

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.

In loving memory of our mothers,
Margaret Babstock and Mildred Murphy
from Linda and Ed Murphy

In loving memory of a cherished mother
Roma Paul
from Nancy and Anthony
"Mom provided us with a lifetime of love and support.
She will always be an inspiration to us."

May 8, 2022, Fourth Sunday of Easter
(Mother's Day; Second Sunday of Asian Heritage Month)

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Accompanist: Amy Dalziel
Music Leadership: Alba Chen and Senior Choir
Ushers: Les Dean, Jack Head, Ray Keats

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME: *We extend greetings in M'ikmawi'simk, Bangla and Farsi.*

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.

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE *(inspired by Psalm 47)*

One: Come! Worship God with shouts of acclamation!

All: Let us sing hymns of praise to God!

One: Come! Shout with joy for God's goodness and grace!

All: Let us give thanks for God's love rules the earth.

One: Come! Stand in awe of the power of God's mercy.

All: Let us place our lives under God's protection.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: "Bring Many Names" Voices United 268

1 Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God:
Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

4 Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!

2 Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!

5 Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!

3 Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!

6 Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!

We Share

OUR LIFE AND WORK: *We acknowledge the connection between work and worship, announcing what is going on in our congregation.*

OFFERTORY: "Hallelujah, Hallelujah" *Voices United* 179, v 4

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.**

Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour;

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison)

**God of grace and blessing, we give thanks for the wonders of your love,
inspiring people to share what they have received, your faithfulness inspiring
people to dedicate their lives in service. Led by your Spirit, may we keep
growing as your disciples, devoted to your goodness so others will be blessed
with goodness in turn. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

We Listen

LEARNING TOGETHER

We introduce Sunday's theme in a manner that is accessible to all ages.

ANTHEM: "Song of Peace" by Mary Donnelly arr. George L. O. Strid

PRAYER OF NEW LIFE

READINGS: John 21:15-19; Acts 9:36-43; and "Naming the Heartbeats"
by Aimee Nezhukumatathil

HYMN: "Mothering God" *Voices United* 320 (sung to Waly, Waly)

1 Mothering God, you gave me birth
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath,
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

2 Mothering Christ, you took my form,
offering me your food of light,
grain of my life, and grape of love,
your very body for my peace.

3 Mothering Spirit, nurturing one,
in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow
until I flower, until I know.

MESSAGE: "Raised to Wholeness"

We Respond

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

(Used in Blessed, an alternative worship community in Gosport, UK)

God waits. We believe in God: Three in one.

Father Son Spirit; Paradox Mystery Elemental.
We believe in a God of Justice, Compassion, Mercy, Hope.
And first, a God of Love, Love personified, Incarnated.
We believe in God the mother of creation,
God the father of humanity, God the lover of us all.
We believe we are called to activity
out of passivity and apathy,
by the Son of God through his actions,
calling down through history,
borne on the wings of the Spirit.
We believe we are called to community with each other,
through Christ the thread, weaving us all together.
We believe that God has no favourites, pulls no punches,
leaves no stone unturned.
We believe that life is hard.
We believe that life is beautiful.
And so we believe...So does 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 *Voices United 960*

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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "He Leadeth Me" *Voices United 657*

1 He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:
He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By his own hand he leadeth me!
His faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me!

2 Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest
gloom,
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. **R**

3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine,
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. **R**

4 And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace, the victory's won,
even death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me. **R**

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION: "May the God of Hope Go with Us" *VU 424*

1 May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain:

Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

2 May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed. **R**

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Lead Minister: | James Ravenscroft, OM |
| Youth/Christian Education Minister: | Susan Sheppard, DLM |
| Minister Emeritus: | Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown |
| Music Director: | Amy Dalziel |
| Assistant Music Director: | Alba Chen |
| Technology Support: | Jake Thompson |
| Office Administrator: | Tracy Bishop |
| Church Custodian: | Bruce Winsor |