

St. James United Church
A Community of Friends in Faith
330 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's, NL, A1B 1T9
Celebration of Worship for August 18, 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.

August 18, 2024, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Stephanie Russell
Ushers: Marilyn Adams, Jean Thompson,
Guy Hollett, and Julie Hollett

*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 Tigrinya as we give thanks for the land and Indigenous peoples, and commit to full inclusion for all.

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

* **SHARING PEACE:** *We extend welcome with signs of Christ's peace. This time is concluded with a moment of reflective music.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 130)

One: Out of the depths of our lives we come before God.

All: We cry, "hear us, O Holy One, in our distress!"

One: We gather in prayer, trusting that in God there is grace,

All: that God is ever near and ready to redeem.

One: And so for God we wait, yearning to know their presence,

All: a presence of abundant and liberating love.

OPENING PRAYER

Saving God, ever present in our need,

giving us the courage to put away any bitterness and anger, and instead to live with tender-hearted kindness and love, be with us as we pray together. Open our hearts that we may rest in the growing light of your wisdom, and awaken to the transforming power of your grace. We pray in the liberating name of Jesus.

Amen.

* **HYMN:** "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" (VU 374)

We Share in Love

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

OFFERTORY: *There are many ways to give to St. James. You can place an offering in the plate, scan the QR code on the left, contribute via PAR, website (www.stjamesuc.org), e-transfer (email treasurer@stjamesuc.org), mail to the church office or drop in our secure mailbox. In whatever way you choose to give, the community is grateful.*



* **HYMN:** "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow" (VU 514)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God
all creatures here below; give thanks to God in love
made known: Creator, Word and Spirit one.**

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND GRACE

We Listen and Respond

LEARNING TOGETHER

We explore themes of the day in a manner that is accessible to all ages.

* **HYMN:** "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" (VU 575)

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

2 Samuel 18:5-9,15 and 31-33; John 6:35, 41-51; and An excerpt from Parker J. Palmer, *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey toward an Undivided Life* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004), 5

SOLO

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

* **HYMN:** "Christ within Us Hidden" (*More Voices* 162, sung to the hymn tune *Ernstein*, "Holy Spirit, Hear Us", VU 377)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for the needs of our global and local communities.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*Voices United*, p. 921)

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me" (VU 635)

* BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

It is in knowing that we would find ourselves in loving community that we came to worship, and it is to share the same that we go, called to uplift others in the liberating power of God's love.

We go in the blessing of God – Abba, Christ and Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

Chair of Council:	Michelle Skinner
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
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

Office: 722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;
Emergency Cellphone: 709-351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org

 @StJamesUCNL  @StJamesUnited  @stjamesuc

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

All worship services at St. James are Live Streamed via video for our online congregation. By participating in this service, you acknowledge that you may be visible on live broadcast or archived video. If you are uncomfortable about the possibility of appearing on video, please speak to an usher who can seat you in an area not visible on camera. You may also speak to Rev. James after the service if you have concerns. All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced / broadcast under ONE LICENSE. License #: #A-700000.

We accept the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:

* In loving memory of Thomas Hill from wife Joyce and family.

Planning Retreat: We are having a retreat on Saturday, September 14th, 9am to 3pm.

We will take time for community building, idea sharing, event coordination, and goal setting for the coming year.

All committee members are encouraged to attend for the full day with an open invitation to interested members of the congregation in the afternoon.

Email the church office (info@stjamesuc.org) to register or Rev. James (james@stjamesuc.org) if you would like more information.

Parking Permits Required: We have been informed by MUN parking enforcement that there have been incidents of other people parking in our parking spaces. Due to this, parking enforcement will actively be monitoring our parking lot. We have been asked to provide temporary parking permits to our visitors of the church during weekdays. This will help indicate to MUN parking enforcement who is a visitor of the church and who is not.

When visiting the church, please see the church office for your temporary parking permit. Thank you.

Calling All Gardeners: We are in need of some gardeners who could help weed our flower beds. Trowels available for folks who do not have their own. Thanks.

Youth Confirmation:

This fall, Rev. James will be leading confirmation classes. If you have a child or grandchild in their mid to late teens who would like to be confirmed, please email Rev. James, james@stjamesuc.org

Communion on the Beach: Mark Thursday, August 29 at 7pm on your calendars for an outdoor communion service at Middle Cove Beach. We will take time to reflect together and then make bread on a stick over the campfire as we share communion.

Free Cookbooks: There are 2 cookbooks available for anyone who would like one: "100 Easy Recipes - One Pots" and "Great American Favorite Brand Name Cookbook - Collector's Edition". Please see the church office if you would like to have one.

Bridges to Hope: Bridges to Hope is currently running a "Bag to School" Program to support K-12 students in our community. This program ensures hundreds of students go back to class in September with a backpack custom-filled with the supplies they need for a successful school year. For anyone wanting more information about the program and how to donate, there are brochures available in the church foyer.

Are you planning a road trip this summer? Or have to visit any provincial locations for work? If so, please take as many pictures as possible! We will be compiling them and creating a 2025 Scenes of Newfoundland and Labrador calendar that will be available for purchase in October (more details regarding the sale will be given later in the year). This is your chance to brag to friends and family that you are now a published photographer! So get out there and explore.....we can't wait to see all your talent.

Are you looking to join a choir? We are one month away from the start of our 2024/2025 season. Coastal Sounds Choir and Aurora Women's Choir are looking for new members and would love to meet you. If you have any questions, please email Abra at aurorachoir.ad@gmail.com

There will be a concert at First United Church on Saturday, September 14th at 7pm featuring 'The Irish Descendants'. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at the First United church office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 12pm, or after their 11am Sunday Worship service. For further information, please call the First United church office at 709-368-2194.