

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

Celebration of Worship for September 22, 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 22, 2024, Welcome Back Sunday (Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

Leading Worship & Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft; Amy Dalziel,
Joel LeFeuvre and the SJUC Pop-Up Choir
Ushering: Ian, Heather, Robyn and Jalna McMaster
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 Mi'kmawi'simk, French and Twi, 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:** *We greet others while also conscious of their comfort with touch. This time is concluded with reflective music.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this place, a home of support, grace and love.

We are glad to be here as we nurture caring and hope.

Here we are welcomed into a community of God's beloved,

called by God to experience and share the good news.

And what is the good news that God wants us to share?

That we are welcome, that we are loved, just as we are.

OPENING PRAYER

Welcoming God, we come together to celebrate your love,

A once dispersed people now drawn together

through the generous and unifying power of your grace.

Be with us as we worship, your mercy opening our hearts to you and to each other, that in your love so freely given, we may learn to share as freely with one another.

We pray in the name of Jesus, your love made known. Amen.

* **HYMN:** “Let Us Build a House” (*More Voices* 1, v. 1, 2, 4 and 5)

We Share in Love

A MINUTE FOR MISSION:

We learn how we can support the ongoing work of the wider church.

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: Genesis 18:1-14; Mark 3:7-12 and an excerpt from Sharon Brous, *The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend Our Broken Hearts and World* (New York: Avery, 2024), 53-54

ANTHEM: “We are One in the Spirit”

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

* **HYMN:** “God Who Spread the Boundless Prairie” (*MV 53*)

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 to the World” (*Voices United 420*)

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 in the spirit of Christ,

God's chosen community sharing in service of God's reign.
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.

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Life and Work - September 22, 2024

We accept the following donation to the General Fund:

* In loving memory of nephew Ollie Nielsen, niece Diane Nielsen and friend Roy Benson from Menetha and Sid Dyke.

Equinox Communion: Last month the weather didn't cooperate for beach communion, so we are having backyard communion instead this evening, Sunday, September 22. Today 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.

Welcome Back Sunday: Today is Welcome back Sunday here at St. James. There will be an opportunity to view the different groups and committees and to see what everyone is up too. Perhaps you will find a group or committee that interests you and may like to join.

Looking for: St. James is asking if members of the congregation could drop off any empty paper towel rolls to the church office for a project. We are looking for around 20-25 rolls. Thank you in advance!

UCW Harvest Tea and Bake Stall:

St. James United Church
330 Elizabeth Avenue

Harvest Tea & Bake Stall

Sponsored by the UCW
St. James Auditorium

Saturday, Nov 2, 2024

Time: 2 – 4 pm Cost: \$8.00



Co-Conveners:

Barbara Butt: (709) 687-1041

Sheilah Beckett: (709) 726-7421

All donations are greatly appreciated.

Tickets: May be purchased at the door.

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

The Fall Visitor: It's almost that time of the year again for the newest version of The Visitor Newsletter. Keep watching for a separate email with the link to our Fall Visitor 2024!

