

# St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith  
330 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9  
September 12, 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:



722-1881, ext. 200

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[www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)

St. James United Church

StJamesUnited

St.JamesUC

727-4067

[www.ucceast.ca](http://www.ucceast.ca)

[www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)

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

# St. James United Church

September 12, 2021/1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Creation/16<sup>th</sup> 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:	Stephen Browne

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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:** Fuga in C Major, BuxWV174 by D. Buxtehude

**WELCOME** - *We extend words of greeting in Inuktitut, Korean, and English.*

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TWENTY YEARS SINCE 9/11**

*We take time to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrorist attack on the USA.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP** - *We take time to give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who continue to steward it; we also commit to be an inclusive community for all.*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by Psalm 19:1-9):

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God!

**All: The sky above proclaims God's handiwork!**

One: All day and night God's goodness is revealed!

**All: Above, below, and around us God is always speaking.**

One: The wisdom of God is a source of life for all things.

**All: Through God's teaching we experience rebirth.**

### **OPENING PRAYER:** (in unison)

**Holy Mystery, Source of Life, you are like the sun above us, shining brightly with your grace. Open our hearts to your presence as we worship, your warm embrace holding us, drawing us to one another. May the Spirit we share renew us in your wisdom and love. We pray in the name of the one who shines among us. Amen.**

**HYMN:** "We Praise You, Creator" *Voices United 293*

We praise you, Creator, in earth, sea, and sky:  
Our Ruler, our Maker, our Sovereign most high.  
Each new generation lifts voices in praise;  
how good your creation, how gracious your ways!

Each springtime the blossoms bloom fragrant once more;

each summer and autumn brings forth its rich store.  
With witness compelling our praise and our prayer,  
creation is telling of your faithful care.

Your wondrous works teach us, Creator, to trace  
the limitless reaches of your love and grace.  
Your grace dwells among us, your love goes before:  
from eldest to youngest we praise and adore.

### **We Respond to God's Love**

**OUR LIFE AND WORK** - *We acknowledge the connection between our work and our worship as we take time to announce what is going on in our congregation and community.*

**RECOGNITION OF OFFERINGS** - *We acknowledge the ways people contribute to the community of faith and wider community, especially by way of supporting St. James UC financially.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:** (in unison)

**Gift of Love, as we worship today, we are grateful for this community and for all of the people who share their lives to nurture caring relationships, to advocate for others, to seek healing for the earth and justice for us all. May the many gifts of this community be a gift of your love to your world. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

### **ANTHEM/SOLO/SPECIAL MUSIC**

#### **We Listen for God's Word**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** - *We prepare to hear readings from the Bible and other sources of wisdom, lighting candles as a sign that it is God's Wisdom that we seek in our hearts.*

**READINGS:** James 3:1-12  
Mark 7:31-37  
Taken from *The Great Work* by Thomas Berry

### **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**MESSAGE:** "To Praise and Protect"

**HYMN:** "This Is God's Wondrous World" *Voices United 296*

This is God's wondrous world,  
and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is God's wondrous world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world:

the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their Maker's praise.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
God shines in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,  
God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world:  
O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
why should my heart be sad?  
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:  
God reigns, let earth be glad!

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** - *We take time to pray for the needs of our global and local communities, knowing that what we pray for we in turn are called to do something about.*

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS** - *Please pray in your first language.  
A traditional version in English follows:*

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

**HYMN:** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" *Voices United 326*

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of God's grace.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.

He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken-hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.  
Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,  
your tongues again employ;

you blind, behold your Saviour comes,  
and leap, you lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name.

**BENEDICTION:** Adapted from “Gaelic Prayer” by John Rutter

The blessing of the running wave to you.

The blessing of the flowing air to you.

The blessing of the quiet earth to you.

The blessing of the shining stars to you.

The blessing of God: Abba, Christ, and Spirit to you and all creation, this day and evermore. **Amen.**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE:** Marche de procession, op. 41, no. 5  
by A. Guilmant

#### MUSIC IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Prelude: Dieterich Buxtehude (c1637-1707) was one of the most influential organ composers of the Baroque Era. His catalogue of organ music (over 85 pieces) are well-loved among organ scholars, and his musical style was adopted and developed by his student J. S. Bach, the “Father of Western Music”. Buxtehude’s Fuga in C Major, commonly referred to as his “jig” fugue, is a lively, upbeat piece for manuals only. Listeners will hear the same theme repeated in different keys and registers amongst an increasingly complex musical texture.

Postlude: Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911) was an organist, composer, and teacher of the Romantic Era. He held the title of principal organist at the Eglise de la Sainte-Trinite (Paris) for thirty years where he played a Caville-Coll pipe organ. Guilmant’s musical style is grand and brilliant with triumphant melodies over complex French harmonic language. His Marche de procession has all of these qualities and maintains a triumphant marching tempo throughout.

#### **Life and Work – September 12, 2021**

We offer our condolences to Alice Forsey on the passing of her  
sister-in-law Joan Forsey on Sept 5, 2021.

**Worship Notes:** Over the last few weeks since Rev. James arrived, you will have noticed the addition of poetry and other types of readings as part of worship. This practice is rooted in Methodist tradition, namely that in addition to the Bible, John Wesley held that Christian teaching should be based not just on scripture but also tradition, experience, and reason. While the bible is still our primary source of teaching, including readings/poetry in worship honors how God speaks to us in many ways. Practically it also gives us some flexibility in shaping worship services. Note as well that the scripture selections from the Revised Common Lectionary still take pride of place in the service. In addition to there being two readings for a given Sunday, Rev. James often bases the Call to Worship on the psalm of the day.

**Book Group** - Would you enjoy exploring the Biblical Creation Stories? Come join our book group!

This is a 5-week study of Donald Schmidt's "Creation for Progress Christians" starting in early October. The group will meet Monday evenings from 8pm - 9pm via Zoom. Susan Sheppard will be ordering the books on Saturday, September 18, 2021, so please connect with Susan before then if you would like her to order you a paper copy for \$12.50. E-books are available through Woodlake Publishing.

Susan Sheppard's contact info: Phone: 722-1881 ext 204

Email: youthchurch@stjamesuc.org

**Forest Church Autumn Equinox Service** – \*\*\* Note the date \*\*\*

This will take place on Sunday, September 19, 2021, at 2:00pm in Susan Sheppard's garden. Please connect with Susan for directions.

Phone: 722-1881 ext 204 Email: youthchurch@stjamesuc.org

**UCW will be holding its first meeting since the onset of the pandemic** - It will take place on Monday September 13th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM (note the time change). COVID restrictions will be observed. A number of changes have been made in the format of the meeting. Members will be receiving a phone call with more specific information before the meeting. We hope to see many of you there and look forward to meeting again.

**St. James United Church is seeking an Associate Music Director**

Primary responsibilities: senior choir direction, (including selection of music), weekly choir practice and preparing for Sunday morning worship services, assist with the selection of Choral Scholars based on the needs of the senior choir, and provide back up to the Director of Music as required.

Preference will be given to a student/graduate of the MUN Music School, especially those interested in Choral Conducting. To acquire further information or to apply for this position please contact the church office at 722-1881 extension 200 OR email your resume to info@stjamesuc.org. The closing date for this position is Friday, September 17, 2021.

**Celebrating Creation Time** - Season of Creation is a five-week church season that concludes with Thanksgiving here in Canada.

First celebrated as a four-week season in Australia in 2000, the inspiration to set aside time to pray for the natural world hearkens back to 1989 when Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed September 1 as a day for members of the Orthodox Church to pray for creation.

Since then, this season has been adopted by more and more churches, becoming fairly common in United Church congregations over the last ten years. Given the increasing volatility of the weather due to human-caused climate change, it is more crucial than ever that we take time to give thanks for creation as well as to consider what we can each do to help protect this planet for future generations.

**Gower Street United**

**Stand Up for Palestinian Children's Rights Vigil** - Join us on September 17th, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Sanctuary Entrance to Gower Street United Church. The United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel asks that the Canadian government appoint a

special envoy to investigate what is happening to Palestinian children, including their arrest by armed soldiers in the middle of the night.

If you cannot join us at the vigil, the UNJPPI is soliciting a letter a month from people across Canada to Minister Marc Garneau, and their own MP focused on the appointment of a special envoy. You can participate by signing up at this link (<http://eepurl.com/htSZpb>) and we will send you a template letter you can adapt.