



**St. James United Church: St. John's, NL  
January 12, 2025, Baptism of Jesus Sunday**



Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Bob Rose,  
Jean Rose and Glen Warren

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## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME; LAND/KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Psalm 29)*

We have come to join our voices with the choruses of heaven!

**We sing “Praise to the living One, to all that is holy!”**

We join with all creation in a of song of thanksgiving and praise.

**We shout “Praise to the living One, to all that is gracious!”**

We offer our hearts and our lives as a gift of love.

**We cry “Praise to the living One, to all that was, is and still to be.”**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

We come together, Living One, grateful for the life we share,  
humbled by the grace that knit us together as kin.

May we live what it means

to be your beloved children and so siblings of each other,  
releasing all that holds us from embodying this in our lives,  
and so seeking the new mind and heart that enables us to be family,  
not just here but in all that we do.

We pray in the name of the One claimed as God's Beloved Child.

**Amen.**

**HYMN:** “O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word” (*Voices United* 84)

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OFFERING**

### **PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

God of grace and blessing,

We give thanks for the many ways we receive and share your love,  
especially in the relationships we share in faith with one another.

May the gift of being adopted into loving community inspire us  
to share that same depth of love in our world. **Amen.**

\* **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.**

## LEARNING TOGETHER

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

**READINGS:** Isaiah 43:1-7, Luke 3: 15-22, excerpt from *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard

## REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

### SOLO

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS

**Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**HYMN:** "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" (*Voices United* 101)

## 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

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### 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