



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship for October 11, 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.

In memory of cherished parents:
Roma & Eric Paul
“We are forever grateful for the lifetime of love and support that
you provided to us”.
From: Nancy & Anthony

**October 11, 2026, Thanksgiving Sunday shared in celebration
with St. John’s Methodist Church**

*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 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gather in love and greet each other in Innu-aimun, French and Twi.

SCRIPTURE SENTENCES (Psalm 65:5)

INTROIT: “O Worship the King” (*Voices United 235, vs. 1*)

RESPONSIVE OPENING PRAYER

Holy and Living God, all around us we experience your presence.

**We see your beauty in the diverse colours of creation
and your goodness in the bounty of forests and fields.**

You bless us through the love lived out in our relationships,
affirmed in people gathered around tables laden with food.

Be with us as we come together with gratitude this day.

**opening our hearts to your transforming grace, made real
both in this moment & the countless homes of your church.**

We pray with thanks in the loving name of Jesus. **Amen.**

HYMN: “Come O Thankful People Come”

**1. Come, O thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest
home; all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied; come
to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield, all the
fruits in full supply, underneath the summer sky, all that spring with**

bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land, all that liberal autumn pours from its rich o'er flowing stores.

3. These to you, O God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow; and for these our songs we raise, grateful vows & solemn praise. Come then thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

SHARING THE PEACE (*in the style of St. John's Methodist Church*)

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 the ministries of these two congregations: place a gift in the plate, use the square (tap machine) in the foyer, scan the QR code on the left, e-transfer (email treasurer @stjamesuc.org), go to the website (www.stjamesuc.org), or donate via PAR.*



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.**

We Listen and Respond

LEARNING TOGETHER

HYMN: "Bringing in the Sheaves"

**1. Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.**

**Refrain: Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,
we shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves. (x2)**

**2. Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;
By and by the harvest, and the labour ended,**

We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves. *Refrain.*

**3. Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master,
Though the loss sustained our spirit often grieves;
When our weeping's over, He will bid us welcome,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves. *Refrain.***

PRAYER FOR HEALING AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

READINGS: Deuteronomy 8:7-18-11; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (in Twi)

THE TE DEUM (*sung by members of St. John's Methodist Church*)

READING: The Gospel according to Matthew 6:25-33

ANTHEM: "Now Thank We All Our God" (*VU 236*)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Voices United p. 918*)

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

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (*Voices United 333*)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

Go in the blessing of God whose abundant care holds all creation, I
n the companionship of Christ who binds us together in love,
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-Directors of Music:

Amy Dalziel and Bob Rose

Technology Support:

Jake Thompson

Office Administrator:
Church Custodian:

Stephanie Harnum
Bruce Winsor

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

Life and Work - October 11, 2026

We accept the following donation to Bridges to Hope:

* In memory of Eric Patey, a loving husband and father from Betty, Jeff and Karen

We accept the following donation to the General Fund:

* In memory of Ron Robbins from Heman Whalen

We accept a following donation to the Music Program from Heather McMaster

Office Closure: The church office will be closed on Tuesday, October 12, 2026 to observe the Thanksgiving Day Holiday and will reopen on Wednesday morning as usual.

Rev. James' New Office Hours: If you would like to see Rev. James, he is in the church office on Wednesday evenings between 7:15 pm and 9:00 pm and on Thursdays between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm. If he is not in during those times, he has been called out on an emergency. Should that happen Stephanie can arrange an alternate time.

Common Ground was a Success! Last Sunday was our first Common Ground service, a monthly worship gathering created by and for the 2SLGBTQI+ community. 14 people came together to pray and support one another. Those who attended expressed deep gratitude to our congregation for hosting this venture. Our willingness to create safe space is much appreciated. If you know someone who would be interested in Common Ground, tell them about it. And be assured that allies are welcome to attend.

Soup luncheon - October 18th: we are looking for donations of soup/casseroles, dinner rolls and sweets. If you are able to contribute, please reach out to one of our team members (Linda, Catherine, Brenda or Barbara) or sign up on the sheet in the foyer. It is a free will offering, whatever you can offer is very much appreciated! We are grateful for your continued support!

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.

Use this link if you would prefer to join the group virtually:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88638302614?pwd=y4Ad1OqHjb8dtsWSLXJNMKkf2998f3.1>

Meditation 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)

Care Home Services: Each month, Rev. James and various volunteers lead worship services and hymn sings at 3 different care homes. Feel free to come and worship, sing, and meet the residents, some of whom are members of St. James.

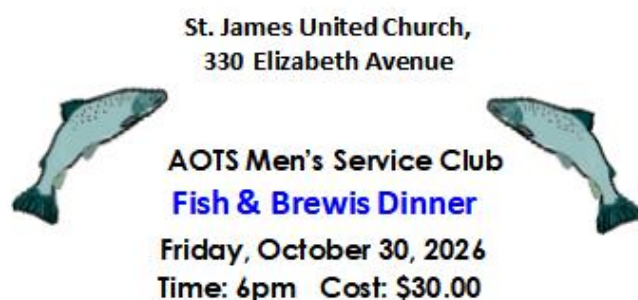
- 2nd Thursday at 2 pm - Worship with Bob Rose, UCW and AOTS at Pleasant View Towers.
- 3rd Wednesday at 3 pm - Hymn Sing with Doreen Brown at Kenny's Pond Retirement Community.
- 4th Wednesday at 2:30 pm - Hymn Sing with Doreen Brown at Bishops Gardens Seniors Living.
- In addition, Doreen Brown assists Rev. Rebecca on the 1st Wednesday at 3 pm at Tiffany Village.

Looking for a person to carryout Snow Clearing and Ice Control:

We are looking for someone to carryout the snow clearing and ice control of the church entrances/fire exits and walkways this winter season. If you or someone you know may be interested, please reach out to Stephanie on behalf of the property committee for details and more information at info@stjamesuc.org! Thank you!

Halloween at St. James: This year, we have decided to pivot to an indoor event. On *Sunday, October 25, 2026 from 2-3:30pm*, we will be offering pumpkin decorating for the children. ****no pumpkin carving will be done.**** There is no cost for this event and pumpkins will be provided. That being said, we have all our pumpkins chosen and waiting so any donation amount you can spare would be greatly appreciated. They can be put in the offering plate labelled "pumpkin", through Paypal by using the yellow donate button on stjamesuc.org (make sure to add a message or note specifying what the donation is for), or by using tap on the Square machine at our Sunday service. Craft supplies will not be turned away either and can be left at the church office during regular business hours. There is a limited number of pumpkins available so first come, first serve. Also, all children **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or guardian. A few volunteers are still needed, so if you have a spare moment, it would be greatly appreciated!

AOTS Men's Club Fish Dinner:



* Tickets are available from any member of the AOTS Men's Club or Aubrey Hill - [709-726-8306](tel:709-726-8306) *

Considering Membership? We are planning to celebrate new members on November 18, our congregational anniversary. So let us know if you're currently a member of another congregation and considering transferring your membership to St. James, or were baptized in the United Church but never confirmed, or were baptized in another denomination and want to join the United Church. Whatever your circumstances, we would be happy to discern with you what is needed for you to become a member of our congregation. You can email Rev. James (james @ [stjamesuc.org](mailto:james@stjamesuc.org)) or Susan Pike (susanpike @ [warp.nfld.net](mailto:susanpike@warp.nfld.net)).

Harvest Tea & Bake Stall

Saturday, November 7th at 2PM-4PM.

Tickets \$10 available at the church office and at the door

