

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

330 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's, NL, A1B 1T9

Celebration of Worship for May 19, 2024



The people of St. James United Church are eternal seekers who value diversity within our congregation, 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.

May 19, 2024, Pentecost Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir
Ushers: Guy and Julie Hollett, Marilyn Adams,
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

*Please rise in body or in spirit where there is an *.
Print in bold indicates that the portion is read or sung by everyone.*

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We greet each other in Inuktitut, French and Tamil as we give thanks for the land and local Indigenous peoples and commit to full inclusion for all.

INTROIT: “Come, Holy Ghost” - plainsong (VU 201, verses 1, 2)

CALL TO WORSHIP: *We recall bible verses about gifts of the Spirit as we sing “Holy Sacred Spirit” (MV 15)*

We celebrate the Spirit’s gift of wisdom, who “cries out in the street and in the market raises her voice.” (Proverbs 1:20)

Holy sacred Spirit, breathe your breath on us.

Holy sacred Spirit, breathe your life in us.

We give thanks for courage, the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus: “When they bring you before authorities, don’t be afraid. The Holy Spirit will teach you what to say.” (Luke 12:11-12)

Holy sacred Spirit...

We sing praise for compassion lived out in these words:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: he has sent me to bring good news to the poor and bind up the broken-hearted.” (Isaiah 61:1)

Holy sacred Spirit...

We affirm the many ways we live with spiritual understanding:
“I will put my spirit within you that you may follow my laws and be careful to observe my teaching.” (Ezekiel 36:27)

Holy sacred Spirit...

We rejoice in the wonder and awe we feel before God: “How weighty are your thoughts, O God! How vast their sum!” (Ps. 139)

Holy sacred Spirit...

We are grateful for Spirit’s beatitude call: “Blessed are those who hunger for justice for they will be filled.” (Matthew. 5:6)

Holy sacred Spirit...

We celebrate the outpouring of holy love where “Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” (1 John 4:7)

Holy sacred Spirit...

* **HYMN:** “Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us” (*Voices United* 198)

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*):

Come, O Spirit and dwell with us. Breathe deeply into our hearts, opening us to receive the gift of your love. Quicken us with new life and enable us to embody your vision for our world in all that we say and do. We pray in the name of the One whose promised Advocate we celebrate today. Amen.

* **PASSING THE PEACE OF PENTECOST**

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

We Share in Love

OUR LIFE AND WORK: *We share what is going on in our community.*

* **OFFERTORY:** “Spirit of Life” (*Voices United* 381)

Spirit of Life, come unto me. Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion. Blow in the wind, rise in the sea; move in the hand, giving me the shape of justice. Roots hold close; wings set me free; Spirit of Life come to me, come to me.

* PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

We Listen and Respond

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*

John 15:26-27, 16:4-15; Acts 2:1-21; "Pentecost" by Malcolm Guite

ANTHEM: "Filled with the Spirit's Power" (*VU 194*)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

HYMN: "Spirit of Gentleness" (*Voices United 375*)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

We gather at this table in the power of the Holy Spirit who calls us in love to share in the reconciling grace of Christ.

We gather in his memory, knowing he is with us still.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God be with you! **And also with you!**
Open your hearts. **We open them to God.**
Let us give thanks. **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

It is good to praise you, Holy God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us your holy breath, enlivening us as your children. And though at times we ignored this holy gift, you remained steadfast, always restoring your people and calling them to be a source of blessing to the nations. Grateful for this we join your angels in a song of praise:

Holy God of Power of Might! Hallelujah! Heav'n and earth shine with your light! Hallelujah! Loud Hosannas now we sing! Hallelujah! Blessings to our Risen King! Hallelujah!

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

We praise and thank you Redeeming God, for your Son, Jesus Christ. In the power of your Spirit, you affirmed him as your child and through his death and resurrection gave birth to the church. Called to embody his love in the

world, we remember how on the night before he died, Jesus took bread and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.” In the same way, he took the cup, saying: “Take, drink. This is a sign of the new covenant in my life-blood. Whenever you eat and drink, remember me.”

We do remember, Sustaining God, grateful that on this day we live into the promise of your Reign, celebrating how through the unleashing of your Spirit, the risen and ever-rising Christ lives in each of us. Let us proclaim then the mystery of our faith:

All: Dying, Christ destroyed our death! Hallelujah! Rising, Christ restores our life! Hallelujah! We believe and we proclaim, Hallelujah! Jesus Christ will come again! Hallelujah!

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

We pray, Gracious God, that you open our eyes to the gift of your Spirit with us and this holy meal. May all who share this living bread and saving cup be renewed in your grace to share what it means to be your children, a source of blessing to the nations. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Holy God, now and forever.

All: “Amen, Amen.” Hear our prayer, Hallelujah! As the bread and cup we share! Hallelujah! At this table, Christ we meet, Hallelujah! Present here with wounded feet, Hallelujah!

(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)

SUNG PRAYER OF JESUS (Lord’s Prayer): *Voices United 960*

SHARING IN COMMUNION:

We share the bread of life, **gift of love that brings life to the world.**

We share the fruit of the vine, **blessing of love poured out for all.**

Everyone is welcome to share communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. There is a centre station to receive the bread and two side stations to receive juice in small glasses. Please consume the bread and juice before returning to your pew. Please let us know if you need the gluten

free option. If you're unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you once everyone has received.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Come Holy Spirit and fan the flames of your love. As we have shared at God's table of grace, may we be transformed into living sacraments of Christ's love, strengthened with rushing wind and tongues of fire to speak your truth and peace. Amen

We Leave to Serve

*** HYMN:** "Spirit Dancing O'er Creation" (*see overhead*)
(*Written by Rev. Richard Bott, Author and Consultant*)

SENDING FORTH:

Enlivened in the Spirit,

we trust in the gift of God's grace in our lives.

Enlivened in the Spirit,

we accept the call to embody Christ's way.

Enlivened in the Spirit,

we are empowered to share God's living hope.

So go in joy! The Spirit goes with you!

We are walking in the Spirit! Hallelujah!

CHORAL BENEDICTION: "Dance with the Spirit" (*MV 156*)

POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

Minister:	Rev. James Ravenscroft
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Associate Music Director:	Bob Rose
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Office Administrator:	Stephanie Harnum
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