



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship: May 3, 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 3, 2026, Fifth Sunday of Easter
(First Sunday in Asian Heritage Month)

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Susan Pike,
Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and Senior Choir
Ushers: Damien and Sasha Betts, Alma Lake,
Jean Thompson and Marilyn Adams

*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 Mi'kmawisimk, French and Bangla 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: "Behold the Glories of the Lamb" (*Lyngham*)

CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Psalm 31*)

Sing out, children of God and give God praise,
praise God for the wonders of their unfailing love!

We sing with joy to God who leads and guides us!

Sing out, family in faith and voice your trust in God,
trust in God who holds us in their hands!

We trust in God as we celebrate together in their presence!

* **HYMN:** "This Is the Day that God Has Made" (*Voices United 175*)

OPENING PRAYER

God of Resurrection Joy, **we praise you for your love,
a love made visible in our world, in one another,
and especially in Jesus, risen and with us still.
Be with us in our worship, opening our hearts,**

to hear your wisdom and truth,
to discern as a family in faith how to follow your way.
We pray in the name of Jesus, who leads us into life.
Amen.

We Share in Love and Sacrament

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

OFFERING: *There are many ways to financially support St. James. You can place your contribution in the plate, scan the QR code on the left, donate via PAR, website (www.stjamesuc.org), e-transfer (email treasurer@stjamesuc.org), or mail to the church office. In whatever way you support St. James, the community is grateful. Tax receipts available by request.*



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

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE FOR BAPTISM

We welcome Kyle Winter and Rebecca Pike-Winter as they present their child Micah to be welcomed into the church through baptism.

LIGHTING OF BAPTISMAL CANDLE AND PROMISES

*** CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT**

Do you as a faith community, promise to love and support this child and his family as together we extend Christ's love in the world?

We do with God's help.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND ACT OF BAPTISM

BLESSING AND PRESENTATION OF CANDLE

WELCOME BY THE CONGREGATION

...we have welcomed her into the Body of Christ, each of us children of God, Mother and Father of us all. **As siblings in Christ, we welcome you Micah into this family in faith.**

The congregation may applaud as a sign of welcome.

* **HYMN:** "Give Me A Name" (*Then Let Us Sing* 12)

We Listen and Respond

READINGS: *At end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
1 Peter 2:2-10 and John 14:1-14.

ANTHEM: "What Is This Bread?" (*arr. Kurt E. von Kampen*)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

* **HYMN:** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" (*VU* 468)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

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 your holy breath, 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 of your angels and saints in a song of praise:

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in God's name. Hosanna in the highest!

Holy God, we praise and thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, who through his death, and resurrection, gave birth to your church, inviting us to share in his life through baptism. 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: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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.**

SUNG PRAYER OF JESUS (Lord’s Prayer): *Voices United 960*

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 share communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. There is a centre station to receive the bread and two side stations to receive non-alcoholic juice in small glasses. Consume both before returning to your pew. A gluten free option is available. If you are unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(in unison)*

Holy One, in this feast we are nourished by your Spirit and knit together in grace. Joined as one family, send us to your world to share the love at the heart of Christ’s way. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** “Praise Our Maker” (*Voices United 316*)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH:

Blessed in resurrection hope, we go with hearts 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: *(You are invited to remain seated during the postlude)*

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 3, 2026

We accept the following donation to the Maintenance Fund:

* In memory of Leah Bursey from Son, Doug and Harry Bursey and their families.

A thought of the week: God is still writing your story. Quit trying to steal the pen.

Celebrate our Region becoming an Affirming Ministry:

It's time to celebrate being an Affirming Ministry. Today, Sunday, May 3, 2026, at 1:00 pm NDT/12:30 pm (ADT), we come together across First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council to publicly celebrate our becoming an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada. Rev. Grant Stuckless, former Regional Council President will be the guest preacher in this multi-location worship service linked together via Zoom.

If you want to join in person, please visit one of the following locations in your area: Pasadena United Church (Watch Party), Memorial United Church in Grand Falls-Windsor, Carol United Church in Labrador City and St. James United Church in St. John's.

If you want to join via Zoom, the link is listed below (You can also find it on our Facebook Page)

We ask that you display a symbol that represents for you being an inclusive community. Let's come together to celebrate this important moment as a Regional Council.

Topic: FDEE Affirm Celebration Service

Time: May 3, 2026 12:30 PM (ADT); 1:00 PM (NDT)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/81028904635?pwd=Eyzum62YULX5lbwbcWdYB6VfqIzdp6.1>

Meeting ID: 810 2890 4635

Password: 123456

Have you been thinking about becoming a member of St. James United Church?

Perhaps you are currently a member of another congregation and are considering transferring your membership? Or you were baptized in the United Church but were never confirmed, or baptized in another denomination and would like to join the United Church? Or perhaps you just want to learn more about what it means to be a full member? Whatever your current situation, we would be happy to discern with you. Susan Pike is available to chat on the phone (709-576-0703) or by email (susanpike@warp.nfld.net); as is Rev. James (709-351-0983) or (james@stjamesuc.org).

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.

Wild Light Spiritual Oasis: Saturday, May 2 at 3:00 pm at Long Point (Meet at the shelter in the Fluvarium parking lot) We will take part in a meditative walk focused on nurturing our relationship with nature.

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

Tapestry - Saturday, May 9: 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.

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

Financial Update to March 31:

It has been a challenging financial time for St James, as the church was closed for two Sundays and there was a lot of snow to deal with.

For January 1 to March 31

Total Revenue \$68,546

Total Expenses 98,981

Total Deficit \$30,435

Explanation: Our collections are down \$8,000 from last year; Rentals are down \$4,000 - With the loss of Quadrangle and The Bridge Group didn't start till February; on a good note Fundraising is up by \$6,000. Our Insurance increased by \$3,400 from last year and repairs are up \$2,000. Heat is on par with last year, which is due to the number of fill-ups. For the month of March 2026 we paid \$9,000 for oil. This was due to the cost of oil on the rise and the excessive cold for the month. With the cleaners leaving and new cleaners starting we did save \$3,500 on cleaning. Everything else is on par with 2025. We did replace the lights downstairs with a cost of \$9,000 but this came out of the Contingency Funds

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