



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

Celebration of Worship: September 20, 2026



Welcome



**Sept. 20, 2026, Welcome Back Sunday
(Third Sunday in the Season of Creation)**

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Owen Sinyard,
Amy Dalziel,

Bob Rose and the Senior Choir

Ushers: Skyler Simpson, Barry Cutler, Marilyn Adams,
Jean Thompson, and Susan Pike

*Take whatever posture for singing and prayers that you wish.
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 gather in love, greeting each other in Innu-aimun, French & Ukrainian.

LAND-KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT; SHARING OF PEACE

INTROIT: "Confitemini Domino" (*Taizé Chant, MV 16*)

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Psalm 105*)

We come in gratitude for all that God has done.

We will sing praises for God's abundant love and guidance.

We come to affirm the relationship we share in Christ.

We will reflect on what it means to follow his way in the world.

We come through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

We will be faithful as God's children with all of creation.

OPENING PRAYER

God of abundant grace,

you call us together as your children, one family in your love.

Bless us in this time of worship, teaching us your way

and leading us to echo your generosity in our lives,

that we may reveal your gospel in all that we do and say.

We pray in the name of Jesus, your servant and our lord.

Amen.

HYMN: "For the Beauty of the Earth" (*Voices United* 226)

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 United Church: 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 are 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

LEARNING TOGETHER

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

HYMN: "Like a Rock" (*More Voices* 92)

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
Exodus 16:2-15; and Matthew 20:1-16;

HYMN: "Through All the Changing Scenes of Life"

**Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still my heart and tongue employ.**

**Oh, magnify the Lord with me, with me exalt His name;
when in distress to Him I called, he to my rescue came.**

**The hosts of God encamp around the dwellings of the just;
deliverance He affords to all who on His succour trust.**

**Oh, make but trial of His love, experience will decide
how blest they are, and only they, who in His truth confide.**

**Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then have nothing else to fear;
make you His service your delight, your wants shall be His care.**

**For God preserves the souls of those, Who on His truth depend;
To them and their posterity, His blessing shall descend**

READING: *At the end of the reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
Excerpt from Charlotte Eriksson, Everything Changed When I Forgave
Myself: Growing Up Is a Wonderful Thing to Do. Broken Glass Records,
2018.

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

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

ANTHEM: "Let's Go Together" (*Zelman/Miller, TLUS 138*)

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

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness" (*VU 260*)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

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 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-Music Directors:

Amy Dalziel & Bob Rose

Technology Support:

Jake Thompson

Office Administrator:

Stephanie Harnum

Church Custodian:

Bruce Winsor

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Life and Work - September 20, 2026

InsideOUT LGBTQIA+ Spirituality Gathering - Sunday, September 20, 2026: InsideOUT is an LGBTQIA+ an opportunity to explore the intersection between queerness and spirituality. Held in the Multi-Purpose Room (old Quadrangle Outreach Room) at 7:30PM

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)

Fall Equinox Gathering, Monday, September 21 at 6 pm. Come to Long Pond (we will meet in the shelter by the Fluvarium parking lot) for a time to reflect together as autumn begins and a local artist leads us in an eco printing activity. Dress for the weather and bring a chair if you need one.

Labyrinth Walk on September 23 at 6:30pm, following Meditation:

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.

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 and First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council warmly to invite you to the Closing Service of Cochrane Street United Church and the Disbanding of the Congregation. This service will take place on Sunday, September 27, 2026 at 2pm, at Cochrane Street United Church. An offering will be collected at the service with all proceeds going to Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada. We welcome everyone as we give God thanks for the years of ministry and outreach and the legacy of this faithful congregation.

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