



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship: May 24, 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 24, 2026, Pentecost Sunday

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Alma Lake,
Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir
Ushers: Guy Hollett and Julie Hollett, Marilyn Adams,
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

*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 greet each other in Inuktitut, French and Tamil as we give thanks for the land and local Indigenous peoples and commit to full inclusion for all

*** PASSING THE PEACE OF PENTECOST**

INTROIT: "Filled With the Spirit's Power" (VU 194, v. 1 & 3)

RESPONSIVE PRAYER: *We pray for gifts of the Spirit to grow in us.*

"Wisdom cries in the street; in the square raises her voice." (Pr. 1)

Breathe in us, O God, and strengthen the fire of your wisdom.

"When they bring you before rulers and authorities, do not be afraid.

The Holy Spirit will teach you what to say." (Luke 12:11-12)

Breathe in us, O God, and strengthen the fire of your courage.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: he has sent me to bring good news to the poor and bind up the broken-hearted" (Isaiah 61:1)

Breathe in us, O God and strengthen the fire of compassion.

"I will put my spirit within you that you may follow my laws and be careful to observe my teaching." (Ezekiel 36:27)

Breathe in us, O God & strengthen the fire of understanding.

"How weighty your thoughts, O God! How vast their sum!" (Ps. 139)

Breathe in us, O God, and strengthen the fire of holy wonder.

"This is my prayer, that your love may overflow with knowledge and insight to help you decide what is best." (Philippians 1:9-10)

Breathe in us, O God, & strengthen the fire of discernment.

"Blessed are they who hunger for justice; they will be filled." (Mt. 5:6)

Breathe in us, O God, and strengthen the fire of your justice.

"Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." (1 John 4:7)

Breathe in us, O God, and strengthen the fire of your love.

* **HYMN:** "Spirit of God, Unleashed on Earth" (*Voices United* 207)

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:** "Spirit of Life" (*Voices United* 381)

Spirit of Life, come unto me. Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion. Blow in the wind, rise in the sea; move in the hand, giving me the shape of justice. Roots hold close; wings set me free; Spirit of Life come to me, come to me.

* **PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND GRACE**

We Celebrate Congregational Membership

HYMN: "I Have Called You by Your Name" (*More Voices* 161)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

CORPORATE PROFESSION OF FAITH (*Voices United* 918)

PRESENTATION AND COMMITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

Donald Bradbury, (Yvonne Bradbury, posthumously) and Francis McNiven are presented as new members.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

Dear friends in Christ, let us rise and pledge our support and care.

As your siblings in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE AND PROMISES:

Lily Bishop is presented to reaffirm her baptismal commitment.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

Let us pledge... our continued support and care.

We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you. With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in love.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

The confirmand comes forward accompanied by family and others who will be praying for the Spirit through laying on of hands.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLE AND COMMISSIONING PRAYER

Following the presentation of a bible, we share this prayer:

... dedicating your gifts to God's Reign.

Go into the world in the power of the Spirit. Seek justice, walk in faith, act with love, for to this you were called.

* **HYMN:** "Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart" (VU 378)

We Listen and Respond

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

Acts 2:1-21 (read in multiple languages) and John 20:19-23

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

ANTHEM: "Alleluia" (W. A. Mozart, arr. R. Robinson)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

We gather at this table in the power of the Spirit

who calls us in love to share in the reconciling grace of Christ.

We gather in memory of Jesus, knowing he is with us still.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Spirit is here! **The Spirit is with us in love!**
Open your hearts. **We open them to God.**
Let us give thanks. **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

It is good to thank and praise you, Living God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of your Spirit, calling us to be your children. And though at times we forgot that call, you remained steadfast, restoring your people and calling them to be a blessing to the nations. Grateful for this love we join all your angels and saints in a song of praise:

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)

Holy God, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ. In the power of your Spirit, you affirmed him as your child and through his death and resurrection gave birth to the church. Called to embody his love in the world, we remember how on the night before he died, Jesus took bread and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you."

In the same way, he took the cup, saying: "Take, drink. This is a sign of the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you eat and drink, remember me." We remember, Sustaining God, grateful that we share in his death and resurrection, an identity we affirm at this and every table. With 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)

We pray, Gracious God, that you animate your Spirit in us and these gifts, that all who share this living bread and saving cup may be renewed in your grace, affirmed in your love to share what it means to be your children, a blessing to the nations.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Holy God, 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)

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

SHARING IN COMMUNION:

This is the bread of life, **Christ shared in hope for the world.**

This is the fruit of the vine, **Christ shared in openness and joy.**

This is the banquet of blessing, **Christ inviting everyone in love.**

Everyone is welcome to communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. In the centre is bread with two side stations with juice in small glasses. Please consume both before returning to your pew. Please let us know if you need the gluten free option. If you're unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you. Cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you prefer to receive a blessing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Come Holy Spirit **and fan the flames of your love. As we have shared at God's table of grace, may we be transformed into living sacraments of Christ's love, strengthened with rushing wind and tongues of fire to speak your truth and peace. Amen.**

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** “Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us” *(Voices United 198)*

SENDING FORTH:

Blessed in the power of Pentecost, we go with hearts full of 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

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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 |
| 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 – May 24, 2026

We acknowledge the following donation to the Memorial Fund:

* In memory of Joan Barbour from Ed and Daphne Noseworthy

We acknowledge the following donation to the Music Fund:

* In memory of Joan and Derrick Barbour from Shirley Bursey

We acknowledge the following donation to the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Camp Fund:

* As we celebrate in Bethany's memory, 🦋 January 8, 1988 - May 27, 2008, ❤️ Ever Remembered in our Hearts Every Day. Stephen, Susan, Rebecca, Kyle and Micah

A thought of the week: Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, as long as you remember to turn on the light.

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.

Thank You: The soup luncheon team extends sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the soup luncheons over the past months. Your generosity and willingness to lend a hand has been very much appreciated. To those of you who set up and took down tables, did place settings, folded napkins, cleaned up and assisted us at the door with the good will offering, we are extremely grateful.

THANK YOU

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.

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.

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.

Year End Potluck and Review, June 2, 5:30 pm: Each year our church board hosts a retreat to reflect on the past year and prepare for the next. This year the plan is for an evening rather than a full day, beginning with a potluck meal. Committee members and anyone interested from the congregation is welcome to attend along with members of our church board as we review last year's ministry plan and consider what, if anything, to carry over into next year, along with new possibilities.

Monthly Labyrinth Walk on May 27 at 6:30 pm: Did you know we have a labyrinth? We do and it is beckoning for us to walk it. A labyrinth is a circular winding path into a centre point. Unlike a maze there is only one path and you cannot get lost. Walking the labyrinth is an ancient prayer practice to quiet the mind and seek spiritual clarity. Throughout the summer we will have a group labyrinth walk on fourth Wednesday of the month. Meet on the lawn between the church and Paton Street.

Care Home Services: Each month (except during the summer), Rev. James and various volunteers lead worship services and hymn sings at 3 different care homes. Feel free to come and worship, sing, and meet the residents, some of whom are members of St. James.

- 2nd Thursday at 2 pm - Worship with Bob Rose, UCW and AOTS at Pleasant View Towers.
- 3rd Wednesday at 3 pm - Hymn Sing with Doreen Brown at Kenny's Pond Retirement Community.
- 4th Wednesday at 3 pm - Hymn Sing with Doreen Brown at Bishops Gardens Seniors Living.
- In addition, Doreen Brown assists Rev. Rebecca on the 1st Wednesday at 3 pm at Tiffany Village.



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.

After four weeks of listening, it's time for the Grand Finale!

St. James is at a threshold. Like our founders who met in McPherson School to build a new future, we are launching a "Listening Phase" to determine how we remain a thriving, progressive church for the next 25 years. We are being proactive about our building's future and our mission in St. John's No decisions

have been made—this is your chance to draw the map. The final say belongs to the congregation.

This Sunday, May 24, immediately following worship, we are hosting our **Structured Listening Cafe**. This is a 2-hour event where we will synthesize feedback into a roadmap for our future. If you haven't attended a previous session, your voice is needed today.

Topsail United Church Coffee Group will be hosting an Afternoon Tea Party and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 30th, from 2 until 4 P.M., With Special Musical Guests Avalonia. Tickets \$15.00. Please remember your Fascinator. To reserve your ticket please contact the Church Office at 709-834-4567. Tickets go on Sale on May 4 thru May 27th

Church of the Good Shepherd Italian Dinner:

Italian Night Dinner, Saturday, May 30, 6:30pm, \$25, Lasagna, Caesar salad, garlic bread and carrot cake for dessert. Gluten free option will be available if pre-ordered. Tickets are available at the Church office 747-1022 or you can email transfer cotgs@nf.aibn.com

You're Invited to Brunch at Church of the Good Shepherd:

Saturday, June 13th at 11am at the Church. Tickets \$15 and available at the church office or email transfer to cotgs@nf.aibn.com Bring your appetite as the menu includes: sausages, bacon, scrambled eggs, pancakes, beans, hash browns, orange juice, apple juice, tea & coffee