

# St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith  
330 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9  
April 25, 2021



The Church is a fellowship of believers who have responded to God's call through Jesus Christ. As members of a Christian community initiated by Christ to proclaim God's love for the whole creation, we are called to:

- (1) Believe in God and God's love made visible in Jesus Christ;
- (2) To participate in a spiritual journey, intentionally proclaiming, celebrating and deepening spiritual consciousness;
- (3) To be good stewards of all that we possess and to care for the Earth which is God's creation;
- (4) To develop meaningful and caring relationships with others as well as with God;
- (5) To empower individuals and groups, in response to the call of Christ, to increase their awareness of the oppressive forces around them, and with God's help, to seek justice for all people.

Administration/Office: 722-1881, ext. 200

Church Email:

info@stjamesuc.org

Church Web Site:

www.stjamesuc.org

Facebook:



St. James United Church

Twitter:

StJamesUnited

Instagram:

St.JamesUC

Emergency Pager:

727-4067

NL Conference:

www.newlabconf.com

U.C. of Canada:

www.united-church.ca

The bulletin may be accessed at [stjamesuc.org/bulletins](http://stjamesuc.org/bulletins)  
password: StJamesUC

## St. James United Church

April 25, 2021/Fourth Sunday of Easter

Minister:

Rev. Marion Davis

Minister of Youth/Christian Education:

Susan Sheppard, DLM

Minister Emeritus:

Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown

Music Director:

Amy Dalziel

Associate Music Director:

Branden Olsen

Guest Musicians:

Nellie Whelan &

Glenda Winsor

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St. James United Church is a safe place for all people to worship, regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background or sexual orientation.

### MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP:

Worship is a time set apart from the daily routine of life, where God calls us to sharpen our senses to become familiar with the voice of the Spirit so as to recognize it more readily in all of life and ready ourselves to respond to its guidance.

*Worship for an Easter People, Volume 3, I-35*

## ORGAN PRELUDE

### We Gather as God's People

## MUSICAL PRELUDE

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY/FIRST PEOPLES

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

We celebrate the risen Christ as we light this candle to remind us that the Spirit of the eternal God moves around among and within us, drawing us into Christian Community.

## WELCOME

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: This is the season of Easter:

**All: the celebration of resurrection,**

One: the festival of hope,

**All: the promise of new beginnings,**

One: the dance of faith,

**All: the song of joy,**

One: the music of gladness,

**All: the hymn of love.**

**All: Let us worship our life-giving God!**

*Celebrate God's Presence, p192*

### PRAYER OF APPROACH: (In unison)

**O God, you came to the disciples and offered them Easter assurance. You came to the early church and offered resurrection hope. Come to us in this time of worship, and fill us with faith hope, and love.**

*Celebrate God's Presence, p193*

**HYMN:**      *The Church's One Foundation*                      VU 331

### We Respond to God's Love

### RECOGNITION OF OFFERINGS:

We have gathered our gifts together and have donated online, by PAR, by letter drop, as well as in the offering plate and now we dedicate them to God in gratitude and praise.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER: (In unison)

**We bring our gifts to you, O God. Here is the work of our hands, and here is the love of our hearts. Accept what we offer and use them, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrate God's Presence p50*

### We Listen to and for God's Word

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

O God, for whom there are no barriers, no stones too big to remove, roll away any resistance we have to you. Let your words fill us with new life and bring us out from the tomb of indifference, alive, again in you. Amen

*Celebrate God's Presence p197*

**SCRIPTURE READING:** 1John 3:16-24

**PSALM 23** (in unison)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**ANTHEM:** *Like a Shepherd*

**SCRIPTURE READING:** John 10:11-18

**REFLECTION ON THE WORD:** "Preparing a Table"

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *As the Deer* VU 766

### **We Are Sent Forth to Live our Faith**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

One: For our playful times and our serious times –

**All: thank you, God!**

One: For our moments of laughter and our moments of tears –

**All: thank you, God!**

One: For hopes fulfilled and ones to come, or pasts unfinished and dreams yet to be –

**All: thank you, God!**

One: For the time you give us and the talents you challenge us to risk –

**All: thank you, God!**

One: For holding what we give you and keeping it safe,  
for loving us even when we do not love you....

**All: thank you, God!**

One: Because we don't always live out our love, because we don't always live out your call, because we don't always use what you have given us to the best of our ability –

**All: forgive us, God!**

One: Because sometimes we are paralyzed by fear, by longing, by anger, by greed, by ourselves, and by others. Because sometimes we are hindering those who need to be set free...

**All: Forgive us God.**

One: Forgive us, God. Show us your wisdom, we pray, so that next time we might live the way you would have us do. Hear the prayers of our hearts, beloved God.

*(silent prayer)*

One: For all those in need,

**All: we ask your blessing.**

One: For all who have nowhere to turn,

**All: we ask your blessing.**

One: And more than that

**All: we ask that we might be your blessing to them,  
using the gifts you have freely given, to share your love with all.**

One: Thank you, loving God.

**All: Thank you, loving God. Amen**

**HYMN:**      *All the Way My Saviour Leads Me*      VU 635

All the way my Saviour leads me;  
what have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt his tender mercy  
who through life has been my guide?  
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,  
here by faith in him to dwell,  
for I know, whate'er befall me,  
Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Saviour leads me,  
cheers each winding path I tread,  
gives me grace for every trial,  
feeds me with the living bread.  
Though my weary steps may falter,  
and my soul athirst may be,  
gushing from the Rock before me,  
lo, a spring of joy I see!

All the way my Saviour leads me;  
O the fullness of his love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised  
in my Father's house above.  
When my spirit, clothed immortal,  
wings its flight to realms of day,  
this my song through endless ages,  
"Jesus led me all the way."

**COMMISSIONING:**

Leave this time of worship knowing that there is nowhere you can go where God is not and nowhere too far to find your way home.

Kate Crawford in *Gathering Lent/Easter 2018*, p35

**BENEDICTION:**

The grace of Christ attend you  
The love of God surround you;  
The Holy Spirit keep you, this day and always.

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

fill us with new life and bring us out from the tomb of indifference,  
alive, again in you. Amen

*Celebrate God's Presence p197*

## Life and Work – April 25, 2021

**We would like to acknowledge the following donations to the General Fund in loving memory of Winona Kelsey:**

- \* Rose Thain
- \* Judith Day
- \* Baxter and Catherine Rose
- \* Maxine Wentzell
- \* Barbara Butt
- \* Jeanette Taylor

**We would like to acknowledge the following donations to the Memorial Fund:**

- \* In loving memory of Winona Kelsey from Shirley Burse
- \* In loving memory of Winona Kelsey from Maxine and Tom Rose
- \* In loving memory of Winona Kelsey from Edna Bemister

**We would like to acknowledge the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:**

- \* In loving memory of Winona Kelsey from Joan Barbour

**It is with great pleasure** to announce that we have a new Office Administrator. Her name is Tracy Bishop and her hours are 10 am - 2 pm, Monday to Friday. Please feel free to give the office a call to introduce yourself.

**We are also happy** to spread the news that our limit for services has been bumped up to 100! Registration is still required. Call 700-6064 anytime between 11 am and 4 pm, Monday to Friday.

### **It's National Volunteer Week 2021! Sunday, April 18 to Saturday, April 24!**



We take this opportunity to recognize and thank all of our volunteers, especially during these uncertain and difficult times, who continue to give of themselves in many ways to show support and to ensure our community's connection to you remains strong.

From our ushers who promoted medical guidelines for in-person services;

\* to those who prepared our COVID-19 friendly communion sacrament;

\* to our musical groups who provided leadership during special services;

\* to those who have sewn and donated masks to the community;

\* to those who helped with telephone calls to just say hello;

\* to those who edited and provided our on-line worship services, assisted with scripture readings, and counted the collection; to those who updated our website;

\* to those who assisted with our fund-raising and community donations;

\* to our Zone Captains who delivered The Visitor Newsletter and envelopes;

\* and to our many church committees who continue to connect virtually, by e-mail or telephone.

All have certainly been needed and are valued to keep everything going during the past year especially with the pandemic health restrictions and closures!

All of these important duties, and more, are performed by our dedicated volunteers, either at a Sunday service or behind the scenes during the week. Our National Volunteer Week theme: The Value of One, The Power of Many, can truly be seen through the dedication and commitment of our volunteers at St. James.

Our volunteers are very special people. We appreciate you and everything you do.

All of this work could not be accomplished without you! Thank you!!