



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve
330 Elizabeth Ave,
St. John's, NL, A1B 1T9

Celebration of Worship: August 23, 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 23, 2026, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Amy Dalziel, St. James Quartet, Marilyn Adams and Tim Reynolds

Ushers: Paula Reynolds, Tim Reynolds, Marilyn Adams
and Jean Thompson

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

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

INTROIT: “Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Inspired by Psalm 124*)

We come together with trust in God.

Our help is ever in God’s name.

We say with confidence: God is with us.

If not, the powers of this world would have overwhelmed us.

Blessed be the God who will not abandon us.

Our help is in God, the maker of heaven and earth.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, we gather as your faithful people,

trusting in you who are ever our help.

Be with us as we offer you worship,

transforming us through your Spirit,

to be the living presence of your Son Jesus,

your saving Christ in the world.

Blessed are you from age to age. Amen.

HYMN: “Your Hand, O God, Has Guided” (*Voices United 274*)

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: 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

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

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE FOR BAPTISM

We welcome Brianna and Matthew Beazley as they present their child Arthur Bruce to be welcomed into the church through baptism.

LIGHTING OF BAPTISMAL CANDLE AND PROMISES

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

Do you promise to love this child and his family as together we extend Christ's love in the world? **We do with God's help.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & ACT OF BAPTISM

We give thanks for water through which we confer the sacrament of baptism, welcoming Arthur into the Body of Christ.

BLESSING, MARKING WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS, LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRESENTATION OF CANDLE

BLESSING OF PARENTS AND FAMILY

WELCOME BY THE CONGREGATION

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

The congregation may applaud as a sign of welcome.

HYMN: "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" (*Voices United* 444)

We Listen and Respond

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
Exodus 1:8-2:10 and Matthew 16:13-20

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

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

ANTHEM: "Give Me a Name" (*Then Let Us Sing* 12)

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: "O Jesus, I Have Promised" (*Voices United* 120)

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.

Choral Benediction: "Peace, Salaam, Shalom"

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: 1-709-722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;
Emergency Cellphone: 709-351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



@StJamesUCNL



@stjamesuc

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

Life and Work – August 23, 2026

We acknowledge the following donations to the Memorial Fund:

- *In loving memory of Vera Marshall from Maxine Rose
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Maxine Rose
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Christine Sulley
- *In loving memory of Vera Marshall from the UCW

We acknowledge the following donations to the General Fund:

- *In loving memory of Reginald Kingsley from Trudy Richards
- *In loving memory of Joan Barbour from Clarence & Evelyn Newell and family
- *In loving memory of Reginald Kingsley from John & Carole Kelly and the Cody family
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Edna Lewis
- *In loving memory of Melinda J Ryan from Diane Ryan
- *In loving memory of Dick Andrews from Sandra Hudson

A thought of the week: *“Try to be a rainbow in someone else’s cloud”*

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.

MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH PORTUGAL COVE, NEWFOUNDLAND CELEBRATES!

They are now planning their second annual old-fashioned style garden party to be held at Memorial United Church in Portugal Cove. This will include a full out party with fun, food and music on Saturday, September 26th, 2026 from 2-4pm.

The garden party will include live music, traditional games like fish pond, darts, corn hole, etc., a BBQ, a cake walk, a book sale table, a flea market table of craft and art supplies, local artists and craft persons, an ice cream tent, tickets on a hand made quilt, Anniversary Cake, and much, much more. **NOTE:** All games will cost just \$1; BBQ hamburger/hotdog & drinks \$5. For the games and activities every player wins!