St. James United Church

Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship: November 15, 2026



In Loving Memory of Brother:
Derek T. Butt (March 16, 1953 – November 14, 2021)
From Sisters Glenda Winsor, Gloria Le Feuvre and Families.

November 15, 2026, Anniversary Sunday

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Rev. Susan Sheppard,
Tim Reynolds, Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose, and Senior Choir
Ushering: Alma Lake, Randy Butler, Marilyn Adams,
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

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*Please rise as you are able where there is an * in the service.*
*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 Mik'mawis'imk, French and Igbo.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SHARING OF PEACE
*We give thanks for the land, acknowledge treaty obligations and affirm our commitment to the inclusion of everyone in our community of faith***.**

INTROIT: "When Morning Gilds the Skies" (*Voices United 339, v. 1*)

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE SENTENCES (Psalm 90:1-2)
God, you have been our dwelling throughout the generations.
Before the mountains were born or the heavens and earth brought forth, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

OPENING PRAYER
O God of every age and generation,
we gather in celebration of our 68th year as a congregation.
This is a time to ponder what it means to be church,
not just in past years together but as we look to the future.
Animate us with your love as we sing and pray together,
that we may follow Christ, your Incarnate Word
into the promise of your reign. In his name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN*: "For All the Ways" (*words, Jim Burklo, tune *Sine Nomine*)

For all the ways we help each other grow
as we share stories, moments high and low,
the face of Christ among us now will show.
We sing hallelujah, hallelujah.

For all the people that our church holds dear,
for every precious memory made here,
for those we serve in love, both far and near.
We sing hallelujah, hallelujah.

For times when silence is the truest word,
or when the prophet's thund'ring voice is heard,
for tears and laughter that our church has stirred,
we sing hallelujah, hallelujah.

In all our struggles, God will lead us through,
and give us strength to do what we must do,
to gain the peace and justice we pursue,
we sing hallelujah, hallelujah.

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: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" (*Voices United 541*)

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND GRACE

We Listen and Respond

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS: *We welcome the following people by transfer or profession of faith: Lara Bayode, Harvey Diamond, Paul Diamond, Linda Facey, Ron Ford, Brian Johnston, Mary Johnston, Heather McMaster, Ian McMaster, Jalna McMaster, Robyn McMaster, Brenda Newhook, Gloria Osei, David Reeves, Linda Reeves, Stephen Reeves, Jordan Thornhill and Margaret Thornhill.*

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT
…As siblings in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring and pledge to you our love and support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

PROFESSION OF FAITH: "A New Creed" (*Voices United* p. 918)

HYMN: "I Have Called You by Your Name" (*More Voices* 161)

LEARNING TOGETHER

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
Matthew 25:34-40, Brian D. McLaren entitled *Faith After Doubt*: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to Do About It (New York: St. Martin's Publishing Group / Macmillan Publishers, 2021), 29

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

ANTHEM: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (*Dan Forrest*)

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

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "Rise Up, O Saints of God"

Rise up, O saints of God! Have done with lesser things;
give heart and soul and mind and strength
to serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom tarries long;
bring in the day of Christlike love
and end the night of wrong.

Lift high the cross of Christ!
Tread where his feet have trod;
led onward by the Son of Man,
rise up, O saints of God!

BLESSING AND SENDING *(Based on 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Cor. 12:9)*
We are called to be people of hope, a community of God's beloved,
a community in Christ sharing in service of God's reign.
We do it in the power of love, blessed in God, Abba, Christ & Spirit.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Please remain seated during the postlude.*

Life and Work - November 15, 2026

We offer our sincere condolences to the family of George White, who passed away peacefully today, Thursday, November 12, 2026. Date of the Funeral service will be early next week.

InsideOUT LGBTQIA+ Spirituality Gathering - Sunday, November 15, 2026: InsideOUT is an LGBTQIA+ an opportunity to explore the intersection between queerness and spirituality. Held in the Youth Room (old Quadrangle Outreach Room) at 7:30PM

Post-worship Bible Study: There will be no Bible Study this Sunday, November 15, 2026.

Pub Theology: Thursday, November 19 (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

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

Have you moved recently or have a new phone number?: If you have moved recently or have a new phone number, we ask you to please provide the office with the updated information so we can update it in our system. info@stjamesuc.org. Thank you.

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)

Baking Spirits Bright Bake Sale: Don't have time to bake your Christmas cookies, cakes or treats? Let us help you out!
On Sunday, December 20th directly after the worship service we will be hosting a Christmas Bake sale, including breads, cookies, homemade fudge and more. Lunch we will be serving soup, hot dogs and sweets for a *free-will offering*. We are asking for donations of soup, chilli, rolls and sweets. Please contact Jean at: treasurer@stjamesuc.org. We are accepting donations for the bake sale on Saturday evening Dec 19th from 5 – 6 pm. All donations are welcome



St. James United 68th Anniversary Celebrations:
Friday, November 20, 2026. Tickets can be purchased at the church office during office hours by debit or credit, by E-transfer at treasurer@stjamesuc.org or by Paypal. Also, tickets can be purchased from Jean Thompson (709) 728-5048.
The deadline to get your tickets is November 15th. For additional information, please contact the church office at: info@stjamesuc.org

We are accepting donations for the cake walk and new items for the auction would be greatly appreciated! (Gift Cards, Wine, etc). They can be dropped off at the church office up to November 19th.

The menu is scalloped potatoes, ham, marinated carrots and dessert. Please let us know in advance of any dietary restrictions.



Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service: St. James United Church is hosting a service on December 17 at 7pm for anyone who feels sadness at this time of year, especially if they are grieving the death of a loved one, the pain of a life-limiting illness, the breakdown of a relationship, or any other loss that leaves them feeling blue. People of all faiths and beliefs are welcome.



Memory Tree: Deadline - Sunday, December 13, 2026



MEMORY CHRISTMAS TREE FORM

At this time of the year, thoughts of our loved ones are never far from our minds. One of the ways we acknowledge this is through the Memory Tree. For a donation, a coloured bulb will be changed to a white one in memory or in celebration of loved ones. We often think of this in terms remembering those who have died but we also may have happy memories that we want to acknowledge, like the birth of a child, a graduation or perhaps an important anniversary. The money raised through your gift helps to fund the many projects and activities that make St. James the vibrant faith community we love. Please have your request into the office by *noon on* Sunday, *December 13* for inclusion in the Christmas Eve bulletin insert. Best wishes for a Christmas of peace, love and joy!

Donor's Name(s):

_____

In Memory or Celebration of:

_____

_____

Address:

_____

Donation of $5 a bulb: $_____