



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

330 Elizabeth Ave,

St. John's, NL, A1B 1T9

Celebration of Worship: August 16, 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 16, 2026, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Betty Pilgrim,
Amy Dalziel, Jasper Harris-Kavanagh and
Ushers: Damien Betts, Sasha Betts, Jean Thompson,
Marilyn Adams and Susan Pike

*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 Idoma as we acknowledge the land and local Indigenous peoples, and also commit to full inclusion.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Based on Psalm 133)*

How good and pleasant it is to be here!

How good it is to gather as kindred living in unity!

It is like refreshing dew falling on the parched ground.

And in it God gives a blessing, the blessing of life for ever.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, how good that you have called us together!

We praise you who, in love, restores what is lost,

heals what is wounded, and reconciles the estranged.

Be with us in our worship, that through the same love,

we may learn to speak to others with compassion,

to reach out with love to any who feel outcast,

and so to be means for you to bring blessing and peace.

We pray in the reconciling name of Jesus. Amen.

HYMN: "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" (Voices United 602)

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). 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

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

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

Genesis 45:1-15 and Matthew 15:10-28

HYMN: “Could It Be that God Is Singing” (*Then Let Us Sing* 117)

**1. Could it be that God is singing and these notes are my reply to the God-light warm
within me, joining earth and sea and sky?**

Surely mercy has a cadence—I can feel it in my soul!

Surely justice builds a chorus, making all God’s children whole!

**2. Have you carried heavy silence, have you let old sorrows win,
or proclaimed psalms of forgiveness but not offered them within?**

**Oh, the Spirit, she was singing, even when we could not hear her abundant streams of
living, waiting for us to come near.**

3. Hallelujah for my Jesus, for his life’s surprising course!

**May I, too, live bold resistance to injustice, hate, and force. Surely peace, it has a
cadence, asking all of what we bring!**

And if music is God breathing, take a holy breath and sing!

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

Journal entry of Etty Hillesum, prisoner in Auschwitz (died 1943)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

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

SOLO: "How Can I Keep From Singing"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PRAYER OF JESUS (VU p. 921)

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: "Spirit, Open My Heart" (*More Voices* 79)

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

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

Life and Work – August 16, 2026

We acknowledge the following donations to the Memorial Fund:

- *In loving memory of Vera Marshall from Daphne Coish
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Daphne Coish
- *In loving memory of Vera Marshall from Jean & George White

We acknowledge the following donations to the General Fund:

- *In loving memory of Gilbert Thomas from the AOTS
- *In loving memory of Vera Marshall from Aubrey & Ruby Hill
- *In loving memory of Vera Marshall from Charlie & Linda Babstock
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Patricia Strong
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Sandra Hudson
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Stella Button
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Carolyn O'Brien
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Florence Head
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Wes & Joan King
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Jean Meeker & Sue Peddle
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Loretta Lambert
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Paul & Jean Thompson
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Sheilah & David Beckett
- *In loving memory of Vera Marshall from Sheilah Beckett

A thought of the week: *"Be the reason you smile today"*

Rev. James on holiday: Beginning on August 27, Rev. James will be away on holiday visiting family in Alberta. While he is away, Rev. Bill Mercer will be covering any emergencies. He can be reached by email (bmercer@wesleychurch.ca) or on his mobile phone (709-683-1980). Rev. James returns September 10.

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) if this interests you or for more information.

Labyrinth Walk on August 26 at 6:30pm: Did you know we have a labyrinth? 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 the fourth Wednesday of the month at 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.

Bridges to Hope is accepting school supplies donations during the month of August. They are accepting donations until Friday, August 28.

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| • Backpacks | • Pens | • Duotangs |
| • Crayons (24 pack) | • Liquid glue | (assorted colours) |
| • Washable markers | • Glue sticks (big & small) | • 30cm ruler |
| • Colouring pencils (24 pack) | • Latex free erasers | • Loose leaf paper |
| • Binders (1-inch or 1.5 inch) | • Exercise books | • Highlighters |
| • Wooden & mechanical pencils | • Scissors | • Scientific calculators |
| | • Pencil sharpeners | • Geometry sets |
| | | • Headphones |