



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship: September 13, 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

**September 13, 2026, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Second Sunday in the Season of Creation)**

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

Ushering and Serving: Damien Betts, Gerry Mayo, Kim Mayo,
Marilyn Adams and Susan Pike

*Print in **bold** indicates that the portion is read or sung by everyone.*

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE: *We share greetings in Inuktitut, French and Sinhalese, and honour Christ with us.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND SHARING OF PEACE
We give thanks for the land, commit to inclusion, and greet each other.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(inspired by Psalm 114)*

We come in the name of God, who gathers us into community,
forming us to be a sanctuary of God's presence in the world.

We come with the love of Christ, who gathers us into community,
calling us to be a sign of their liberating grace for others.

We come in the power of the Spirit, who calls us into community,
inspiring us to trust in God's saving acts for all of creation.

We come together as community. Let us worship our triune God.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One and Holy Three, who has called us together -

we worship you in love and trust.

Be with us as we worship, hearts open to your saving grace.

May we grow in relationship with you and one another,

inspired through your word and nurtured in your sacrament.
We pray in the name of Jesus, your love made known. Amen.

HYMN: "Let Us With a Gladsome Mind" (*Voices United* 234)

We Share in Love

OUR LIFE AND WORK



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). Tax receipts available.*

HYMN: "For the Gift of Creation" (*Voices United* 538)

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts which we give.**

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND GRACE

We Listen and Respond

PAUSE TO CENTRE OURSELVES

READINGS: Exodus 14:19-31 and Matthew 18:21-35

SOLO: "His Eye is on the Sparrow"

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

HYMN: "As We Gather at Your Table" (*Voices United* 457)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

We are invited to come together around this table
as those who belong to the household of Christ.

We come as his siblings, and siblings of each other, a family of the reborn and reconciled, renewed with all creation.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF 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 eagles, 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 Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your light. Glory to you our God.

Blessed is he, blessed are we, blessed are all who come.

Hosannas ring, archangels sing. Blessed are all who come.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your light. Glory to you our God.

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 especially for your child Jesus, recalling how he dreamed the best for us & 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 & compassion.

For this he was betrayed and abandoned, killed by the

authorities for his unwavering commitment to 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 that flowed in his life, the same flowing through creation. Therefore we proclaim our hope:

Christ has died, Christ is ris'n, Christ will come again.

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.

All: Amen, amen, alleluia, amen, alleluia, amen.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*Voices United*, p. 921)

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND FILLING THE CUP

The bread we break, **is our sharing in the life of Christ.**

The cup we bless, **is our restoration through his saving death.**

SHARING IN COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to share communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. Come to the front to receive the bread and grape juice (in a small glass). Please consume both before returning to your pew. Please let us know if you need the gluten free option. If you're unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*in unison*)

We give thanks Saving God, for the meal we have shared, for bread, for wine, for your wisdom revealed, guiding us on the

**way to life renewed, and the promise of love for all creation.
Amen.**

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” (*Voices United* 651)

BLESSING AND SENDING

Go in the blessing of God whose abundant loves hold all creation,
in the companionship of Christ who encourages us in God’s way,
in the power of the Spirit who draws us deeper into God’s kin-dom.
Go and tend the earth, bringing forth the fruits of righteousness.
We go in the love of Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Please remain seated until the end of the postlude*

St. James United Church

Chair of Council:	Pamela Norman
Minister:	Rev. James Ravenscroft
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Co-Directors of Music:	Amy Dalziel & Bob Rose
Office Administrator	Stephanie Harnum
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

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Life and Work - September 13, 2026

We offer our sincere condolences to the family of Dr. Asım Aslan who passed peacefully Friday, May 29th, 2026. The Funeral Service was held at Millgrove United Church.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family of Vida Short on her sudden passing on Saturday, September 5, 2026 at age 90. Funeral service was held on Saturday, September 12 from the Carnell Memorial Chapel. Interment took place at the Anglican Cemetery, Kenmount Road. The funeral service for Vida Short was livestreamed on Carnell's website for those unable to attend.

Welcome Back Sunday: Next Sunday, September 20, we mark our annual Welcome Back Sunday. Along with our first Soup Luncheon since summer holidays, various committees, groups and teams will have set up booths to promote their work and give people a chance to sign up for various activities and events. Be sure to come and why not invite a friend to come along so that we can welcome them as well.

Meditation for Busy People: Each Wednesday at 5:45 pm, we host a short time of Christian Meditation followed by additional spiritual practices like Lectio Divina, walking the labyrinth, a wonderful chance to come to inner quiet as we each focus on God's love within us. Come to the Fellowship Room. If you have not practiced Meditation before, arrive at 5:30 pm and Rev. James will teach you how to go about it. Following meditation, each week there is an additional spiritual practice to take part in, such as Lectio Divina, walking the labyrinth or Taizé.

Mediation Plus! Following our weekly meditation gathering, why not stay for another form of prayer or learning at 6:30 pm. The schedule is as follows:

First Wednesday of the month: Taizé Prayer (a time of singing and reflection)

Second Wednesday: Lectio Divina (shared reflection on a short Bible passage)

Third Wednesday: Post meditation teaching (learn more about Christian meditation)

Fourth Wednesday: Labyrinth Walk (a meditation practice focused on movement)

Pub Theology: Each Third Thursday at 7 pm, Guv'nor Pub. Join others over a beverage to talk about faith, spirituality, ethics and other of life's big questions

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.

Cochrane Street United Final Decommissioning Service: The congregation of Cochrane Street United Church warmly invite you to our deconsecrating service on Sunday, September 27, 2026 at 2:00pm at Cochrane Street. We welcome everyone to reflect on our legacy with us as we disband our congregation and deconsecrate our church. An M & S offering will be collected and everyone is invited for coffee and tea after the service.

Maintenance Person: St. James is looking for a part-time maintenance person for some odds and ends, up to a possible 15 hours per week. Please contact Stephanie at the church office for more information at info@stjamesuc.org

Soup Luncheon: Soup luncheon starts up on Sunday, September 20th

We are looking for donations of soup/casseroles, dinner rolls and sweets.

Please sign up on the sheet in the foyer or contact Brenda, Barbara, Catherine or Linda.

AOTS: The men's club will hold its first meeting of the fall on Wednesday September 16 at the usual time, 12:30 for 1:00. New members are always welcome.