



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship: August 2, 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.

August 2, 2026, Emancipation Sunday

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Heather McMaster,
Amy Dalziel, Jessica Willcott and
Ushers: Leah Kirk, Skyler Simpson, Julie Hollett,
Jean Thompson, Marilyn Adams 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 share greetings in Innu-aimun, French and Yoruba as we acknowledge the land and local Indigenous peoples, and commit to full inclusion for all.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP *(inspired by Psalm 17:1-7)*

One: Draw near to the One who listens to our cries for help.

All: We pray in trust that God responds to what is right.

One: Draw near to the One who calls us to follow their way.

All: We seek to walk the path that leads to fullness of life.

One: Draw near to the One who is a refuge for all in need.

All: We rest in God whose love is ever steadfast and true.

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Ever-faithful and ever-loving God,

**we gather today in gratitude for your abundant grace,
a grace that restores and liberates every people and nation.**

Be with us in our speaking and our in listening,

that we may be blessed in our understanding

and strengthened to faithfully follow your way.

We pray in the name of Jesus who came to set us free. Amen.

* **HYMN:** “Live into Hope” (*Voices United* 699)

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 to the office, go to the website (www.stjamesuc.org), or e transfer (email treasurer@stjamesuc.org receipts available).

* **OFFERTORY:** “Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God
all creatures high and low; give thanks to God in love
made known: Creator, Word and Spirit One.

* **PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND GRACE**

We Listen and Respond

LEARNING TOGETHER

* **HYMN:** “Three Things I Promise” (*More Voices* 176)

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

Genesis 32:22-31; and Matthew 14:13-21.

* **HYMN:** “We Shall Overcome” (*Then Let Us Sing* 129)

**We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome someday. Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe, that we shall overcome someday.**

**We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,
we'll walk hand in hand someday. Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe, that we shall overcome someday.**

**We shall all be free, we shall all be free,
we shall all be free someday, Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe, that we shall overcome someday.**

**We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace someday, Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe, that we shall overcome someday.**

READING: *At the end of the reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
John Wesley, "Thoughts Upon Slavery" (V,3) https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5300/sc5339/000091/000000/000001/restricted/2002_09_10/wesley/thoughtsuponslavery.html

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

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

SOLO: "Creation Sings the Father's Song"

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE AND RESTORATION

See projection for responses to the Litany in this, we give voice to the people who experienced the sin of enslavement and commit to seek healing for the past and to liberate others.

PRAYER OF JESUS (*Voices United* p 921, Ecumenical Version)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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.

We Leave to Serve

*** HYMN:** "God of Freedom, God of Justice" (*Voices United* 700)

*** BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

May the strength of God uphold us.

May the wisdom of God guide us.

May the compassion of God inspire us.

May the hope of God restore us.

May the love of God protect and nurture us.

May we walk in that love, this day and always. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Please remain seated during 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

Office: 722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;
Emergency Cellphone: 709-351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org
 [@StJamesUCNL](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesUCNL)  [@stjamesuc](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesuc)

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

Life and Work – August 2, 2026

We acknowledge the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:

*In loving memory of Annie & Albert Humphries, Brother Clayton Humphries from Bernice Skinner

We acknowledge the following donations to the General Fund:

- *In loving memory of Vera Marshall from Shirley Downey
- *In loving memory of Vera Marshall from Menetha & Sid Dyke
- *In loving memory of from Katherine Baikie-Pottle
- *In loving memory of Vera Marshall from Jean & Paul Thompson
- *In loving memory of Roger Baggs from Diane Ryan

We acknowledge the following donations to the Memorial Fund:

- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Louise Butt
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Peter & Shirley Barbour

A thought of the week: If you believe in yourself, anything is possible

Hymn Picking Team: We are looking for a small group of people (2 or 3) to assist in picking an older, favourite hymn for each Sunday, beginning in September. These may be from The Hymnary, Songs of the Gospel, or others that folks like to sing. Contact Rev. James (james@[stjamesuc.org](mailto:james@stjamesuc.org)) if you can help in this way.

On Pause for Summer: A reminder that Pub Theology, Tapestry, InsideOUT, Carehome Services, Taizé, and Meditation are all on pause for the summer. We will regroup in the Fall.

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

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: August 26. Meet on the lawn between the church and Paton Street.

St. James United Church Rummage Sale Saturday, August 29th

9am-1:00 pm: We are looking for donations of good used clothing, household items, small kitchen appliances, books, shoes, boots (in good condition), plants etc. **NO ELECTRONICS PLEASE!**

Donations can be dropped off at the church any Friday morning between the hours of 10 am to 12 noon starting August 8th to the 23rd Friday, August 28th from noon to 4 pm.

Please come out and support the church, your contribution is greatly appreciated. Please note there is a \$2.00 admission fee.



Dear St. James United Church,

Hello, this is Evelyn and Alicia reaching out to your organization from Bridges To Hope as the program coordinators for the 2026 Bag To School program. We know that summer has only just begun, but it is not too early to start thinking about Bag To School!

Each year, the Bag To School program at Bridges To Hope provides school supply assistance to K-12 students in the St. John's Metro region whose families are experiencing financial hardship. Our goal this year is to support 1000 local kids, many of which would not be able to put together a full complement of school supplies without this program.

Last year, Bridges To Hope was able to provide school bags to 900 local students. We are once again reaching out to our faith-based community, and are asking you to extend your generosity through donations of specific school supplies from our wishlist.

We are asking for donations of **24 pack Crayola Crayons** and **Erasers**. We are hoping you can help us in our mission to prepare young minds for a great school year in 2026.

Thank you for your continued support,

Alicia Flynn & Evelyn Stagg

Bag to School Coordinators

Bridges to Hope, Inc.

Charitable Reg. No. 859148009 RR0001

37-39 Cookstown Road

St. John's, NL, A1C 4G7

709-722-9225