



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship for October 4, 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.

Oct. 4, 2026, World Communion Sunday

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Jalna McMaster, Donna Downey,
Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose, and the Senior Choir.

Ushers: Damien Betts, Jena Earle, Riley Ford,
Marilyn Adams and Jean Thompson

*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 Inuktitut, French and Yoruba as we gather with
thanks for the land and commit to be a fully inclusive community.*

INTROIT: “A Whisper from the Universe” (*Then Let Us Sing 3 v.1, 4*)

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Psalm 19*)

We gather with gratitude for God’s glory revealed in creation.

We are attentive to the wisdom made known in the world!

We gather ready to hear God’s truth revealed in scripture.

We will take to heart God’s precepts and ordinances!

We gather as servants of God around the table of Christ joined.

We are united in Christ as we share his sacramental love!

We gather with trust in God our redeemer and Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

Redeeming God,

**you have set before us the goal of new life in Christ,
experienced in reconciliation of all the world in your love.**

**May we live just that through the dying and rising of Christ,
and so bring forth the harvest of your saving kin-dom.**

We pray in the name of Jesus, your Risen Son. Amen.

HYMN: “We Gather as Christ’s Body” (*Then Let Us Sing 155*)

1. We gather as Christ’s body and lift our hearts anew.

The Spirit is among us, at work in all we do.

And God, the One we worship, shows tender loving care:

inviting life-abundant with siblings everywhere.
No sorrow can confine us, no power can destroy
No sorrow can confine us, no power can destroy
our hopeful trust to guide us, our songs of faith and joy.

2. In times when we are sep'rate and distance feels a strain

We turn toward Creator who reassures again:

Though sadness may befall us, what trial can assail?

Can sickness separate us? Can fear or death derail?

No! Nothing can divide us, not height or depth or space,
from God our watchful parent, who folds us in embrace.

3. Though even when we're silenced, our hearts uplift in praise
For love that's ever-seeking; for love that ever-stays. We bring
this promise with us: God's presence is at hand when loneliness
is crushing, when we don't understand. Our trust makes ways of
knowing; in weakness we are strong; our faith becomes our
courage, God's love becomes our song.

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 your gift in the plate, use the Square (tap payment
machine) in the foyer, scan the QR code on the left,
donate via PAR, go to the website (www.stjamesuc.org),
e-transfer (email treasurer@stjamesuc.org), or mail the
church office. Tax receipts available upon request.*



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

HYMN: "Whosoever Will May Come" (*Songs of the Gospel* 88)

1. **“Whosoever heareth!” shout, shout the sound!
Send the blessed tidings all the world around;
Spread the joyful news wherever man is found:
“Whosoever will may come!”**

***Refrain: “Whosoever will! whosoever will!” Send the proclamation
over vale and hill; ’tis a loving Father calls
the wand’rer home: “Whosoever will may come!”***

2. **“Whosoever cometh” need not delay,
Now the door is open, enter while you may;
Jesus is the true, the only Living Way:
“Whosoever will may come!”. *Refrain***

3. **“Whosoever will!” the promise is secure;
“Whosoever will,” forever must endure;
“Whosoever will!” ’tis life forevermore;
“Whosoever will may come.” *Refrain***

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, “Thanks be to God.”*
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; and Matthew 21:33-46

ANTHEM: “North” (*Sleeping at Last, arr. George Chung*)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

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

HYMN: “All Who Hunger” (*Voices United 460*)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

We come to this table from around the world, united in Christ,
joined as his siblings, a family both grateful and graced.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (adapted from a Eucharistic
Prayer in *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*)

God be with you. **And also with you.**
Open your hearts. **We open them to God.**
Let us give thanks. **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

We praise you, singing One, shining One, loving and breathing One, for
all you have made is gift. In the majesty of the ocean and hidden life of

our kin of the sea; in the unseen currents of the air and soaring life of our kin of the sky; in the fertile depths of the earth and sensuous life of our kin both in and upon the soil; in the mystery of all we see your face, your breath, and your touch.

We thank you for your Spirit's breath on the face of the waters, loving chaos into integrity; we thank you for your Word made flesh loving heaven and earth into communion; we thank you for your constant, goading presence, nurturing your reign into being.

With all that lives and breathes, with all that is more than human, we sing the symphony of your love in the communion of creation:

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 ask you to enliven your Spirit in us and these gifts that these earthly things may be to us the nurturing presence of Jesus Christ, who, on the night he was betrayed, gathered with friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. Calling them to table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: 'This is my body, which is given for you.'

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my lifeblood. Whenever you eat, whenever you drink, whenever you share at table, do so in memory of me.'

As on that night, so here and now Christ offers himself in touch and taste a gift beyond all that words can hold, a mystery of faith:

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

Therefore, we come to him in whom all is created in heaven and on earth, whose cross and resurrection make all things new. We offer this to you, asking you to smile upon the gift we bring, for you alone are the Giver and Christ's the gift through which we live, once and for all. Through him who was emptied to bear your fullness we make our prayer with all created life to the glory of the God who fills all in all, now and for ever.

Amen, amen, alleluia, amen, alleluia, amen.

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

SHARING IN COMMUNION

As God gave us golden fields of wheat, whose many grains have been made into this one bread, and vines laden with fruit whose juice has been mingled together into sweet wine.

So may the church be gathered from the ends of the earth and joined together in God's loving kin-dom.

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 glass). Please tell us if you need gluten free. If you prefer a blessing, cross your arms over your chest to indicate as much. If you are unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, **may we who have broken bread in this sacrament of new creation, hallow this world of matter and life, sharing its gifts with reverence, with joy, with compassion. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "Praise with Joy the World's Creator (*Voices United 312*)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

Go in the blessing of God whose abundant loves hold all creation,
In the fellowship of Christ who encourages us in his loving 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 and Bob Rose

Technology Support:

Jake Thompson

Office Administrator:

Stephanie Harnum

Church Custodian:

Bruce Winsor

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



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Before you buy, consider what your purchase may inadvertently support: Did you know that the revenue generated from Harry Potter themed products support anti-trans initiatives in the UK? The author of Harry Potter uses her wealth to fund legal challenges to trans-inclusion in the public sphere. Given this, we kindly ask that you consider carefully what it means to buy such products when we are committed at St. James United Church to not only being a safe and supportive space for all, including the trans community, but advocating for a more inclusive and just society as well.

Joint Worship and Early Fellowship on Thanksgiving Sunday: On Sunday, October 11, the congregations of St. James United Church and St. John's Methodist Church will come together for a joint worship service. In addition, our fellowship time will be before the service, beginning at 10am. To accommodate both congregations, we will gather in the auditorium.

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 here at St. James United Church.

Tapestry - Saturday, October 10: Beginning with a potluck at 5:30. This service celebrates the strands that make us who we are in terms of faith, experience, and identity.

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>

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)

Connecting with our Neighbourhood: This 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.

Jack O' Lantern Decorating: We are looking for 2-3 people that can assist in this event for neighbourhood children. Please contact Rev. James if you are interested.