



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship: March 29, 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 29, 2026, Palm Sunday

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Barbara Butt,
Betty Pilgrim, Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose, the Senior Choir
Ushering: Riley Ford, Jena Earle, Jean Thompson,
Marilyn Adams 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 & Portuguese as we give thanks for the land and affirm our commitment to be an inclusive community.

SHARING OF PEACE

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

INTROIT: "Sanna Sannina"

RECALLING JESUS' ENTERING JERUSALEM: Mt. 21:1-11

PALM PROCESSION: “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” (VU 123)

After the gospel, we join in song as everyone who wishes processes through the church in commemoration of Jesus’ own arrival to Jerusalem.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One,

on this day we recall the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem.

With the crowds we sing Hosanna, “Lord, save us,”

swept up in the possibility of this moment,

failing to notice the meaning behind Jesus’ riding a donkey.

Soon we will understand, as joy turns to shock and sadness and on the horizon looms a cross.

Be with us as we grapple what happens next.

We pray with the One accompanying us on our way. Amen.

ANTHEM: “Hail, Hosanna” (G. F. Handel)

REFLECTION

* **HYMN:** “Palm Sunday” (to the tune: *Kingsfold*)

The day of palms is come again, day of triumphant praise,

When crowds excited ran to sing the song the psalmist raised.

‘Blessed is the one who comes,’ they cry ‘to set his people free.’

Gladly we join our song with theirs who yearn for liberty.

How soon the gladness disappears & shadow stalks the streets!

The king who rides a donkey’s foal with coats beneath its feet

Will soon a crown of thorns endure, a throne of rough-hewn wood.

A day of agony draws near when evil strikes at good.

‘Hosanna!’ turns to ‘Crucify!’, rejoicing turns to scorn.

If this were all there was to tell, how deeply we should mourn.

Yet death is not the final step that Christ our Saviour trod.

Onward he marches, leading home the world he won for God.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Each week we use a different gesture as we name where we need

forgiveness. Today we hold the palm branch we were given to our heart.

We begin and conclude by singing “Kyrie Eleison” (VU 945).

PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK

We listen to portions of the story that follow Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

Reading 1: Matthew 21:12-17

Response: "Kyrie Eleison" (*Voices United* 945)

Reading 2: Matthew 22:15-22

Reading 3: Matthew 23:29-34, 37-39

Response: "Kyrie Eleison" (*Voices United* 945)

Reading 4: Matthew 26:6-16

TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION

We pause in silence as we meditate on what's been proclaimed.

We Leave to Serve

READING: Opening Verses of "The Crucifixion"
by James Weldon Johnson

CLOSING ANTHEM: "Lamb of God" (C. Casciolini)

*You are invited to leave in silence as we reflect together
on the events that faced Jesus, including his impending death.*

St. James United Church

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|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 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

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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.

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Life and Work – March 29, 2026

We offer our sincere condolences to the family of Marina Adams, who passed peacefully on Sunday, March 22, 2026. Funeral service was on Friday, March 27th at 11 a.m. from St. James United Church with internment followed at Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Holy Week Services:

Holy Monday - 7:30 pm, First United in Mount Pearl. Preacher - Melisandra Groza

Holy Tuesday - 7:30 pm, Memorial United in Pouch Cove. Preacher - Rev. Oliver Dingwell

Spy Wednesday - 7:30 pm, Memorial United in Portugal Cove. Preacher - Hannah Sheppard

Maundy Thursday - 7:30 pm, Cowan Heights United Church. Preacher - Rev. Scott Parsons

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

Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7:00 pm at St. James United Church

Holy Saturday Prayer Watch followed by the Easter Vigil Service- 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at St. James United Church

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

Easter Sunday Breakfast - 9:30 am, St. James United Church

Easter Sunday Service followed by Treasure Hunt - St. James United Church

Office Closure: The church office will be closed on Friday, April 3 to observe Good Friday and will reopen Tuesday morning as usual.

A thought of the week: Some choices that break your heart, heal your soul
Easter Sunday Breakfast - April 5: Once again the AOTS Men's Club will be hosting Breakfast Downstairs with Eggs, Toast, Jam, Juice, Tea and Coffee. We will be serving breakfast from 9:30AM to 10:15AM. Enjoy your Breakfast before going upstairs for the Easter Sunday Service at 11:00 am. There will be a free will offering.

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.

Taizé Prayer Service: Wednesday, April 1 at 6:30PM. A time of readings, singing and silent reflection.

Tapestry - Saturday, April 11: 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.

Holy Saturday Prayer Watch: We have adjusted the schedule for our Prayer Watch, beginning at 8 am on Saturday rather the previous night. Please sign up for an hour to keep watch with the disciples as we collectively mourn Jesus' death and await the resurrection.

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.

Confirmation and Membership Classes:

Beginning in early April, we will be holding two sets of confirmation and membership classes, one for youth and another for adults.

- The youth confirmation sessions will be held jointly with youth from Cowan Heights United Church, either on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 pm or Saturdays from 12:30 to 2:00 pm.
- The adult classes will be held on Sundays in place of Bible Study during the Easter Season.

If you are interested in learning more about Christianity as it is expressed in the United Church, or are not a member of the church but would like to be, including transferring your membership from another United Church congregation, contact Rev. James by email, james@stjamesuc.org.

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. Thank you

Cowan Heights Spring Craft Fair: Saturday, April 25th, 10am to 4pm.
Admission \$2. Children under 12 is free.



◆ CHURCH FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2026 ◆



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| 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 |

Please check the website for Worship, Prayer Services and Faith Formation events.



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