



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

330 Elizabeth Ave,

St. John's, NL, A1B 1T9

Celebration of Worship: August 9, 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 9, 2026, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Jalna McMaster,
Amy Dalziel and

Ushers: Bill Pike, Cindy Pike, 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 Mi'kmawí'simk, French & Korean as we acknowledge the land and local Indigenous peoples, and also commit to full inclusion.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP *(inspired by Psalm 105)*

Give thanks to God and make known God's deeds.

We sing praises to God and tell of God's wonderful works.

Rejoice all you who seek after God.

We seek for God and honour God's abiding presence with us.

Remember the many ways God has cared for their beloved ones.

We give thanks to God and praise God's holy name.

OPENING PRAYER

We praise you, Gracious God, ever present in love,

lifting us up though your beloved child, Jesus.

Be with us now as you were in him, strengthening our faith

and encouraging us in hope, even as we face various trials.

May we may never doubt his ongoing presence among us

but proclaim him as Liberator and Lord.

Praise to you, Gracious God, now and for ever. Amen.

HYMN: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (*Voices United* 220)

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

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

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 and Matthew 14:22-33

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

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

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

HYMN: "O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts" (*Voices United 472*)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE:

Whenever we gather at table, we share in love like Jesus did.
We share this meal knowing that he is with us now and always.

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 and 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, the same love and truth flowing through creation. **In sharing this bread and wine we give thanks for Jesus and the call to share what we have in honour of 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.**

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.

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: "Will Your Anchor Hold" (*Voices United* 675)

*** 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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Life and Work – August 9, 2026

We offer our sincere condolences to the family of Gilbert Thomas, who passed away on Saturday, August 1st. Please keep the family in your prayers, may he Rest In Peace.

We acknowledge the following donations to the Memorial Fund:

- *In loving memory of Vera Marshall from Barbara & David Adams
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from J. Wilson Day
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Eric King
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Linda Boone
- *In loving memory of Derrick Andrews from Linda Andrews
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Irene Pike
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Linda Butt
- *In loving memory of Ron Robbins from Doug & Joan Bursey
- *In loving memory of Vera Marshall from Doug & Joan Bursey
- *In loving memory of Brenda Butt from Doug & Joan Bursey

We acknowledge the following donations to the General Fund:

- *In loving memory of Lewis & Margaret Babstock from their family
- *In loving memory of Vera Marshall from Barbara Butt
- *In loving memory of Derrick Andrews from Barbara Butt
- *In loving memory of Derrick Andrews from Shirley Downey

A thought of the week: *"Hope grows wherever kindness is planted"*

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.