

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith
330 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9
August 29, 2021



The Church is a fellowship of believers who have responded to God's call through Jesus. 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:

Church Email:

Church Web Site:

Facebook:

Twitter:

Instagram:

Emergency Pager:

First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council:

The United Church of Canada:



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St. James United Church

StJamesUnited

St.JamesUC

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The bulletin may be accessed at stjamesuc.org/bulletins

St. James United Church

August 29, 2021/14th Sunday after Pentecost

Lead Minister:	Rev. James Ravenscroft
Youth/Christian Education Minister:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Soloist:	Glenda Winsor

St. James United Church is a safe place for all to worship regardless of race, creed, cultural background, gender, gender identity or expression, age, ability, sexual orientation, or any other circumstance.

We Gather as God's People

MUSICAL PRELUDE: Sheep May Safely Graze by J.S. Bach
(arr. S. Drummond Wolff)

WELCOME AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 45):

One: We gather this morning to offer our worship and praise.

All: We come; our hearts stirred by melodies of God's love.

One: We sing to the One who is enthroned forever,

All: praying that God may reign on earth as in heaven.

One: We open our hearts in love and commit our hands to justice,

All: called to set our lives on the foundations of God's grace.

OPENING PRAYER: (in unison)

O Gift of Grace and Wisdom, shine brightly among us. Open our minds to the wonder of your love, and our hearts to the way of your compassion, that, called to be your voice of both mercy and challenge, we may discern your path and live justly in this world. We pray in the name of One who came to show us the way. Amen.

HYMN: 'Let Us Build a House' More Voices 1 (v. 1-2 and 4-5)

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign a-new.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast the frees us:

All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words with-in the Word.
Build of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

We Respond to God's Love

OUR LIFE AND WORK

RECOGNITION OF OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (in unison)

With grateful hearts for the many ways we have known your blessing, O God, we share our gifts, knowing you will shape them, according to your purpose, as signs of your love among us. May our faith and your mission continue to grow. Amen.

ANTHEM/SOLO/SPECIAL MUSIC

We Listen for God's Word

PRAYER TO BE CENTRED (based on Psalm 46:10)

Be still and know that I am God. *(pause)*

Be still and know that I am. *(pause)*

Be still and know. *(pause)*

Be still. *(pause)*

Be. *(time of silence)*

Amen.

FIRST TESTAMENT: Song of Solomon 2:8-13

EPISTLE: James 1:17-27

HYMN: 'Loving Spirit' Voices United 387

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be,
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Like a mother you enfold me,
hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.

Like a father, you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.

Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be,
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-15, 21-23

MESSAGE: 'Doing Not Hearing'

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (Traditional version)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

We Are Sent Forth to Live our Faith

HYMN: 'We Are Pilgrims' Voices United 595

We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

COMMISSIONING

SUNG BENEDICTION: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (v.4) VU 602
This glorious hope revives

**our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love
in God's eternal day.**

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Select Variations on Aberystwyth by J. Parry
(arr. A. Dalziel)

MUSIC IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude: 'Sheep May Safely Graze' by J.S. Bach

Bach's soprano aria, arranged for pipe organ by S. D. Wolff, depicts the warmth, comfort and serenity found in a pastoral scene. It may remind listeners of Psalm 23: *The Lord is My Shepherd* and showcases the lyrical and gentle nature of the pipe organ's flute stops.

Postlude: Select Variations on Aberystwyth by J. Parry

J. Parry wrote the hymn tune *Aberystwyth* in the late nineteenth century for his church in Aberystwyth, a village on the western coast of Wales. The tune has been set to several sets of text, and members of St. James will recognize the tune as Voices United 669: Jesus, Lover of My Soul.

Life and Work – August 29, 2021

We gratefully acknowledge the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:

*In Loving Memory of Gilbert Hiscock from wife Ruby and family

New Feature Added to Our Website - St. James United Church website now contains 'Messages' (Sermons) from Rev. James Ravenscroft's Sunday worship services.

The 'Messages' are available to download and view on our website in the top right-hand banner under the heading called "Sermons".

Rev. Ravenscroft's messages will be added weekly.
We hope you enjoy reading them !!!

Calling all members of St. James! We want to hear from you!

Sometimes our "St. James Visitor" should include more personal content, so we would like to hear from you. What stories do you have to tell us? How has your faith helped you through these "unprecedented times," or anytime for that matter? Have you written a short story? A poem? Submit your thoughts to the Communications Committee and you might just see your entry in an issue of the "Visitor"

Email your submission to info@stjamesuc.org with the captions "Visitor Submission" in the subject line.

Please note: This is a file of submissions we are building for future issues of the "Visitor," so please don't feel discouraged if you don't see yours in the 2021 Thanksgiving issue. All entries will be reviewed and edited for grammar and spelling. Submit only your own work. By submitting, you agree to allow St. James to publish your story. All copyright remains with the author.

United Church of Canada – Pay It Forward

For just \$25, you can give the gift of a two-shot dose of vaccine in a country still struggling through the worst of the pandemic and support the worldwide effort to protect people from COVID-19.

The Government of Canada will be matching your gift donation dollar for dollar until September 6, so share a gift today!

While people in Canada are receiving COVID vaccines, people in many other parts of the world have no way to get them. Providing vaccines to these countries is only part of the story—the vaccines also have to get to the people who need them most. Support the worldwide effort to protect people from COVID-19, one vaccine at a time.

Your Gift will provide a complete COVID-19 vaccination to one person in a country where vaccines are in short supply.

Until September 6, each vaccine purchase will be matched by the Canadian government. Vaccine procurement, logistics, and delivery provided through UNICEF.

Visit <https://giftswithvision.ca/collections/featured/products/pay-it-forward> to make a direct donation or to find out more information about “Gifts with Vision”