

St. James United Church

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



The people of St. James United Church are eternal seekers who value diversity within our congregation, our city and all of society. We affirm each person's uniqueness and believe that all persons deserve to be valued, treated with equity, and respected. We are all children of God, walking many paths of spirituality.

Further, we proudly and publicly declare our commitment to practice radical hospitality and strive in every way to provide a safe and supportive place for all persons to participate in the worship and work of our church.

Guided by the teachings of Jesus, we embrace all persons, regardless of creed, race, age, ability, economic status, cultural and ethnic background, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or any other difference that has led to marginalization or oppression.

March 13, 2022, Second Sunday in Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Accompanist: Bob Rose
Music Leadership: Jean Rose

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We light the candle as a sign of Christ's spirit both with and within us.

WELCOME: *We extend greetings in M'ikmawi'simk, Arabic and Twi.*

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.

CENTRING REFRAIN: "Be Still and Know That I Am God" (*anon*)

Be still and know that I am God. (x3)

OPENING SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Each Sunday we try a different practice to centre us. Today we pause to write words of gratitude for the blessings we have known in our lives.

CENTRING REFRAIN: "Be Still and Know That I Am God" (*anon*)

Be still and know that I am God. (x3)

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Holy One, these weeks are a special time as we slow down and seek to see ourselves with your eyes, to accept our weaknesses and lift up our gifts, to be honest not just about our failings but the gift of your compassion and forgiveness. As we take time for prayer in these sacred days, may we hold your love in our hearts, a love not just for ourselves, or those we hold dear, but for everyone, even enemies, and all of creation, held in your merciful and saving love. We pray in the name of the one who walks on our way. Amen.

HYMN: "Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights" *Voices United* 108

1 Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.

2 The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.

3 We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the Feast of Life.

4 And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on
through Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.

5 So let us choose the path of One
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!

6 Rejoice, O sons and daughters!
Sing and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings
on Easter Day will rise again!

We Share

OUR LIFE AND WORK

We acknowledge the connection between our work and worship as we 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

SOLO: "This Ancient Love" (Carolyn McDade)

We Listen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *We take time to acknowledge the places and situations in our lives where we need healing and forgiveness.*

SUNG VERSION OF PSALM 51

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

READINGS: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Luke 13:31-35

From Julian of Norwich's *Revelations of Divine Love*

CENTRING REFRAIN: "Be Still and Know That I Am God" (*anon*)

Be still and know that I am God. (*x3*)

MESSAGE: "The Strength of Compassion"

We Respond

HYMN: "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" *Voices United 681*

1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear your voice of life again.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds, dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

3 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the strong compassion of your face.

4 O Master, from the mountainside
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide,
and tread the city's streets again,

5 till all the world shall learn your love
and follow where your feet have trod,
till glorious from your heaven above
shall come the city of our God.

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 *(based on the spoken language of Jesus)*

Name of names, our small identity unravels in you; you give it back as a lesson. Help us let go, clear the space inside, so your Name comes to live. Let your counsel rule our lives, clearing our intention for co-creation. Help us love beyond our ideals with acts of compassion for all. Give us the food we need to grow each day; untangle the knots within so we can mend our hearts' ties with others. Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back. From you is born all will, from age to age renewed. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence" *Voices United 421*

Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us,
New hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.

Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing through joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, through wandering,
for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.

Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters
may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.

BENEDICTION

One: As we go from here in this time of self reflection,

All: **may we be blessed in seeking to know Jesus more deeply.**

One: May we follow along the path he has walked before us,

All: **arriving at Easter in a spirit of renewed love and joy.**

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

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
Associate Music Director:	Alba Chen
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Office Administrator:	Tracy Bishop
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor