



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

**Celebration of Worship: March 1, 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  
**Brother: E. Desmond Butt, P. Eng.,**  
**(April 14, 1948 – March 5, 2018)**  
From sisters Glenda Winsor and Gloria Le Feuvre and families.

## **March 1, 2026: Second Sunday in Lent**

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Heather McMaster,  
Isabel Woelfel, Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose, Senior Choir  
Ushers: Tim and Paula Reynolds, 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 welcome in Míkmaqísimk, French & German and honour the land.*

#### **SHARING OF PEACE**

**INTROIT:** “Confitemini Domino” (MV 16) - *Taize Chant*

**WORDS TO CENTRE US:** “Trust Your Vision” by Stephen Levine

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

**Come and journey, journey inward, come and seek Christ deep  
within, where he meets us in our living,  
in our striving and our sin.**

***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 outward, telling others  
of his name, telling others of his glory,  
of his cross and of the shame. *Refrain***

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Companioning God, **you bring to birth a pilgrim people, instilling in us a vision and inviting us on a journey with you. We sometimes grow tired and lose sight of the road ahead. Be with us and guide us on, reminding us of what is possible when we place our trust in you and follow the way that leads to fullness of life in you. We pray in the name of Jesus who is with us on the way. 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 AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

*Each week we use a different gesture as we name where we need forgiveness. Today we hold our hands over our hearts. We begin and conclude the prayer by singing “Kyrie Eleison” (Voices United 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.**

\* **HYMN:** “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” (Voices United 382)

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

Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:22-30

**ANTHEM:** "I Lift Up Mine Eyes" (*Allen Pot*)

## **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS**

### **We Respond**

\* **HYMN:** "Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face" (*VU 459*)

## **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:** "Bless Now, O God, the Journey" (*Voices United* 633)

### **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:** *Please remain seated until the end of 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
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Office Administrator:	Stephanie Harnum
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

Office: 722-1881, x200; Email: [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org);  
Emergency Cellphone: 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 – March 1, 2026

### **Holy Week Services:**

Holy Monday - 7:30 pm, location TBA

Holy Tuesday - 7:30 pm, location TBA

Spy Wednesday - 7:30 pm, Memorial United Church in Portugal Cove

Maundy Thursday - 7:30 pm, Cowan Heights United Church

Good Friday Seven Words Service - 12 noon, Wesley United Church

Good Friday Evening Service - 7:00 pm, St. James United Church

Easter Eve (Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil) Service - 8:00 pm, St. James United

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

\* In memory of Keith Halfyard from Kim Holloway and ANON

**A thought of the week:** Silence is often more powerful than having the last word.

**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.

**Annual Congregational Meeting:** Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for March 22 following worship and a light lunch. In addition to receiving the Annual Report, voting on the 2026 budget and members of the church board, there will be presentations about the first year living into our governance model, the work of the Strategic Planning Committee, and the status of possibly working with the Regional Council and Kindred Works on a housing project.

**Good Friday Prayer Watch:** Like the disciples who waited for the Sabbath to end before going to Jesus' tomb, you are invited to spend time prayerfully waiting for the resurrection. Beginning Good Friday evening (following the service in the sanctuary, you are invited to spend an hour in the sanctuary to keep watch.) The intention is to have someone in the sanctuary from 8 pm on Good Friday until 8 pm on Holy Saturday. Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

**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

**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.*)

**Meditation:** Each Wednesday, 5:45-6:30 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm. People who are new to Christian meditation are asked to come at 5:30 for a time of instruction with Rev. James. Come each week for a time of quiet meditation in the Christian tradition.

**Bible Study:** Rev. James will be unable to lead the Bible Study this Sunday. The study will be group led with educational materials and discussion questions left in the Conference Room for participants.

## **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.



**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.

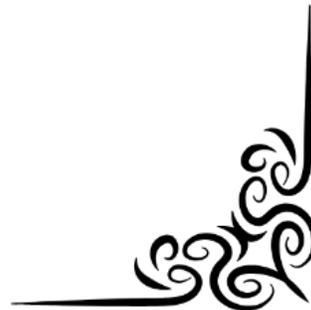
We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can share your gifts and talents in support of our shared life as St. James United Church.

**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 ◆



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



**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!

**St. Patrick's Day Concert**  
featuring  
**Hamilton Sound & Bud Davidge**

**Sunday, March 15, 2026 2:00 pm-3:30 pm**  
**St. James United Church**  
330 Elizabeth Avenue  
Tickets - \$35.00 Call 709.722.1881  
Office Hours Tuesdays-Fridays 8:30am to 1:30pm

# Easter Butterflies

Butterflies have become a celebration symbol of Ressurrection, spring and new life. Just as the caterpillar emerges from the cocoon a new being, the butterfly, Jesus emerges from the tomb at Easter as the Christ.

After the bareness of Lent we will be decorating the sanctuary of St. James United Church with butterflies for the Season of Easter. We invite you to sponsor a butterfly in celebration of a loved one or a significant life event.

(birthday, graduation, anniversary etc.) **To sponsor a butterfly, please fill out the form below and return to the church by March 20 if you can, with a donation of \$10 per butterfly.**

**If you need more time, we will run for a second week.**

## Easter Celebration Butterflies

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

In celebration of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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