



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship: May 17, 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

May 17, 2026, Ascension Sunday/Seventh Sunday of Easter
(Asian Heritage Month)

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Theresa Roberts-Morrissey,
Amy Dalziel and Glenda Winsor

Ushers: Kim Mayo, Gerry Mayo, Marilyn Adams
and Jean Thompson

*Please rise in body or in spirit where there is an *.*
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 Korean as we give thanks for the land and affirm our promise to be an inclusive community.

SHARING THE PEACE OF EASTER: *We greet one another with signs of Christ's peace with a wave, bow, prayerful wish for blessing.*

INTROIT: "Here in this Place" (*Then Let Us Sing 150*)

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Ps. 47*)

Clap your hands, O people, let us sing joyful songs to God.

We will rejoice in God, the Most High, sovereign over all.

Sing for God has gone up with a shout, the sound of a trumpet.

We will sing praises to God, rejoice in God, the Most High.

* **HYMN:** "Rejoice, the Lord is King" (*Voices United 213*)

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Holy and Most High God,

we sing your praises, grateful for your ascended Son who promised to us the gift of your renewing power.

Send then your Spirit, that in your wisdom and grace we may proclaim to all the glory of your saving love.

We pray in the name of the ascended Christ. Amen.

We Share in Love

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

OFFERING: *There are many ways to financially support St. James: place a gift in the plate, use the square in the foyer, scan the QR code on the left, donate via PAR, mail the office, go to the website (www.stjamesuc.org), or e-transfer (email treasurer@stjamesuc.org) However you support St. James, the community is grateful. Tax receipts available.*



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

CONFESSION OF FAITH *(a modern creed from the Iona Community)*

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty
where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms,
and the sun rises over barbed wire.

We believe in a with-us God
who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.
We affirm a faith that takes us beyond a safe place:
into action, into vulnerability and onto the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility,
take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge; to choose life
and be used by the Spirit
for God's new community of hope. Amen

We Listen and Respond

LEARNING TOGETHER

We explore the theme of the day in an age appropriate format.

* **HYMN:** "Praise Our Maker" (*Voices United 316*)

READINGS: *At end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
Acts 1:1-11 and John 17:1-11

* **HYMN:** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" (*Voices United 382*)

READING: *At end of the reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
Excerpt from Bede Griffiths, *Universal Wisdom*.

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

SOLO: "As the Wind Song Through the Trees" (*TLUS 111*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SUNG PRAYER OF JESUS (*Then Let Us Sing 70*)

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** "The Head That Once Was Crowned" (*Voices United 190*
sing to the tune of "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing")

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH:

Blessed in risen and ascended hope, we go enlivened in joy:
**We go clothed with the promise of new life in Christ, living
in the grace of God's love, walking in the Spirit's peace.**

POSTLUDE: *Please remain seated until the end of the prelude.*

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

Life and Work – May 17, 2026

Office Closure: The church office will be closed on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 to observe the Victoria Day holiday. The office will reopen Wednesday morning as usual.

We acknowledge the following donation to the Memorial Fund:

* In Loving Memory of Joan Barbour from Linda and Charlie Babstock.

We acknowledge the following donation to the General Fund:

* In memory of Mothers, Margaret Babstock and Mildred Murphy from Linda and Ed Murphy

We acknowledge a donation of \$2000 to the General Fund from St. James UCW from funds raised at the Spring Tea and Bake Sale

We acknowledge the following donation to the Memorial Fund:

* In memory of Joan Barbour from the UCW

A thought of the week: Silence is often more powerful than having the last word.

Square Machine as a Second Option: We now have a Square machine to take your donation. It will be available at all services and events, so you have the option to use it if you wish. Someone will be there to help you.

Property Clean Up: Saturday, May 23 from 10-12 noon. Please come and bring your rake and help beautify the grounds. We will supply garbage bag and a snack.

Join **St. James' Senior Choir** for a concert on **Sunday, June 7 at 2:30 PM** in **the sanctuary**. The choir will perform a selection of favourite anthems from over the years, spanning a variety of eras, genres, and styles — from *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi to John Rutter's *For the Beauty of the Earth*, and much more in between. A freewill offering will be collected at the door.

Fundraising: St. James United Church has traditionally raised funds in three main ways - with offerings, renting spaces and hosting a variety of fundraising events. Only offerings are reliant only on members and adherents of the

congregation. The other two, fundraising especially, should be focused on the wider community, people attending the event from beyond our four walls. When these events are held, one of the best ways that members and adherents can contribute is spreading the word and encouraging friends and neighbours to attend. So next time we have a fundraiser, get the word out and we can raise some of the funds we need through the wider community.

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.

Pub Theology: Thursday, May 21 at 7 pm at Guv'nor Pub. A time to explore questions of faith, spirituality and ethics over a beverage. No question is too big or too small. See you there

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH
RUMMAGE SALE!

Saturday, June 6
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Discover hidden treasures like household items, decor,
small appliances and more at unbeatable prices!

330 Elizabeth Avenue,
St. John's, NL

Admission \$2

Accepting donations of good used household items, small appliances in working order, no books, electronics or clothing, please.

Items can be dropped off at the church office on any Friday in May between the hours of 10 am to 12 noon.

On Friday, June 5th we are available to accept your donations between the hours of 10 am to 2 pm.

Any questions please contact any member of the fundraising team:
Barbara, Catherine, Linda, Barry, Randy, Clyde or Dianne.