

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

Celebration of Worship for September 1, 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.

September 1, 2024, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Glen Warren
Ushers: Skyler Simpson, Leah Kirk, Marilyn Adams
and Jean Thompson

*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 AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We share greetings in Mik'mawi'simk, French and Shona.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND KINSHIP

We give thanks for the land, First peoples, and commit to full inclusion.

***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 84)*

We come in praise, saying, "How lovely is God's dwelling place!"

We sing with full voice, with all that we are to our living God!

We feel such joy to come into the presence of God!

A day in God's courts is better than a thousand elsewhere!

We trust in God who is our protector and our shield!

Happy are the people who are upheld in your grace!

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, **we rejoice in your strength and in your love,
confident in the covenant you made with your people.**

**We come to you, knowing you have the words of eternal life. Be with
us as we pray, your grace like food for our souls,
your love the true bread that nourishes us in your way.**

We pray in Jesus whom we profess as your Holy One. Amen.

***HYMN:** “Praise with Joy the World’s Creator” (*Voices United* 312)

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 high and low;
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.”*

1 Kings 8:22-43; John 6:56-69; Excerpt from Steven Charleston, *Ladder to the Light: An Indigenous Elder’s Meditations on Hope and Courage* (Minneapolis, MN: Broadleaf Books, 2021), 134.

SOLO: “Surprised By Joy” by E. Routley

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

*HYMN: “Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling” (*Voices United* 333)

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: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” (*Voices United* 481)

*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 invite others into the beloved community of God’s grace.

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.

Life and Work - September 1, 2024

We gratefully accept the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:

* In loving memory of Eric Patey from wife Betty and family.

Construction Update: The intersection of Anderson, Elizabeth, and Paton is still closed. The church's *back parking lot* is still accessible via Paton Street. The best access to the church is to come down Paton via University Avenue to the back entrance of the church.

Planning Retreat:

You're Invited! The Council of St. James United Church is hosting a planning and idea-sharing retreat on September 14 and you are invited to attend.

The morning session is for members of church council, committees and the executives of the UCW and AOTS.

Members and adherents of St. James are welcome to come for lunch and then stay for the afternoon as we set our pastoral priorities for the coming year.

Here is the proposed agenda:

- 8:30 am - arrival and settling in
- 9:00 am - community building
- 9:30 am - A "State of the Union" discussion including finances
- 10:30 am - break and time for personal reflection/idea-generation
- 11:00 am - idea sharing based on previous discussion and 2023 MAP
- 12:00 pm - preliminary goal setting
- 12:30 pm - lunch with time for group conversations
- 1:30 pm - reviewing initial goals with congregational feedback
- 2:15 pm - determining priorities
- 3:00 pm - clean-up and departure

Please RSVP to info@stjamesuc.org by September 5.

The location is being finalised. Please stay tuned.

We look forward to a fruitful day of conversation and collaboration.

The Visitor: We are looking for submissions for the Fall edition of The Visitor. Did you try something new? Attend a concert? See a new community? We would love to hear all about it! Please send them to the church office with subject line "Visitor". Deadline for submissions is September 13.

NL Pictures for Calendar: All summer you have been seeing the announcement asking for you to take pictures along your travels. Well now we are asking for you to send them along to the office. We will be compiling the photos and creating a 2025 calendar with them. When sending your pictures, please include the area shown and who took it so we can give proper credit and please no pictures with people in them. The calendar will make a great Christmas gift to someone missing "home". Deadline for submissions is September 13. Information regarding purchasing will be made upon its completion.

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

Lost and Found:

We have:

- two (2) black dressy ladies jackets, size 10 and size medium
- One (1) beautiful Pashmina scarf; red, fuscia and beige
- Three (3) down filled jackets. One is large, two are medium
- One (1) grey hoodie, medium
- One (1) Pair boots
- Two (2) pairs of running shoes
- One (1) ladies black pumps

If any of these items belong to you, please collect or if they interest you, you can pick them up for free. At the end of next week, any remaining items will be donated to charity.

Parking Permits Required: Please remember to get your temporary parking permit from the church office whenever visiting the church during weekdays. The Parking permits will indicate to MUN parking

enforcement who is a visitor of the church and who is not and will help to avoid receiving parking tickets. Thank you.