



St. James United Church



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

Celebration of Worship for January 26, 2025



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.

January 26, 2025, Third Sunday after Epiphany

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,
Riley Ford, Amy Dalziel, and the St. James Guitar Group
Ushering: Brian and Mary Johnson, Marilyn Adams,
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

*Please rise as you are able where there is an * in the service.
Print in **bold** indicates that the portion is read or sung by everyone.*

We Come to Worship

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We share greetings in Innu-aimun, French and Igbo.

LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

SHARING PEACE: We greet others while conscious of their comfort with touch. This time is concluded with an introit: "God of the Mountain"

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Psalm 19*)

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

May our worship reflect God's glory.

All of creation proclaims God's handiwork.

May we see each other as God's handiwork.

Each day and every night is a song of praise to God.

May our prayer and praise affirm God's wisdom and love.

(Adapted from a Call to Worship in Jesus Sets the Table, resources by the United Church of Christ, posted on their Worship Ways website.)

OPENING PRAYER

Creating God, **we praise you for your goodness,**

for the many ways we experience your renewing love.

**As we pray together we open our hearts to your guiding,
to the wisdom revealed in your world along with your word.**

**Be with us in this time, that we may discern your purpose,
discover how to live out your way of mercy and peace.**

We pray in the name of the One we call the Christ. Amen.

* **HYMN:** "Because He Lives" (*see insert*)

We Share in Love

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:** “When Heaven’s Bright with Mystery” (VU 93, v. 4)
**When heaven’s bright with mystery and stars still lead an unknown way,
when love still lights a gentle path where courts
of power can hold no sway, there with the Magi, let us kneel,
our gifts to share, God’s world to heal.**

We Listen and Respond

LEARNING TOGETHER

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

* **HYMN:** “Take, O Take Me As I Am” (More Voices 85)

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

1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:23-30; and Brené Brown, *The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You’re Supposed to Be & Embrace Who You Are* (Center City, MN: Hazelden, 2010), 57-58

* **HYMN:** “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)” (VU 509)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

ANTHEM: “Far Side Banks of Jordan”

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:** “Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore ” (VU 563)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

As we go forth from here:

**may we be strong in spirit, courageous in will,
and gentle of heart.**

Each day may our actions:

be rooted in wisdom, nurtured by hope and open to love.

May we meet others as we would wish to be met:

**with a heart of compassion, in a spirit of healing
and grounded in joy.**

POSTLUDE: "I'll Fly Away"

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: 351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



@StJamesUCNL



@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 - January 26, 2025

January Wild Light Spiritual Oasis Event: January 26 at 3 pm. We will gather at the church for some nature-based craft activities to honour this time of strengthening light in the midst of winter.

The Visitor: Now accepting submissions for the Spring edition of The Visitor. Do you have an Easter story you would like to share? A springtime memory connected to the church? Is your group doing anything fun this spring season? Send submissions to info@stjamesuc.org with "Spring newsletter" in the subject line. Accepting submissions up to 300 words until Feb. 5, 2025.

St. James Calendar: 2025 Calendars are available to purchase. If you wish to buy one, please contact the office during regular business hours. The cost is \$20.

Tutor-training Workshop, Saturday, February 8: Teachers on Wheels, a local literacy organization, needs volunteer tutors! There's a high demand for tutors to help people improve their literacy, confidentially one-on-one -- especially for some newcomers to improve their understanding and use of English as another language (EAL). They will be holding a tutor-training workshop on Saturday, February 8. No teaching experience or detailed knowledge of grammar is needed. Tutoring can be done in-person or by video-conferencing. For more information and to help, please contact Tom Dawe, Executive Director at teachersonwheels@nl.rogers.com or (709) 738-3975. Thank you in advance.
- Robin Bartlett, Chairperson, TOW, and St. James' Social Action.

Let the Organ Thunder: Join Cowan Heights United Church (141 Frecker Drive) on Sunday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. for an unforgettable evening as we celebrate the debut of our magnificent new organ! This joyous event will feature breathtaking organ selections, spirited congregational hymns, and inspiring performances on our new instrument by Dr. Philip Roberts with selections from soloists Christina Acton, Nicholas LeBlanc, and Benjamin James. Come and be uplifted by the power of music in this celebratory showcase. Admission by donation.

Congratulations to Barbara Butt and to Robin Bartlett who both received a Confederation Medal from the government of Newfoundland and Labrador for all of the amazing work they do in our community to make our province a better place to live.

