



St. James United Church



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

Celebration of Worship for April 5, 2026



Christ is risen, Hallelujah!

April 5, 2026: Easter Sunday

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft,
Theresa Morrisey Roberts, Linda Andrews,
Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose, Senior Choir
Ushers: Damien and Sasha Betts, Jean Thompson,
Marilyn Adams, 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

We begin our celebration in a spirit of reflection that opens into joy!

OPENING VERSES: “Expecting Death” by Susan Palo Cherwien

* **HYMN:** “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (*Voices United* 155)

* **RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

In dawning light we celebrate as people of resurrection!

As the sun rises we discover that the stone is rolled away.

Christ lives and leads the way into new life.

We share in his spirit and are clothed in his life.

God of Renewing Life, we give thanks for this hope-filled gift!

We praise you for Easter’s promise. It brings such joy! Amen.

WELCOME; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

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

SHARING OF PEACE

INTROIT: “The Risen Christ” (Walter Greaterex; Nigel Weaver)

We Share in Love

OUR LIFE AND WORK: *We share what is going on in our community.*



OFFERTORY: *There are many ways to support 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 church office or drop in our secure mailbox. During the offering, the choir will sing "Our Father in Heaven" by Jason Locke*

OFFERTORY: "Hallelujah, Hallelujah" Voices United 179, v 4

Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ; hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name. Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour; Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ; hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND GRACE

We Listen and Respond

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL FAITH

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus the word made flesh, and works in us and others through the Spirit?

I do, by God's grace.

Will you follow Jesus, living with respect for creation, loving and serving others, seeking justice and resisting evil?

I will, by God's grace.

Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope, and join with others to make known God's reign?

I will, by God's grace.

Renew your baptism and be thankful!

Following the renewal, everyone is sprinkled with water as a reminder of their baptism. Everyone sings "Your Love Is Amazing" (MV 26).

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

Acts 10:34-43 and John 20:11-18

INTERGENERATIONAL REFLECTION

ANTHEM

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

Open your hearts. **We open them to God.**

Let us give thanks. **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, we praise you. You are beyond our understanding, but we know one thing – you are love. Through your love, you made everything – the stars and sun, the moon and the earth, trees, flowers, birds, animals, and us, your children. **Hallelujah!**

With that same love you taught us how to live, calling on holy people to remind us of what is good, and sent Jesus to teach us your way of love. He modelled this in everything he did, healing the sick, offering forgiveness and teaching us to forgive each other, calling on us to be compassionate and kind to all. **Hallelujah!**

With thanks for all that he did in witness to your healing love, we echo the angels and saints as they sing to your glory:

Holy God of Power of Might! Hallelujah! Heav'n and earth shine with your light! Hallelujah! Loud Hosannas now we sing! Hallelujah! Blessings to our Risen King! Hallelujah!

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

Blessings to you, Saving God, for this day each year when we celebrate the power of your love! We honour Jesus who after he died on the cross, his friends placed his body in a tomb, but three days later they found it empty, an angel telling them that Jesus he had risen and would continue to be with them.

Even now we experience his presence, especially as we recall the night before he died when he shared a meal with his friends. While they were eating, he took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.” After supper, he took a cup of wine. He thanked you, and gave it to his friends, saying, “Take, drink. This is a sign of the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you do this, remember me.”

We remember, Holy God, grateful that on this day we experience the in-breaking of your kin-dom, new life revealed in resurrection. With hope and joy, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Dying, Christ destroyed our death! Hallelujah! Rising, Christ restores our life! Hallelujah! We believe and we proclaim, Hallelujah! Jesus Christ will come again! Hallelujah!

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

In his name we pray that your Spirit take this bread and wine and let them reveal your resurrection; take this community and infuse it with your renewing love. Enlivened in you, may we share the good news of Christ's resurrection, the promise of your redeeming love. Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

"Amen, Amen." Hear our prayer, Hallelujah! As the bread and cup we share! Hallelujah! At this table, Christ we meet, Hallelujah! Present here with wounded feet, Hallelujah!

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

PRAYER OF JESUS ("Our Father in Heaven," *Then Let Us Sing 70*) **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

SHARING IN COMMUNION

We share the bread of life, a gift of love that brings life to the world.

We share the fruit of the vine, blessing of love that all may live.

We share in Christ who brings us life and models how to love.

Everyone is welcome to share communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. There is a centre station to receive the bread and two side stations to receive juice in small glasses. Please consume the bread and juice before returning to your pew. Please let us know if you need the gluten free option for bread. If you're unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you once everyone has received.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Spirit of life, in this feast we are fed by your love, strengthened in your grace and enlivened to joy. Send us into your world to feed as we've been fed, and love as we've been loved. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** "Thine is the Glory" (*Voices United 173*)

* **BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH:**

We give thanks, Maker of all for the gift of resurrection. And so we can proclaim: Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed, Hallelujah!**

(The choir sings the "Hallelujah Chorus" by G. F. Handel)

May we go from here, our hearts enlivened in Easter joy:

We go clothed with the hope of new life in Christ, living in the grace of God's love, walking in the Spirit's light and peace.

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

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Emergency Cellphone: 1-709-351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org

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Life and Work – April 5, 2026

We acknowledge the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:

* In loving memory of Wayne Dinn, Ross, Gertie and Blaine Blackwood from Sharon, Michelle and Families.

We acknowledge the following donation to the Memorial Fund:

In loving memory of Jack Head from the Family.

A thought of the week: Your value does not decrease based on someone else's inability to see your worth.

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 - 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.

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.

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! Donations to the bake sale would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off downstairs in the church auditorium anytime after 12:30PM on Friday, April 10.

AOTS Men's Club Fish Dinner:



* Tickets are available from any member of the AOTS Men's Club or Aubrey Hill - 709-726-8306 *

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

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

Memorial Hymn Sing: Sunday, April 26, 2026

Each year, we take time to remember our loved ones through the fellowship of song. By selecting a hymn in dedication to your loved ones, you are contributing to the life and work of our church, supporting and enhancing the various programs and activities that make St. James United Church the faith community that we love. St. James Guitar Group and our Music Director, Amy Dalziel, will provide the music.

Simply print and complete the form below or write out your requests on a sheet of paper with the required information. Drop them off with your cash or cheque payment (payable to "St. James United Church") at the office, in the secure drop-box to the right of the office entrance, or by e-mailing them to info@stjamesuc.org. Payments can also be made by e-transfer to treasurer@stjamesuc.org.

Please ensure to note "Hymn Sing" on your envelope or in the subject line online.

Submission deadline: Sunday, April 19, 2026

Hymn Selections from which to choose:

1. How Great Thou Art
2. In the Bulb There Is a Flower
3. I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am Lord)
4. Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore
5. Just a Closer Walk With Thee
6. Morning Has Broken
7. Precious Memories
8. The Old Rugged Cross
9. What a Friend We Have in Jesus
10. Will Your Anchor Hold

Name(s) of Contributor: _____

Envelope No. OR Address: _____

Donation: _____

Hymn Choice: _____

In memory of: _____

To contribute more "in memoriums", please use a separate sheet for each, clearly attributing the contributor's name to loved one's name & selected hymn no.; amount; & envelope no. or address.