



St. James United Church



Belong ● Grow ● Serve

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

Celebration of Worship for September 27, 2026



The people of St. James United Church are eternal seekers who value diversity within our congregation, 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 27, 2026, Orange Shirt Sunday

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Theresa Roberts-Morrissey,
Damien Betts, Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose
and the St. James Quartet

Ushering: Barbara Butt, Jena Earle, 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

LAND-KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT; SHARING OF PEACE

We share greetings in Mi'kmawi'simk, French and Korean as we gather with thanks for the land and commit to be a fully inclusive community.

INTROIT: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (VU 400)

CALL TO WORSHIP (*adapted from Indigenous Ministries, Canada & Bermuda Territory, The Salvation Army, Prayers for September 2025*)

We come together, called in God's love to seek healing & hope.

Because reconciliation matters, we walk together in truth.

We come to worship the God who makes all things new.

Because reconciliation matters, we open our hearts to healing.

We gather as a people of many stories and one faith.

Because reconciliation matters, we seek unity in God's love.

We are here, trusting that in Christ new paths are made. **Because reconciliation matters, we walk forward together.**

OPENING PRAYER

God of compassion, **we come together with broken hearts.**

You have called us to walk the way of Jesus; doing so means confronting the truth of Christian history, including

how our ancestors in faith, twisted his way, turning it into a path that brought harm to Indigenous peoples. May that truth motivate us now to walk your healing road, and in your grace seek reconciliation with all our relations. Amen.

HYMN: “This Path We Walk” (*Voices United* 388)

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 that we give.**

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND GRACE

We Listen and Respond

LEARNING TOGETHER

HYMN: “Like a Rock” (*More Voices* 92)

PAUSE TO CENTRE OURSELVES

READINGS: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; and Matthew 21:23-32

ANTHEM: “Kum Ba Yah”

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

REMEMBERING OUR COMMITMENT: “The 1998 Apology to former students of United Church Indian Residential Schools, and to their families and communities;” delivered by the Very Rev. Bill Phipps

HYMN: “There Shall Be Showers of Blessing” (SOTG 39)

PRAYER FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

We honour those who attended Indian Residential Schools and pray for a renewed relationship between Indigenous & non-Indigenous peoples.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: “God Who Spread the Boundless Prairie” (MV 53, *sung to tune for “God Who Gives to Life It’s Goodness” Abbot’s Leigh*)

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.

CHORAL BENEDICTION: “Peace, Salaam, Shalom”

POSTLUDE: *Please remain seated during the postlude.*

St. James United Church

Life and Work - September 27, 2026

We offer our sincere condolences to the family of Glenys Hazeltine who passed on September 7, 2026, following a short illness. A service was held in the Barrett's Memorial Chapel on Friday September 18, 2026 at 2pm with interment followed at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, 53 James Lane.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Jonas Newhook who passed away on September 8, 2026. The funeral service was held at the Carnell Memorial Chapel, on Saturday September 12th at 11 a.m. His service was livestreamed for anyone that was unable to attend.

We acknowledge the following donation to the Memorial Fund:

* In loving memory of our Dad, Mr. Jonas Newhook from Brenda Newhook and family.

Common Ground, a 2SLGBTQIA+ positive worship service:

October 4 begins a new venture for 2SLGBTQIA+ folks in Metro St. John's. This monthly Christian worship service is for and led by 2SLGBTQIA+ community members. Doors open at 6 pm with worship beginning at 6:30 pm.

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)

Post-worship Bible Study: This Sunday we resume our post-worship Bible Study. Come to the library 30 minutes after the start of coffee time to further explore the Bible readings of the day

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.

TODAY - 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

Office Closure: The church office will be closed on Wednesday, September 30 to observe Truth and Reconciliation Day. The office will reopen Thursday morning as usual.