



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship: March 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.

March 8, 2026: Third Sunday in Lent

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Clyde Flight, Judy Molyneaux, Bob Rose, and the St. James Guitar Group
Ushers: Damien Betts, Riley Ford, 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 Inuktitut, French and Cantonese as we give thanks for the land and affirm our commitment to be a fully inclusive community.

SHARING OF PEACE

INTROIT: “How Great Thou Art”

WORDS TO CENTRE US: “The Fountain” by Denise Levertov

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, where the cross calls us to care, where injustice and where hunger and the poor call us to share. Refrain

(used with permission)

OPENING PRAYER

Source of Life, **we draw near at your beckoning, ready to join you on the journey of our lives.**

We trust you as the one who will refresh our thirsting spirits. Quench us, O Wellspring of Love, and strengthen our souls,

that in coming to new life we may discover ourselves in you.
We pray in the name of the One who brings Living Water. 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 with each other. 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.

LEARNING TOGETHER

* **HYMN:** “What a Friend We have in Jesus” (*Voices United 664*)

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

Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-42

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

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me; see, on the portal he's watching and waiting, Watching for you and for me.

Refrain: Come home, come home, Ye who are weary, come home; Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, O sinner, come home! Calling, O sinner, come home!

2. Why should we linger when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we wait and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*

3. 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. *Refrain*

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

ANTHEM: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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: *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

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

Life and Work – March 8, 2026

Holy Week Services:

Holy Monday - 7:30 pm, First United Church

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

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 Margaret Babstock, our loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother (March 2,1919 - June 2,1999) from Linda and Ed Murphy.

A thought of the week: Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations.

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.

Upcoming Lecture and Ecumenical Service about Duty of Care: Hans Zollner, SJ, is a renowned German theologian, psychologist, and professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. A global expert in safeguarding minors and vulnerable adults from sexual abuse within the Church, he will present a lecture, *Safeguarding and the Mission of the Church: Ethics, Responsibility and Care*, on Mon., March 9, 7–9 p.m., Room A1046, Memorial University ([230 Elizabeth Ave](#); refreshments; parking in Lots 1A & 15B), and lead an ecumenical service on Tues., March 10, 7–8:30 p.m., at Queen's College Chapel ([210 Prince Philip Dr](#); refreshments; parking in and around Lot 19). All are warmly invited.

For more information, contact Gemma Hickey 709.690.5244.

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 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.

Tapestry: This month's Tapestry service will be held on March 14. Beginning with a potluck at 5:30. This service celebrates the strands that make us who we are in terms of faith, experience, and identity.

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 old Quadrangle Outreach Room at 7:30pm

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.

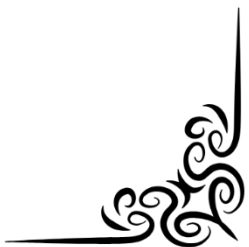
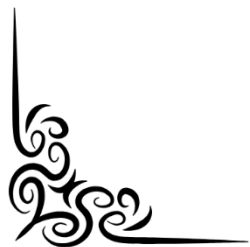
Volunteer Coordination Team: This small coordinating group raises awareness about volunteer opportunities, matching needs with people's interests. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can share your gifts and talents in support of our shared life as St. James United Church.

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 ◆



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.