



St. James United Church



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

Celebration of Worship for March 16, 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.

March 16, 2025, Second Sunday of Lent

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,
Riley Ford, Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose,
Aimie Valenzuela – oboe and the Senior Choir.
Ushering: Damien and Sasha Betts, 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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We share greetings in Mik'mawi'simk, French, Arabic and English.

LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

* **HYMN:** “Come Let Us to the God of Love” (VU 653)

PRAYING IN THE GROWING SHADOW: *We extinguish a candle, acknowledging the coming dark. Afterward, we pray the following:*

Loving Christ, as we walk with you on the road to Calvary our steps at times are shaky. We’ve just begun and already it feels time to give up. Remind us that we are not alone. You are present as are the many also on this path. May we not lose courage but keep walking with you to the end. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE: “Per Crucem”

**By your cross and all the wounds you suffered
(grant us freedom in your love, (x3) in your love.
By your holy, life-giving resurrection
(grant us freedom in your love, (x3) in your love.**

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:** "Giver of the Perfect Gift" (Voices United #116, v. 4)
Oh, may these our Lenten days, blest by thee, with thee be passed,
that with purer, nobler praise we may keep thy feast at last.

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:** "Three Things I Promise" (*More Voices* 176, v. 1-3)

TIME OF MEDITATION AND CONFESSION:

Meditating on an image of Jesus as he goes to the cross, we pause to name where we are part of that journey, confessing our wrongdoings.

There is Jesus, carrying his cross... a cruel crown into his brow.

The thought of Jesus being brutalized in this way makes us wince. But Jesus was not the first person to be tortured. He would not be the last. Today countless people are demeaned in service of power: activists locked away by despots, names of "suspects" passed to government agencies, human rights violated - by Western democracies. Spirit of mercy, be with us. May we not turn away as people are abused in the name of "security." Give us courage to face our fear, and strength to respond in the name of love and dignity for all. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND SHARING PEACE

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

Gen. 15 Lk. 12, 17-18; Lk. 13:31-35; from Augustine's *Confessions*

* **HYMN:** "O Jesus Christ May Grateful Hymns be Rising" (VU 329)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

ANTHEM: "The Lord is My Shepherd", from "*Requiem*" - John Rutter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for the world and our community, including the concerns written on slips of paper as people arrived for worship.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (A Latin American paraphrase)

Our Father & Mother who is in us here on earth, holy is your name, in the hungry who share their bread and their song. Your Kingdom come, which is a generous land flowing with milk and honey. Let us do your will, standing up when all are sitting down, and raising our voice when all are silent. You are giving us our daily bread in the song of the bird and the miracle of the corn. Forgive us for keeping silent in the face of injustice, and burying our dreams; for not sharing bread & wine, love & the land, among us, now. Don't let us fall into the temptation of shutting the door through fear, of resigning ourselves to injustice, of taking up the same arms as the enemy. But deliver us from evil. Give us the perseverance and solidarity to look for love, even if the path has not yet been trodden, even if we fail; so we shall have known your Kingdom which is being built forever and ever. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** "O Jesus I Have Promised" (*Voices United 120*)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING

Be with us, Holy One, as we follow Jesus this Lent. Bless us with perseverance as we carry our crosses, with gentleness towards ourselves when we drop them, with strength to carry them again.

Be with us as we walk toward your Easter promise. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Life and Work - March 16, 2025

We accept the following donation to the Memorial Fund:

* In memory of Don Parsons from Pat Ryan.

Bulletins: After some careful thought, our church council has reversed the decision to move to a paperless service. We will continue to print bulletins but to shrink our carbon footprint we would like to reduce the number of bulletins that we print. To this end, we encourage people to follow the service via projection, to share bulletins when possible, or to download a digital version of the bulletin on their phones.

Prayers of the People: Throughout this Lent, we are making the Prayers of the People really of the people. Last season, we emphasized this by having the worship assistant pray the prayers (that Rev. James wrote). However, this season we will highlight this differently and invite you to let us know what you want prayed for. When you come into the church there will be slips of paper for you to write prayer intentions on and then they will be brought up the front during the offering. Alternatively email Rev. James with your prayer requests. james@stjamesuc.org

A Word from Jamie Downey: We received word recently from Donna Downey that her son Jamie's kidney function continues to worsen. We ask that you read this post through this Facebook link <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15xuMxT8j3/?mibextid=wwXlfr> and circulate it if you can. We join Donna and her mom Shirley in praying for Jamie and his family.

Annual congregational Meeting March 23rd: The council will be serving sandwiches and sweets for lunch right after the service in the auditorium and we will go upstairs for the meeting directly after lunch to start around 12:45. For this meeting, we will be electing a number of positions on church council. We encourage you to see the list on the bulletin board in the church foyer. In addition, we will be discussing a new governance model. Both a summary and the full revised constitution are available for review. There will be a lunch and learn in regard to the model on March 16.

Financial Update:

Financial Report to January 31, 2025

As the first month of 2025 is past us, here is our financial picture.

Receipts: Collections	12,229	Expenses: Repairs	1,865
Rentals	5,519	Heat/Lights	7,158
Other Revenue	<u>1,579</u>	Cleaning	2,699
Total Revenue	19,327	Salaries	13,421
		Other	<u>1,062</u>
		Total Expenses	26,205

Net Loss \$6,878

Our repairs are a bit high but that is due to the dishwasher and the elevator pump.

To operate the church on a weekly basis, here is a list of our expenses:

Heat	\$915
Lights	188
Phone/Copier	89
Cleaning	674
Insurance	314
UC Assessment	251
Salaries	<u>3400</u>
Total	\$5831

Our weekly guaranteed revenue is

PAR	\$1250
Rentals	<u>1141</u>
Total	\$2391

To be able to pay the bills weekly we will need \$3440 in contributions or other revenue.

AOTS Men's Club Meeting: There will be a AOTS men's club meeting on Wednesday, March 19 with lunch served at 1:00 pm. Portugal Cove-St Phillip's Fire Chief Fred Hollett will be our special guest. New members always welcome

Bible Study on the Significance of the Cross: We have two time slots for this study: Sundays at 12:45 in the library and Thursdays at 7 pm via Zoom. The next Sunday session will be March 30 (two weeks off for a Lunch n Learn on March 16 and our ACM on March 23). Thursday sessions will be March 13, 27, April 3 and 10. Use this link to join for this evening (March 13) and the other Thursdays:

Meeting ID: 826 8749 2102

Passcode: 674372

Lenten Prayer: Along with study, prayer is another important practice during Lent. To this end, Rev. James will be leading centering prayer on Thursdays at 12:15 pm. He will do so via Zoom. Centering prayer is

a prayer of quiet and stillness. He will explain it more as part of the group practice.

Follow this link to take part:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82667792442?pwd=AMc6XzwxdkVpDcpiGlbRQoUHnXbhw0.1>

Meeting ID: 826 6779 2442 Passcode: 401894



UCW Spring Tea and Bake Sale: The UCW will be holding the Spring Tea and Bake Sale in the auditorium on *Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 2-4pm*. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be obtained from any UCW member. Tickets will also be available at the door We welcome any support you can give, baked goods or a monetary donation, all donations are gratefully appreciated, proceeds go to the life and work of the church. Contact Sheilah Beckett 709-726-7421 or Barbara Butt at 709-687-1041



"Happiness doesn't result for what we get, but from what we give"
~Author Unknown"

St. James United Church
330 Elizabeth Avenue



Time: 2 – 4 pm Cost: \$10.00

 **Get Ready for a Night of Laughter, Mystery, and Mischief!** 
It's Prohibition time in Newfoundland, and Spirit of Newfoundland is bringing you the most exciting show of the year—*Lover's Lies and Libations - A Prohibition Tale!* On March 28, 2025, Gower St UC doors open at 6:30 p.m. to a rollicking evening full of chaos, mistaken identities, and bootlegged spirits! The irrepressible Doyle family has transformed their family-owned pub into a funeral home with a hidden gem—Prohibition Hall, a speakeasy tucked away in the shadows. But when opening night brings a flurry of mistaken identities, unexpected guests, and a flurry of uproarious shenanigans, this is an evening of fun you'll never forget.

 Dinner, Show & Non-Stop Entertainment - All just \$120/person! 

This is your chance to grab your spot for an unforgettable night filled with laughter, libations, and the kind of drama you'll be talking about for months!

Bypass the downtown parking, park at St. James and avail of our taxi service to Gower St UC. Enquire about our childcare availability. Dietary considerations available upon request. Tax receipts issued for a \$50 portion of the ticket.

🤗 Tickets are selling fast, so get yours today! Hosted by Gower St, St. James, and Cowan Heights United Churches. Don't wait—this night promises to be an absolute blast, and you're going to want to be there when the Prohibition Hall shenanigans unfold. 🤗

JOIN



AT SPIRIT OF NEWFOUNDLAND FOR



MAR 28
7:00 PM

A THREE-COURSE DINNER THEATRE
GOWER THEATER , 208 GOWER STREET
TICKETS \$120
PLEASE PURCHASE IN ADVANCE
(709) 722-1881 - INFO@STJAMESUC.ORG