



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship: March 15, 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.

March 15, 2026: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Paul Walsh,
Damien Betts, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir
Ushers: Jena Earle, Damien Betts, 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; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We offer greetings in Innu-aimun, French and Arabic as we give thanks for the land and affirm our commitment to be a fully inclusive community.

SHARING OF PEACE

INTROIT: “Icyce, Icyce” - Ukrainian Orthodox Chant (*TLUS 75*)

WORDS TO CENTRE US: “Last Night As I Slept” by Antonio Marchado

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 upward. Sing his praises, offer prayer. In the storm and in the stillness find his presence everywhere. *Refrain*

(used with permission)

OPENING PRAYER

Radiant One, we come seeking deeper understanding, seeking inspiration as a community, in the gift of your word, discerning how to reveal your goodness in a world that seems shadowed by judgment and fear. Shine in us that we may reflect your way in all we are and do. We pray in the name of the One who shines in your Light. Amen

We Share in Love

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), 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:** "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)

We Listen and Respond

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 up and toward the community. 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.

* **HYMN:** “Open My Eyes that I May See” (*Voices United 371*)

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

1 Samuel 16:1-13; and John 9:1-41

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

ANTHEM: “It Is Well With My Soul” (*arr. Mary McDonald*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** “O Jesus, I Have Promised” (*Voices United 120*)

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: *You are invited to remain seated for 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

Technology Support:

Jake Thompson

Office Administrator:

Stephanie Harnum

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 – March 15, 2026

Holy Week Services:

Holy Monday - 7:30 pm, First United in Mount Pearl

Holy Tuesday - 7:30 pm, Memorial United in Pouch Cove

Spy Wednesday - 7:00 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 UC

We acknowledge the following donation to the Music Fund:

* From the Guitar Group

A thought of the week: The only person you can be better than is who you were yesterday

InsideOUT LGBTQIA+ Spirituality Gathering - Sunday, March 15, 2026:

InsideOUT is an LGBTQIA+ an opportunity to explore the intersection between queerness and spirituality. Held in the Quadrangle Outreach Room at 7:30PM

AOTS Meeting: Our Men's Club meeting is on Wednesday March 18, 12:30 for 1:00 start. New members always welcome.

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.

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.

St. James: Our Next Chapter Begins: Starting March 25, St. James will embark on a dedicated "Listening Phase" as part of our "Change@" initiative. This is a time for us to dream together about our future. We want to be clear: no preconceived decisions have been made about our path forward. The goal of this phase is to listen—to your hopes, your concerns, and your vision for a thriving St. James in the decades to come. Please mark your calendars for our first Congregational Session on **Wednesday, March 25 @ 6:30 pm.**

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.

Volunteer Appreciation Awards: nominations are open for Volunteer Appreciation Awards, use this link to nominate someone:

<https://forms.gle/ttdtH2MAq91ehhxS9>

We are thankful for everyone at St James who takes time out of their busy lives to volunteer - our church would not be the warm, welcoming community it is without all the excellent work our volunteers do. This year we are kicking off our Volunteer Appreciation Awards to say an extra special thank you, and recognize the hard work that goes on at St James throughout the year.

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.

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.

Easter Butterflies

Butterflies have become a celebration symbol of Resurrection, 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:

“In God’s economy we are all recipients of grace, gracious action is our response to God’s gift.” – Lori Guenther Reesor