

St. James United Church
A Community of Friends in Faith
330 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's, NL, A1B 1T9
Celebration of Worship for August 4, 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 4, 2024, Emancipation Sunday
(Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost)

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Jessica Willcott
Ushers: Marilyn Adams, Jean Thompson,
Bill Pike, and Cindy 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 Innu-aimun, French and Twi as we honour the land, affirm Indigenous peoples, and commit to full inclusion for all.

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

*** SHARING PEACE:** *We extend welcome with signs of Christ's peace, conscious of the need to respect people's levels of comfort. This time is concluded with a moment of reflective music.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Psalm 17:1-7*)

One: Draw near to the One who listens to our cries for help.

All: We pray in trust that God responds to what is right.

One: Draw near to the One who calls us to follow their way.

All: We seek to walk the path that leads to fullness of life.

One: Draw near to the One who is a refuge for all in need.

All: We rest in God whose love is ever steadfast and true.

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

God of steadfast love and life, we give thanks for your grace, a grace that uplifts every mind and heals every heart, that liberates every nation and restores every land and people. Open our hearts and hands to your transforming grace, that we may not only hear your calling in this time of worship but embody it in the way we live in this your world.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our liberator and Lord. Amen.

*** HYMN:** "God of Freedom, God of Justice" (VU 700)

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 541)

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” (Voices United 575)

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

2 Sam. 11:1-15, John 6:15-21, “For My People” by Margaret Walker

SOLO: “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

* **HYMN:** “God of the Bible” (More Voices 28)

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE AND RESTORATION

We give voice to the people who experienced the sin of enslavement as we commit to seek healing for the past and live in a way that liberates others.

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

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** “For the Healing of the Nations” (Voices United 678)

* BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

It is in knowing that we would find ourselves in a community that seeks a more just world that we came to this sanctuary, and it is blessed to continue that work that we now go, called to lift up everyone in the empowering grace of God's love.

We go in the freedom of God – Abba, Christ and Holy 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.

Life and Work - July 28, 2024

We accept the following donation to the General Fund:

* In loving memory of Parents, Grandparents, and Great-Grandparents: Lewis and Margaret (Quick) Babstock, who were married on August 6th, 1945 from Ed and Linda Murphy.

Communion next Sunday: For anyone who is joining in worship from home in real time next Sunday, August 11, we are sharing the sacrament of communion. Be sure to have some bread and grape juice or another food and drink option so that you can share in the sacrament with everyone else.

Communion on the Beach: Mark Thursday, August 29 on your calendars. On that day we will have 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 in communion together.

Save the Date: Our church Council is having a planning retreat on Saturday, September 14 and everyone is invited for the afternoon portion of the retreat. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, email Rev. James - james@stjamesus.org.

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.

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.

Caution - Construction: The construction has started on Elizabeth Avenue. When coming to the church, please use the back entrance of the church on Paton Street to avoid the construction and detours.

2024 Cemetery Memorial Services

Foxtrap (Church Road) - August 4, 2024

Salvation Army (Blackmarsh) - August 7, 2024

Please note:

In the event of inclement weather, the services will move ahead to 7 P.M. the next evening.

Finance Update to June 30, 2024

At the Annual Congregational Meeting, back on March 17, 2024, you approved a Deficit Budget of \$50,536.00. Below is where St. James is on June 30th compared to 2023 for the same date.

Revenue:	2024	2023
Collections	71,935.36	78,062.25
Other Envelopes	10,644.70	8,912.35
Rentals	22,293.14	22,985.27
All Other Revenue	16,913.78	15,761.69
Total Revenue	121,787.08	125,721.56
Expenses:		
Heat	23,947.70	23,879.23
Light	4,465.26	3,523.76
Church	52,461.91	43,399.60
Assessments	9,852.00	8,070.50
Committees	861.91	1,131.08
Salaries	82,788.32	99,373.84
Total Expenses	172,377.10	179,378.01
Net Loss	-52,590.02	-53,656.45

Our revenue is down a bit from 2023 and so are our expenses.