

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith
330 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9
September 5, 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

info@stjamesuc.org

www.stjamesuc.org

St. James United Church

StJamesUnited

St.JamesUC

727-4067

www.ucceast.ca

www.united-church.ca



The bulletin may be accessed at stjamesuc.org/bulletins

St. James United Church

September 5, 2021/15th 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:	Glen Warren

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: "Sicilienne" by M. T. von Paradis,
arr. R. Gower

WELCOME AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 125):

One: We come together in a spirit of trust,

All: confident that God's grace and goodness surrounds us.

One: We come together in a spirit of gratitude,

All: thankful for God's ever-abiding mercy and love.

One: We come together in a spirit of peace,

All: ready to serve one another and seek justice in our world.

OPENING PRAYER: (in unison)

O Holy One, from age to age, you are, ever-present source of love and life. It is through your invitation that we are here. And in your goodness, we receive your wisdom. Be with us now, as always, that we may discern your way and live graciously amid the struggles of this world. We pray in the name of Jesus, your Word. Amen.

HYMN: "Spirit, Open My Heart" *More Voices 79*

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome another.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

We Respond to God's Love

OUR LIFE AND WORK

RECOGNITION OF OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (in unison)

**Holy One, we gather today with gratitude for the many ways
you have called us to live with a heart for others. May the gifts of our time, our
financial resources, our loves and lives be a sign of your love and life in this
community and our world. 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.

READING: From *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall-Kimmerer

EPISTLE: James 2:1-9 and 12-17

HYMN: "Jesus, United by Your Grace" *Voices United* 591

Jesus, united by your grace,
and each to each endeared,
with confidence we seek your face,
and know our prayer is heard.

Help us to see in each a friend,
each other's cross to bear;
let all their friendly aid extend,
and feel the other's care.

Up unto you, our living head,
let us in all things grow,
till you have made us free indeed
and faithful here below.

Drawn by the lodestone of your love,
let all our hearts unite;
let us toward each other move,
and move toward your light.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-30

MESSAGE: "A Place at the Table"

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (a paraphrase by Rev. Sarah Dylan)

Loving Creator, we honour you, and we honour all that you have made. Renew the whole world in the image of your love. Give us what we need for today, and a hunger to see the whole world fed. Strengthen us for what lies ahead; heal us from the hurts of the past; give us courage to follow your call in this moment. For your love is the only power, the only home, the only honour we need, in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

We Are Sent Forth to Live our Faith

HYMN: "Let There Be Light" *Voices United 679*

Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face;

open our lips,
open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord
opening into grace;

Perish the sword,
perish the angry judgement,

perish the bombs and hunger,
perish the fight for gain;

hallow our love,
hallow the deaths of martyrs,
hallow their holy freedom,
hallowed be your name;

your kingdom come,
your spirit turn to language,
your people speak together,
your spirit never fade;

let there be light;
open out hearts to wonder,
perish the way of terror,
hallow the world God made.

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: “Trumpet Voluntary” by J. Stanley

MUSIC IN TODAY’S WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude: “Sicilienne” by M. T. von Paradis, arr. R. Gower

Maria Theresia von Paradis (1759 – 1824) was an Austrian classical composer and a contemporary of W. A. Mozart. Although she is credited with composing *Sicilienne* in E-Flat Major, many historians believe the actual composer was S. Dushkin. The piece features a gentle, flowing melody over colorful changes of harmony and was included in Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s wedding ceremony.

Postlude: “Trumpet Voluntary” by J. Stanley

The trumpet voluntary – a well-loved genre among English Baroque composers – is a composition for pipe organ that showcases the trumpet stop. Stanley’s *Trumpet Voluntary* creates a bright, fanfare ending to our worship service that shows the grandeur and brilliance of the pipe organ.