



**St. James United Church**



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

## **Celebration of Worship: June 21, 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.

In Loving Memory of a Cherished Father  
**Eric Paul**  
From Nancy & Anthony  
“With gratitude for a lifetime of wisdom, love  
and support. You are forever in our hearts”.

**June 21, 2026, Indigenous Peoples Sunday**  
(Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Father’s Day)

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Paul Fisher,  
Bob Rose and Jean Rose  
Ushers: Barbara Butt, Barry Cutler, Marilyn Adams,  
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

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*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 Innu-aimun, French & Spanish as we  
acknowledge the land and local Indigenous peoples and commit to  
full inclusion for all.*

**\* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**INTROIT:** “Long Before the Night” (*Voices United 282, v. 1*)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*based on Psalm 86:1-10 and 16-17*)

We come, seeking God’s strength and help,  
trusting in the One who holds our lives in love.

**We sing with gratitude for God’s goodness and grace.**

We come, wanting to be taught God's way,  
to follow God's path faithfully.

**We will serve God with all of our hearts.**

We come, praying for God's abundant mercy and forgiveness,  
seeking to redress the wrongs of our past.

**We trust in God who blesses every nation, tribe and people.**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Loving Creator, **we pray with thanks for your holy teachings revealed in many cultures, traditions and ways of life, especially the wisdom of the First Peoples of this land. May we open our hearts to their wisdom, to your wisdom, on this day of celebration, committing to walk with love for all. In the name of Jesus, our elder brother, we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN:** "God Who Spread the Boundless Prairie" (MV 53)  
*(Sing to the tune for "Come and Find the Quiet Centre")*

## **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](http://www.stjamesuc.org)), or e-transfer (email [treasurer@stjamesuc.org](mailto: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 Listen and Respond**

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

Genesis 21:8-21 and Matthew 10:24-39

\* **HYMN:** “Many and Great Are Your Works” (*Voices United* 308)

**READING:** *At the end of the reading please say, “Thanks be to God”*  
*Excerpt from Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass*

**HYMN:** “God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty” (*Voices United* 310)

### **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS**

**A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT:** *We pause for a time of quiet reflection.*

**SOLO:** “You Raise Me Up” (*Graham/Lovland*)

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE:**

Whenever we gather at table, we share like Jesus did, breaking bread as sinners and saints, reaching out to sure and unsure alike.

**We share this meal knowing that as bread is broken and wine is poured, we are nourished in spirit so we in turn may feed others.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.           **And also with you.**  
Open your hearts.       **We open them to the Holy.**  
Let us give thanks.      **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

We give thanks Maker of all, forming us as part of your wonderful creation. Together with all you have made, we share the beauty of this land and join with all creation in their chorus of praise.

**We give thanks for the land which nurtures us, fertile fields and abundant orchards, vast prairies and soaring summits.**

We give thanks for oceans and rivers, source of water and food, of spiritual nurture and physical sustenance.

**And we give thanks for the forests, trees breathing out life-giving oxygen and sequestering carbon deep under ground.**

We rejoice with all creatures in their chorus of praise – horses and moose, chickens and eagle, cod, whales and salmon.

**And all humans too, ancestors and friends; those who share this earth today and those from whom we borrow this land.**

We rejoice and give thanks, joining all creation in a song of praise: **Holy, holy, holy God, maker of heaven and earth, all creation shines with your presence - hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in God's name - hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks, Creator God, for the words of prophets and sages who taught your way of justice and peace, stewardship and love, who called us to tend the earth and care for each other.

**And we give thanks most of all for your child Jesus, recalling how he dreamed the best for us and the earth which we share.**

We remember his teaching, inviting us to learn from the lilies and birds, to care for all of creation and for each other. He lived this teaching as he extended to everyone your mercy & compassion.

**For this he was betrayed and abandoned, killed by the authorities for his unwavering commitment love.**

And so we remember how on the night before his death, he gathered with his friends to celebrate this commitment.

He took bread and after giving you thanks, gave it to them saying: "Take this all of you and eat it. This is my body broken for you."

In the same way he took the cup of wine and giving you thanks, gave it to them saying: "This is the cup of blessing, sign of the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you do this, remember me."

In this meal we remember the love and truth that flowed from his words and actions, a love and truth that continues to flow through all creation. In sharing this bread and wine we give thanks for all life, for Jesus and his way of peace and compassion, for his call to us to share what we have and welcome all in your love.

Loving Creator, through your Spirit bless this sacred meal, gift of the field and fruit of the vine, and bless us also in your grace.

**In sharing this meal, may we be a community concerned for all the earth, committed anew to it and all people.**

Holy One we give you praise: through Your Word made flesh, in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **PREPARING THE TABLE**

Bread of life, broken in love for the world.

Wine of blessing, poured out as an act of hope for all.

**Sacred meal, shared in commitment to God's holy way.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Holy One, we give thanks for this sacred meal. May it be a gift of grace and source of strength as we dream of creation renewed, and seek the reconciliation of all peoples. Amen.**

## We Leave to Serve

\* **HYMN:** “Where the Green Will Rise Again” (LTUS 157)

### **A BLESSING FOR FATHER’S DAY**

#### \* **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

The blessing of the running wave to you.

The blessing of the flowing air to you.

The blessing of the quiet earth to you.

The blessing of the shining stars to you.

The blessing of God: Abba, Christ and Spirit to you,

**and to all of creation, this day and evermore. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Please remain seated during the postlude.*

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### **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](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org);

Emergency Cellphone: 1-709-351-0983; Website:

[www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)

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## Life and Work – June 21, 2026

**We offer our sincere condolences to** the family of Maude Lake who passed peacefully on Tuesday, June 16 surrounded by her loving family. The service was held in the Barrett's Memorial Chapel, on Saturday, June 20, 2026 at 11am with interment followed in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Donations in her memory may be made to St. James United Church or St. Pat's Mercy Home Rec. Department.

**Tune into VOWR:** This Sunday's service will be rebroadcast on VOWR on Sunday, June 21 at 7:00 PM. We welcome all those worshipping in person, watching via livestream, and those listening.

**We acknowledge the following donations to the Cemetery Fund:**

\* In loving memory of Dad, Fred Higdon. From his Children Cheryl, Karen, David and Kelly.

\* In loving memory of Reginald Kingsley from Mary Ryan

**We acknowledge the following donation to the Memorial Fund:**

\* In loving memory of Fathers Lewis Babstock and Edward Murphy from Linda and Ed Murphy

**Office Closure:** The church office will be closed on Tuesday, June 23, 2026 to observe the June Holiday and will reopen on Wednesday morning as usual.

**Join the Pride Parade, July 19 at Noon:** Once again St. James United Church will be in the Pride Parade. So, let's get a large contingent of us to take part, showing our love and support of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Contact Rev. James (james @ [stjamesuc.org](mailto:james@stjamesuc.org)) for more details.

**Adopt a Flower Bed:** Do you love tending flowers? Then why not adopt one of our flower beds? We are looking for people to take on a flower bed, keeping it weeded and looking its best. Contact the office to let us know.

**Connecting with our Neighbourhood:** This summer and fall we are doing Prayer Walks in our neighbourhood. This is a simple weekly walk along the streets surrounding the church, praying, observing and connecting with neighbours as you go. We will form small teams of 2-3 people to walk each week (or every 2 weeks if that is easier). Contact Rev. James ([james@stjamesuc.org](mailto:james@stjamesuc.org)) if this interests you or for more information.

**Monthly Labyrinth Walk:** 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 at 6:30pm. June 24 and July 22. 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.

**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.

**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](mailto:newfie_1_ca@yahoo.ca).