

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

Celebration of Worship for September 15, 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 15, 2024, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir
Ushering: Carol and Clifford Smith, 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 AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE: *We share greetings in Innu-aimun, French and Bangla and honour Christ with us.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

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

* SHARING OF PEACE

INTROIT: "When I Needed a Neighbour" (VU 600, v. 1 and 5)

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come in the name of God, who gathers us into community,
who brings us together to love and work, support and heal.
We come in the grace of Christ, who gathers us into community,
who calls us to work for justice, peace, freedom and truth.
We come in the power of the Spirit, who calls us into community,
who gathers us with all of creation to cherish and renew.
We come to share in the community that is the heart of God,
we worship God who gathers us together and makes us one.

OPENING PRAYER

Gathering God, you are the one who has drawn us together.
**You have called us from every people and nation,
binding us together in the power of your love.**

**Be with us then as we worship as a community,
hearts open through your Spirit, not only to your presence,
but to each other and all that we carry in our hearts.
We pray in the name of Jesus, your love made known. Amen.**

*** HYMN:** “God Is Here” (*Voices United* 389)

We Share in Love

A MINUTE FOR COUNCIL

We take time to reflect on our shared work as a congregation.

OUR LIFE AND WORK

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:** “For the Gift of Creation” (*Voices United* 538)

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts which we give.**

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

We Listen and Respond

LEARNING TOGETHER

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

*** HYMN:** “Smile, Don’t You Know God Love You” (*see insert*)

PRAYER FOR HEALING AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

Romans 10:1-15; Mark 2:14-17 and an excerpt from Cole Arthur Riley, *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us* (New York: Convergent, 2022), 36.

ANTHEM: “Come to the Water” - John Foley, arr. Howard Helvey

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

* **HYMN:** “We Are Pilgrims” (*Voices United* 595)

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:** “Go Make a Difference” (*More Voices* 209)

BLESSING AND SENDING

(Based on 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Corinthians 12:9)

We are called to be a people of hope,
a community of God’s beloved living through the power of God,

God’s chosen community sharing deeds of grace.

We do it in the power of love, blessed in God, Abba, Christ & Spirit.

Thanks be to God. 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 |
| Office Administrator | Stephanie Harnum |
| Technology Support: | Jake Thompson |
| 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 15, 2024

We offer our sincere condolences to the family of Roland Avery, who passed on September 10, 2024. The funeral is to be held at Carnell's Chapel on Monday, September 16 at 11AM with an inurnment to follow at Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

We offer our sincere condolences to Wendy Matthews, Jennifer Ball and their families on the passing of their Mother; Adelaide Tucker, who passed on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at the age of 84. A celebration of life had taken place at Barrett's Memorial Chapel on Monday, September 9.

Soup Hour: This year we are changing the Coffee Hour (third Sunday of each month) to a Soup Hour. We will be serving soup, rolls and a sweet for a free will offering. If you are interested in bringing in a pot of soup, rolls or cookies/muffins please sign the sheet out in the vestibule or call the church office. The council will be looking after first Sunday. The date is changed to September 22 for the first Soup Hour.

Equinox Communion: Last month the weather didn't cooperate for beach communion, so we are having backyard communion instead on Sunday, September 22. That day is the start of fall, a great time to stop and give thanks. We will have a fire, bake bread on sticks and share communion. Address: 18 Winchester Street in St. John's.

Neighbors Needed: Do you live relatively close to the church (within about 1 km)? We're looking for help in the next 2 weeks for a "leaflet drop" of our neighborhood to invite residents to our "Welcome Back Sunday" service on September 22. If you can help or need more information, please contact Rev. James (james@stjamesuc.org).

Looking for: St. James is asking if members of the congregation could drop off any empty paper towel and toilet paper rolls to the church office for a project. Thank you in advance!

AOTS Men's Club: The first meeting of the fall will be held on Wednesday, September 18 at the usual time 12:30 for 1:00. New members are always welcome.

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

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: September 13. Information regarding purchasing will be made upon its completion.

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.

A Thank You from the Indian Orthodox Church: On Saturday, September 7, Rev. James attended a ceremony hosted by St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in gratitude for the help that St. James United Church gave them when they first formed their parish in January 23, 2024. In recognition of the support they were shown, Rev. James was gifted with a shawl and a plaque. They are both on display on a table near the piano in the sanctuary for anyone who would like to see them

Pop-up Choir: For our September 22nd Welcome Sunday Service, St. James' music team will form a "pop-up choir" to lead the music. Anyone and everyone who would like to join this choir is encouraged to arrive at the church at 10AM that morning (Sept. 22) for a 40-minute rehearsal. Our choir anthem will be "We Are One in the Spirit". A recording of the anthem is printed below. No musical experience needed - please speak to Amy for more details!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fN9cyxeDDss>.

Parking Permits Required: Please remember to get your temporary parking permit from the church office whenever visiting the church during weekdays. Parking enforcement are actively monitoring our parking lot. Thank you.

Financial Update to July 31, 2024

| Revenue: | <u>2024</u> | <u>2023</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Collections | 83,845 | 90,990 |
| Rentals | 25,769 | 24,751 |
| UCW | 3,000 | 4,000 |
| AOTS | 3,500 | 2,000 |
| Other | <u>22,884</u> | <u>20,092</u> |
| Total | 138,998 | 141,833 |

Expenses:

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| Church | 86,455 | 79,849 |
| Assessments | 9,852 | 8,071 |
| Committees | 882 | 3,493 |
| Salaries | <u>98,567</u> | <u>118,256</u> |
| Total | 195,756 | 209,669 |

Net Loss - \$ 56,758 - \$ 67,836

You can see that our revenue from 2023 is down slightly by approximately \$2,000. This is due to our collections being down and we have had very little fundraising. Our expenses are also down by approximately \$14,000. This is good news.