yoruba and give thanks for the land.*

#### **SHARING OF PEACE**

**INTROIT:** “How Great Thou Art”

**WORDS TO CENTRE US:** “Postcard from Gone” by Leila Chatti

**CENTRING HYMN:** “Come and Journey with a Saviour” (*seated*)

**Come and journey with a Saviour who has called us  
from our birth, who has washed us in the waters,  
and who loved us on the earth.**

***Refrain: Come and journey, come and journey  
with a Saviour who has come.***

***We are all God's sons and daughters;  
in the Spirit we are one.***

**Come and journey, journey inward, come and seek him  
deep within, where he meets us in our living,  
in our striving and our sin. *Refrain* (used with permission)**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Source of all Love, to you we draw near,  
hearing Jesus beckon to us in this holy time  
to come to know you more fully. As we seek to know you,  
may we also come to know ourselves,  
both as individuals and as a community of disciples.  
We pray in the name of the One calling us to follow him. Amen.

## **We Share**

**OUR LIFE AND WORK:** *We share what is going on in our 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:** “Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery” (VU 121, v 4)  
**Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit, come inflame our hearts anew,  
we may all your joy inherit (if we bear the cross with you x2)**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** *Each week we use a different gesture as we acknowledge where we need healing and forgiveness in our lives. Today we hold our hands in front of us like we are looking in a mirror. We begin and conclude the prayer by singing “Kyrie Eleison” (VU 945).*

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS** *(based on the spoken language of Jesus)*  
**Name of names, our small identity unravels in you; you give it back as a lesson. Help us let go, clear the space inside, so your Name comes to live. Let your counsel rule our lives, clearing our intention for co-creation. Help us love beyond our ideals with acts of compassion for all. Give us the food we need to grow each day; untangle the knots within so we can mend our hearts’ ties with others. Don’t let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back. From you is born all will, from age to age renewed. Amen.**

## **We Listen**

\* **HYMN:** "What a Friend We have in Jesus" (*Voices United* 664)

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

Genesis 2:15-17 and 3:1-7; John 1:40-51

**ANTHEM:** "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

## **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS**

### **We Respond**

\* **HYMN:** "Softly and Tenderly"

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling  
Calling for you and for me  
See on the portal He's watching and waiting  
Waiting for you and for me**

***Chorus:***

***Come home come home  
Ye who are weary come home  
Earnestly tenderly Jesus is calling  
Calling o sinner come home (repeat last line x2)***

**Why should we linger when Jesus is pleading  
Pleading for you and for me  
Why should we wait then and heed not His mercies  
Mercies for you and for me**

***Chorus***

**Oh for the wonderful love he has promised  
Promised for you and for me  
Though we have sinned He has mercy and pardon  
Pardon for you and for me**

***Chorus***

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

One: Jesus shared meals with saints and sinners, the faithful and doubting, revealing God's healing and reconciling love to all.

**All: As we prepare to share in this meal together, may we know that God's love and life surround and renew us.**

## **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Open your hearts. **We gladly open them to God.**

Let us give thanks. **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

It is good to praise you, Holy God, as we gather for this sacred meal, seeking nourishment for our Lenten journey. You are a God of grace, bringing fresh insight in these days of renewal, helping us discover anew your gift of relationship, a pledge of love given to our first parents and renewed again and again. No matter our failings, you consistently call us back, inviting us to repentance through your prophets and through Jesus offering a promise of forgiveness and new life. Grateful for your faithful love we join with all who have gone before us in their chorus of praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest.**

Even now, you renew your pledge, Gracious God, as we gather in remembrance of Jesus. We recall especially how on the night before he died, he shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed it and gave it to them saying, "This is my body, given for you." In the same way at the end of the meal he took the cup, blessed it and gave it to them saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant in my life's blood. Whenever you do this, remember me."

Recalling his death and resurrection, affirming his promise of abiding presence, we proclaim the mystery of your love:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

Enlivening God, as we continue to celebrate his memory, we honour your abiding presence with us. Open our hearts to your Spirit with us and in this meal. May all who share this living bread and saving cup be renewed in your covenant and affirmed in your love. Creator God, we praise you, through Your Word made flesh, in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SHARING IN COMMUNION**

This is the bread of life, **may it bring strength for the journey.**

This the fruit of the vine, **may it remind us of the journey's end.**

*There is a station for bread and side stations with juice in small glasses. Consume both before returning to your seat. If you are unable to come*

*forward to share communion, someone will bring it to you. If you'd prefer a blessing, cross your arms over your chest as a sign of that request.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

Spirit of grace and blessing, **in our sharing of bread and wine, you bring us nourishment for the journey. Strengthen us in these coming days & renew us in our devotion to you. Amen.**

## **We Leave to Serve**

**HYMN:** "Blessed Assurance" (*Voices United 337*)

## **BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH:**

One: As we go from here in this time of self reflection,

**All: may we be blessed in also knowing Jesus more deeply.**

One: May we follow along the path he has walked before us,

**All: arriving at Easter in a spirit of renewed hope and joy.**

## **POSTLUDE AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES**

*During the postlude, those who wish may come forward to have a small cross in ash traced on their forehead or hand as a way to begin Lent.*

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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
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Office Administrator:	Stephanie Harnum
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)

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WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

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. **License #: #A-700000.**

## Life and Work – February 22, 2026

### **We acknowledge the following donation to the Memorial Fund:**

\* In memory of Flora Clouter from UCW

### **We acknowledge the following donation to the Music Program:**

\* In memory of Harvey Weir on his Valentine Birthday from Gail Weir and family

**Meditation:** Each Wednesday, 5:45-6:30 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm). Come each week for a time of quiet meditation in the Christian tradition. Don't worry if you've never practiced Christian meditation. Rev. James will teach you how.

**Bible Study:** Each Sunday after coffee time, Rev. James leads a bible study. This is a chance to explore the readings heard in worship in more detail.

**A thought of the week:** The good you do may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

**News from the Pews:** The News from the Pews newsletter is completely online, so please visit the church website at [www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org) to download your edition. If you would like a paper copy, please contact the office. Thank you to all who contributed.

**AOTS Meeting:** Our Men's Club meeting is on Wednesday February 25, 12:30 for 1:00 start. Special guest Rev. Guy Matthews will be speaking on Cardiac Care and his recent Transplant experience. New members always welcome.

**We are seeking your input:** As announced last fall, our Strategic Planning Committee is coordinating a "Listening Stage" to help us discern the future ministry needs and opportunities in our corner of St. John's, especially in terms of our people, programs and property. As we focus on Vision and Renewal in Lent, we are asking every person who calls St. James home to share their thoughts. We particularly want to hear your perspective on the relationship between our mission and our physical space.

**As you reflect, please consider:** Is your vision for the future of St. James fundamentally linked to our current physical property and building? Or do you see our "Growth and Renewal" taking a different shape as we adapt to the needs of the 21st century? There are no wrong answers—only honest reflections.

## **How to Submit:**

- Drop off: Leave your written thoughts at the Church Office.
- Email: Send your reflections to [change@stjamesuc.org](mailto:change@stjamesuc.org) with the subject line: My Vision.

## **Sharing Our Collective Vision:**

To inspire one another, received "My Vision" documents will be shared publicly with the congregation through postings in the church, inclusion in weekly bulletins, and future newsletters (*with all submissions anonymized, the author's name redacted to ensure privacy, unless you explicitly state in your submission that you wish for your name to be included.*)

**Sharing Leadership:** Would you like to share your gifts and insights on the church board or on a committee? There are some positions that you may want to consider.

**Church Board - Member at large:** This person comes from the congregation as a whole and so brings insights from our shared life and not a particular committee.

**Church Board - Spiritual Growth and Discipleship Liaison:** This person acts as a bridge between the Board and committees/teams that are focused on spirituality and faith, such as Worship & Sacraments, Faith Formation, and the Senior Choir.

**Church Board - Congregational Life and Leadership Liaison:** This person acts as a bridge between the Board and committees/teams that are focused on how we support each other such as Stewardship, Pastoral Care and groups like the UCW.

**Stewardship Committee:** This committee is all about how we share our gifts in support of our shared life, not just financially but also with our time and passions.

**Faith Formation Team:** This group supports people's faith development across generations. It coordinates efforts like Bible Study, Pub Theology and Small Groups.

**Social and Eco Action Team:** This group helps us live into our call to make the world a better place, supporting social justice and environmental justice efforts.

**Pastoral Care Team:** This group facilitates our call as a congregation to support one another in times of need such as illness and bereavement.

Diversity Team: This group helps us continue our efforts to be fully inclusive.

**Communications Team:** This group facilitates how we communicate with each other and the wider community through our newsletter, website and other media.

**Volunteer Coordination Team:** This small coordinating group raises awareness about volunteer opportunities, matching needs with people's interests.

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can share your gifts and talents in support of our shared life as St. James United Church.

### **New Addition to the Church**

We are pleased to accept a new member to St. James, A Square Machine. This was donated by a family from St. James. The Square will allow you to make donations, pay for tickets, purchase items at a sale or anything that you need to pay for at the church. If you don't have cash, we will now accept credit cards and debit cards. It will be available on Sunday mornings - just ask an usher, at the office throughout the week and when there is an event held at the church it will be there. If you have any questions, please call the church office.



**St. James United Church St. Patrick's Day Concert:** A reminder that the St. Patrick Day Concert performance by Hamilton Sound and Bud Davidge is coming up on Sunday, March 15th from 2 pm to 3:30 pm. This promises to be a great concert and an opportunity to generate revenue for the church. Tickets are \$35 and are available by calling the church office 709-722-1881 or emailing [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org) Tuesdays to Fridays from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. (Please note that the church office is closed at 1:30 pm.)

Tickets will also be available in the church foyer each Sunday leading up to the concert. If you don't carry cash not to worry we do have a Square machine so you can tap with your debit or credit card. Please share with your friends, we need all your support!...Thank you!

**Save the Date!** The UCW will be hosting our annual *Spring Tea and Bake Sale* on **Saturday, April 11th from 2pm - 4pm**. Come and enjoy sandwiches, cookies and tea or coffee for \$10, get your baked goods and a chance to win a beautiful basket of items! As in previous years, we will be looking for help from members of the congregation and we will be reaching out soon. We know we can always count on our church family to support our fundraising efforts that are used to fund our church and outreach initiatives. If you would like to volunteer to help, please reach out to Betty Pilgrim or Donna Downey.

# ◆ CHURCH EVENTS 2026 ◆

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Feb. 26 - Thursday	Spirit of NL Show
Mar. 15 - Sunday	Hamilton Sound Concert
Mar. 15 - Sunday	Luncheon
Mar. 22 - Sunday	Annual Congregational Meeting
Apr. 5 - Sunday	Easter Breakfast 9AM
Apr. 11 - Saturday	UCW Spring Sale
Apr. 19 - Sunday	Luncheon
Apr. 24 - Friday	AOTS Fish Dinner 6PM
May 17 - Sunday	Luncheon
June 6 - Saturday	Rummage Sale
Aug. 29 - Saturday	Rummage Sale
Sept. 20 - Sunday	Luncheon
Oct. 18 - Sunday	Luncheon
Nov. 15 - Sunday	Luncheon
Nov. 20 - Friday	Anniversary Dinner
Dec. 20 - Sunday	Baking Spirits Bright & Soup Luncheon



**Don't forget the church in your will.**