

Second Sunday of Creation
(17th after Pentecost)

Sunday, September 19, 2021



Photo by Robyn Budgell

St. James United Church
330 Elizabeth Avenue
St. John's, NL A1B1T9

Church Office: 722-1881 ext 200 Email: info@stjamesuc.org

Website: www.stjamesuc.org Emergency Number: 727-4067



@StJamesUCNL



@StJamesUnited



@st.jamesuc

September 19, 2021 – Second Sunday of Creation
(17th after Pentecost)

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Organist: Bob Rose
Soloist: Jean Rose

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME - *We extend words of greeting in Innu, Chinese, and English.*

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE - *We light the candle as a sign of Christ's spirit both with and within us.*

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.*

MARKING BISEXUALITY VISIBILITY DAY - *As an Affirming ministry, we give thanks for the diversity of our community.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 96):

One: We come together singing to God a song of renewal!

All: We join with all the earth who bless the Holy name!

One: We raise a joyful shout with the sea, earth, and sky!

All: We join the fields and forests in their song of praise!

One: They rejoice for the Holy One comes to bring justice,

All: to lead the people in the ways of truth and blessing.

OPENING PRAYER: (in unison)

Maker of all, as we worship today, we don't do so alone but join in the great song of all creation – dancing in praise with the wind and the waves, singing in gratitude with the wolf and willow. May the awe we feel lead us to prayer, and the love we feel bring us to share your blessing. We pray with the One who came to reveal your Love. Amen.

HYMN: "Each Blade of Grass" *More Voices 37*

Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.
Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God.

Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.
Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry outstretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.

Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.
Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God.

We Share

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 life, we live in an amazing world – so much beauty, so much bounty, and so in gratitude we pass on what we have received for the needs of others, for the healing of the world and the sharing of your blessing. May they be used in service of your justice and love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SOLO: "His Eye is on the Sparrow"

We Listen

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: "What She Can Teach You", Steve Garnaas-Holmes,
James 3:13-18, and Mark 8:27-35

SOLO: "For the Beauty of The Earth"

MESSAGE: "Listen, Learn, and Let Go"

We Respond

HYMN: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You" *Voices United 232*

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;

hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive our fear and doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.

You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music lifts us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

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, forever and ever. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty" *Voices United 310*

God, who touches earth with beauty,
make my heart anew;
with your Spirit recreate me
pure, and strong, and true.

Like your springs and running waters,
make me crystal pure;
like your rocks of towering grandeur,
make me strong and sure.

Like your dancing waves in sunlight,
make me glad and free;
like the straightness of the pine trees
let me upright be.

Like the arching of the heavens
lift my thoughts above;
turn my dreams to noble action,
ministries of love.

Like the birds that soar while singing,
give my heart a song;
may the music of thanksgiving
echo clear and strong.

God, who touches earth with beauty,
make my heart anew;
keep me ever by your Spirit
pure, and strong, and true.

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

Bisexuality

To love another, who shares my form,
and another who does not
is all the same to me.

Too much notice is applied to the surface,
when what is most important,
is the heart that beats beneath the skin.

- Shemaine English

St. James United Church

Lead Minister:	James Ravenscroft, OM
Youth/Christian Education Minister:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Office Administrator:	Tracy Bishop
Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

Life and Work – September 19, 2021

We gratefully accept the following donation to the Memorial Fund:

*In loving memory of Josie Howell from the UCW

Gearing Up for our Affirming Celebration: Early in 2020, SJUC voted to become an Affirming Ministry, a designation that celebrates the diversity of our community of faith and wider community. It was a day to celebrate.

Unfortunately, because of the ongoing pandemic, we haven't been able to have a public celebration yet (a requirement for official designation), but we hope to in the Spring of 2022. In anticipation of this, the Diversity Committee proposes that we have a series of mini-celebrations/affirmations (about one per month) as a way to gear up for our public celebration. This Sunday marks our first with the acknowledgement of Bisexual Awareness Week. We are a diverse community. We are a community where everyone belongs. This is definitely worth celebrating.

What's In a Name? Since the arrival of our minister, a few people have asking what he prefers to be called. The answer is invariably James.

Simply going by his first name rather than adding a Rev. before it has been his preference in every United Church congregation he has served, and that includes for children, teens, and young adults.

Now he will respond to Rev. James (if you are more comfortable with that), Jamie (if you are an older member of his family), or even Jim (and then he will correct you) but be assured that his preference is for young and old alike to call him James. As he puts it "My parents paid good money to have me christened as James so I had better use that name."

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 early October. The group will meet Monday's from 8pm - 9pm via Zoom.

E-books are available through Woodlake Publishing.

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

The "St. James Visitor" would like to include more content from our members, so we are putting the call out for submissions, and we would love 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?

You can submit your work/thoughts/ideas to the *Administration & Communications Committee*, and we will get in touch with you regarding your entry for any future issue of the "St. James Visitor".

Email your submission to St. James Office at info@stjamesuc.org with the subject "Visitor Submission"

Please note: This is a file of submissions we are building for future issues of the "St. James Visitor," so please don't feel discouraged if you don't see yours in the upcoming 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 work. *All copyright remains with the author.

Worship Notes:

Over the last few weeks since 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 honours 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, James often bases the Call to Worship on the Psalm of the day.