

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

Celebration of Worship for September 8, 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 8, 2024, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Stephanie Russell
Ushering: Aubrey and Ruby Hill,
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 Inuktitut, French and Sinhalese 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

We come in the name of God, who gathers us into community with each other to love and work, to support and heal.

We come in Christ, who gathers us into community with all people to bring justice and hope, freedom and truth.

We come in the power of the Spirit, who calls us into community with the whole creation; to live in harmony, to cherish and renew.

We come to worship God who gathers us and makes us one.

OPENING PRAYER

Gathering God, you are the one who has called us together.

You who are community, invite us into the grace of community.

You who are relationship call us to nurture our relationships.

Be with us then as we worship as a community,

as we seek to grow in relationship with you and one another,
as we join together, hearts open to the nurturing of your love.
We pray in the name of Jesus, your love made known. Amen.

* **HYMN:** “Blessed be the Tie that Binds” (*Voices United 602*)

We Share

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.**

We Listen and Respond

PRAYER FOR HEALING AND RENEWAL

READINGS: James 1:22-27 and Mark 2:1-12

SOLO

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

* **HYMN:** “As We Gather at Your Table” (*Voices United 457*)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

We are invited to come together around this table
as those who belong to the household of Christ.

**We come as his siblings, and siblings of each other,
a family of the reborn and reconciled, both grateful and graced.**

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God be with you. **And also with you.**
Open your hearts. **We open them to God.**
Let us give thanks. **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

It is good to praise you, Eternal God, Source of all being,
you who have made all that is seen and unseen,
one beloved community where all of creation is kin,
our first parents too, called into friendship with you and all others.

We thank you for this gift, inviting us to be your holy people,
to be a sign of your loving presence in the world.
Therefore we raise our voices with the whole community of heaven, forever
praising you as we sing together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your light. Glory to you our God.
Blessed is he, blessed are we, blessed are all who come.
Hosannas ring, archangels sing. Blessed are all who come.
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your light. Glory to you our God.**

Glory to you, Holy God, ever faithful to your covenant.
Even when we forgot your friendship and betrayed one another,
you confronted us in love and called us back to righteousness: when Joseph
was sold, you turned malice to your people's good; when Israel was
enslaved, you led them through wilderness into freedom; when they were
taken into exile you carried them home; and you sent Jesus to proclaim your
kin-dom to all and through the cross to open a way for all creation to know
your reconciling love.

We thank you for all that he did, remembering how on the night before he
died, he gathered for a final meal with his friends.
He took a loaf of bread, blessed and broke it, giving it to them as he said:
"Take and eat. This is my body, given for you."

Then at the end of the meal, he took a cup, and after blessing it passed it to his friends as he said: “Take and drink. This cup that is poured out for you is the promise of God, made in my blood. Each time you do this, remember me.”

Redeeming God, recalling Christ’s death and resurrection, we long for the bread of tomorrow and the wine of the age to come. Therefore we proclaim our hope:

Christ has died, Christ is ris’n, Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit upon us and these gifts that through them you may nurture the bonds that we share and sustain us in our call to strengthen the ties of community in our world. May we dedicate our lives to make present what it means to be in communion with you and so also to be in communion with one another.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Loving God, now and for ever.

All: Amen, amen, alleluia, amen, alleluia, amen.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND FILLING THE CUP

The bread we break, **is our sharing in the life of Christ.**

The cup we bless, **is our communion in the blood of Christ.**

SHARING IN COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to share communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. Come to the front to receive the bread and grape juice (in a small glass). Please consume both before returning to your pew. Please let us know if you need the gluten free option. If you’re unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(in unison)*

We give thanks Saving God, for the meal we have shared, for bread, for wine, for your wisdom revealed, guiding us on the way to life renewed, and the promise of justice for all. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: “Draw the Circle Wide” (*More Voices* 145)

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 doing unlikely deeds of grace,
sometimes even doing the seemingly impossible.

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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 8, 2024

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.

Neighbours 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 neighbourhood 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).

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

The location is at Queens Theological College at 210 Prince Philip Drive, St. John's

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.

UCW Meeting: The UCW will be meeting on Monday, September 9 at 12:30PM in the Fellowship Room.

Topsail United Afternoon Tea and Mini Bake Sale: Topsail United Church Coffee Group will be hosting an Afternoon Tea and Mini Bake Sale, on Wednesday October 9 from 2 until 4 P.M. Tickets are \$12 Adults, Children \$6, and will be available by calling the Office from 9 until 12 on Tuesday thru Thursday at 709-834-4567. Mini Bake Sale available to ticket holders only. There will no tickets at the door. Entertainment by Avalonia.

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



**THE ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL, THE BASILICA,
GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH AND
ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
INVITE YOU TO OUR**

GOWER STREET BLOCK PARTY

SEPTEMBER 22TH • 12:30 - 3:00 PM

LOCATION:
GOWER STREET IN FRONT OF THE ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL

JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT FOR KIDS AND
ADULTS AND OF COURSE SOME FOOD FOR ALL!

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND!

RAIN DATE: OCTOBER 6

