



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

330 Elizabeth Ave,

St. John's, NL, A1B 1T9

Celebration of Worship: July 26, 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.

July 26, 2026, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Harvey Diamond,
Amy Dalziel and Emma Neville

Ushers: Guy Hollett, 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 Inuktitut, French and Ukrainian 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 128*)

Happy are we who come together to worship God;

Happy are we who seek to walk in God's way.

All who follow God's way of love will eat the fruit of their labour,
will live the gift that comes from a life of love and kindness.

Relationships of support and caring shall be their fortune,
the way of goodness and saving justice will bear much fruit.

Happy are those who worship God with lives of love.

God will bless them all the days of their lives.

OPENING PRAYER

Covenanting God, **in Jesus you sanctified your reign,**
planting your dream of love for this earth within your people.

Let it grow within us, strengthening not just in what we say,
but in what we do, in the way we walk together in this world.

Through the gift of your Spirit, may our lives give your glory,
now and always. Amen.

* **HYMN:** "In Loving Partnership We Come" (*Voices United* 603)

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:** "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

We explore themes of the day in a manner that is accessible to all ages.

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

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
Genesis 29:15-30 and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

*** HYMN:** "Seek Ye First, the Kingdom of God" (*Voices United 356*)

READING: *At the end of the reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
Cherie Dimaline, *The Marrow Thieves* (Cormorant Books, 2017)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

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

SOLO: "A Believer's Prayer" (Emma Neville)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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:** "Go to the World" (*Voices United 420*)

*** 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

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WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

Life and Work – July 26, 2026

We offer our sincere condolences to the family of Vera Marshall, our prayers are with the family

We acknowledge the following donations to the General Fund:

- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from The AOTS
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Linda Babstock
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Aubrey and Ruby Hill

A thought of the week: *“Life does not have to be perfect to be wonderful”*

General Protestant Cemetery Services (Flower Services):

Memorial Gardens Cemetery -- Monday, July 27, 2026 at 7PM – Rev. James and Amy Dalziel are leading the service.

Please note in the event of inclement weather, the services will move ahead to 7PM the next evening.

Wild Light Gathering, August 1 at 3 pm, Long Pond:

We will gather for a reflective walk in celebration of summer. We will meet at the shelter in the Fluvarium parking lot.

Please note: Our Office Administrator, Stephanie, is on holidays for the summer. Our summer student, Heidi, will be filling in for her during this time.

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) 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.



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

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