



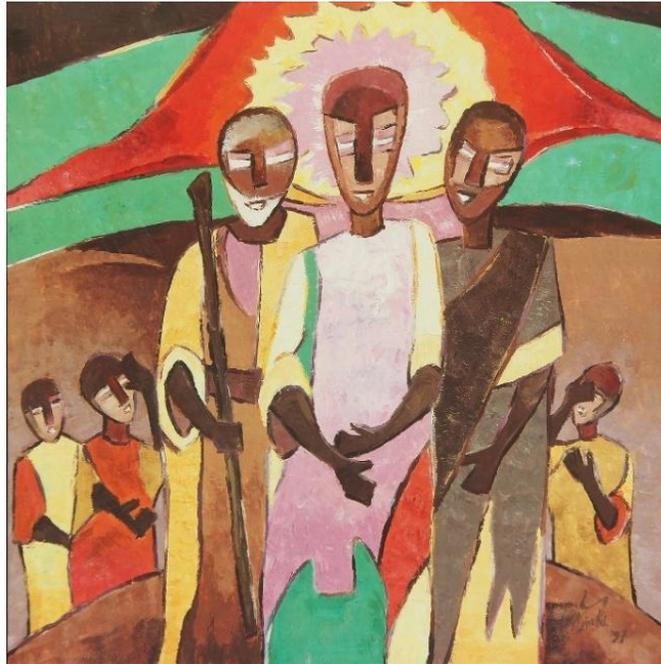
St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship: February 15, 2026



(Featuring the artwork “The Transfiguration of Jesus”
by Augustin Kolawole Olayinka.)

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 15, 2026, Transfiguration Sunday

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Theresa Roberts,
Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose, Senior Choir

Ushers: Guy & Julie Hollett, Marilyn Adams,
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

*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 Inuktitut, French and Kiswahili as we give thanks
for the land and commit ourselves to be a truly inclusive community.*

SHARING OF PEACE

INTROIT: "How Good, Lord, to be Here" (VU 103, v. 1 and 5)

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 99)

Come, O people. Praise God, the sovereign over all of creation.

Blessed is God's great and holy name.

Come, O people, and honour God who loves justice and mercy.

Blessed is God through the righteousness of the nations.

Come, O people, and listen to God, call on God's wisdom.

Blessed are we who keep God's decrees, keep their statutes.

OPENING PRAYER

Sovereign God,

we come together seeking your wisdom.

Speak to us from the cloud of your splendour

and lead us by the light of your love,

a love revealed in your Son Jesus.

Transform our lives in his image,

that with your teaching written on our hearts,
we may lead others into your presence.
We pray in his loving and glorious name.
Amen.

***HYMN:** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (*Voices United 264*)

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 accessible to all ages.

***HYMN:** “Over My Head” (*More Voices 88*)

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, “Thanks be to God.”*
2 Peter 1:16-21 and Matthew 17:1-9

***HYMN:** “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding” (*VU 104*)

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
Excerpt from Augustine, *Confessions* (book 7 chapter 10)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

ANTHEM: "Bless the Lord, O My Soul" (*TLUS 35*)

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

We Leave to Serve

***HYMN:** "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence" (*Voices United 421*)

BURNING OF LAST YEAR'S PALM BRANCHES

Those who wish gather outside as we burn last year's palm fronds to prepare for the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday (February 18).

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*

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

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 15, 2026

We accept the following donations to the General Fund:

- * In memory of Brenda Butt from Aubrey and Ruby Hill
- * In memory of Jean and Gilbert Inkpen from Gillian Brown

We accept the following donation to the Music Program:

* In appreciation of Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose, The Senior choir, the "Pop Up" choirs, The Guitar Group and all the musicians and singers who bring such joy to the service. You lift our hearts. From Heather McMaster

Tune into VOWR: This Sunday's service will be rebroadcast on VOWR on Sunday, February 15 at 7:00 PM. We welcome all those worshipping in person, watching via livestream, and those listening.

Bring in Palm Fronds: In preparation for Ash Wednesday (on February 18), please bring in palm fronds from last year (or earlier). They are burned and then the ash is used for the custom of having a cross traced in ash on your forehead.

Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday, February 18th at 6:30PM. There will also be a chance to receive ashes at the end of the worship service on February 18

Annual congregational Meeting: Will be held on March 22nd after the service. The council will be serving a light lunch right after the service in the auditorium and we will go upstairs for the meeting directly after lunch to start around 12:45. The Annual Report is being compiled and will be available prior to the meeting.

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.



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.

Lent is coming: Consider taking up a spiritual practice!

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Fasting: Fasting is one of Christianity's oldest practices. Choose one day during the week to eat less. You could choose to refrain from eating during

the daylight hours, opt to go without meat, or some other practice. As you feel hungry for food, you turn to God who is the only one who truly satisfies.

4. Almsgiving: Another ancient practice is giving alms, setting extra money aside to help others by supporting the church or another charity. Perhaps join fasting and almsgiving together. Sacrifice a purchased coffee (or some other treat) each day and give the proceeds to help others.

Pancake Supper: will be held on Tuesday, February 17 at 6pm. Come enjoy all the favourites; pancakes, berries, beans and sausages, coffee, tea and juice for just \$12 per person. Tickets are available for purchase from Aubrey Hill at (709) 726-8306 or Clyde Flight at (709) 722-9935. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Barbara Butt and Stephanie (Our Office Administrator) did the draw this morning for the Valentine Basket. Stephanie drew the name... and the winner is **CLAIRE HIGDON!** A member of St. James. Congratulations Claire!



St. James United Church St. Patrick's Day Concert: Featuring Hamilton Sound & Bud Davidge on Sunday, March 15, 2026 from 2:00-3:30pm. Tickets are \$35.00 and can be purchased from the church office Tuesday to Friday between the hours of 8:30AM and 1:30PM. Please contact the church office for your ticket at info@stjamesuc.org or 709-722-1881. Please note that the church office will be closed at 1:30PM.



**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



◆ CHURCH EVENTS 2026 ◆



Feb. 15 - Sunday	Soup Luncheon
Feb. 17 - Tuesday	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Feb. 26 - Thursday	Spirit of NL Show
Mar. 15 - Sunday	Hamilton Sound Concert
Mar. 15 - Sunday	Luncheon
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.