



St. James United Church



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

## Celebration of Worship for April 20, 2025



*Christ is risen, Hallelujah!*

## April 20, 2025, Easter Sunday

Leading Worship and Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft,  
Sheilah Beckett, Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and Senior Choir.  
Ushers: Paula and Tim Reynolds, Marilyn Adams,  
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

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*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

**OPENING VERSE:** "Expecting Death" by Susan Palo Cherwien

\* **HYMN:** "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" (*Voices United* 155)

#### \* **RESPONSIVE OPENING PRAYER**

We give thanks for this day, Saving God! Christ is risen!

**Hallelujah, Christ is risen indeed!**

In dawning light we celebrate as people of resurrection!

**As the sun rises we discover that the stone is rolled away.**

Not just the stone of the tomb but the stone of our fear -

**Now we can breathe, Christ lives, leading us into new life.**

We share in his spirit; we are clothed in his saving grace.

**We give thanks as Easter promise brings us joy! Amen.**

#### WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE OF EASTER

### We Share with Love

**OFFERING:** *There are many ways to financially support St. James. You can place your contribution in the plate, scan the QR code on the left, donate via PAR, website ([www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)), e-transfer (email [treasurer@stjamesuc.org](mailto:treasurer@stjamesuc.org)), or mail to the church office. In whatever way you support St. James, the community is grateful. Tax receipts available by request.*



**OFFERTORY:** “Hallelujah, Hallelujah” *Voices United* 179, v 4  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ; hallelujah,  
hallelujah! Give praise to God’s name.  
Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour;  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;  
hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God’s name.

## **PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

### **We Listen and Respond**

**INTROIT:** “The Risen Christ” (Voices United 168)

**EASTER READING:** John 20:1-10

## **LEARNING TOGETHER**

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

**CHORAL RESPONSE:** “Halle, Halle, Halle” (*Voices United* 958)

**CONTINUATION OF EASTER READING:** John 20:11-18

**ANTHEM:** “Worthy is the Lamb” (Messiah) G.F Handel

**EASTER VERSE:** “Ikon: The Harrowing of Hell” by Denise Levertov

## **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS**

\* **HYMN:** “Good Christians All Rejoice and Sing” (*VU* 169)

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

## **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Christ is risen! **Hallelujah! Christ is risen indeed!**

Open your hearts. **We open them to God.**

Let us give thanks. **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, we praise you. You are beyond our understanding, but we know one thing – you are love. Through your love, you made everything – the stars and planets, the sun and moon, trees, flowers, birds, animals, and us, your children. **Hallelujah!**

With that same love you taught us how to live, calling on holy people to remind us of what is good, and sent Jesus to teach us your way of love. He modelled this in everything he did, healing the sick, caring for those who were poor, offering forgiveness and teaching us to forgive each other. He loved everyone and showed us how to be compassionate and kind to all. **Hallelujah!**

With thanks for all that he did in witness to your healing love, we echo the angels and saints as they sing to your glory:

**Holy God of Power of Might! Hallelujah! Heav'n and earth shine with your light! Hallelujah! Loud Hosannas now we sing! Hallelujah! Blessings to our Risen King! Hallelujah!**

*(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)*

Blessings to you, Saving God, for this day each year when we celebrate the power of your love! We honour Jesus who was faithful to you until the very end. After he died on the cross, his friends placed his body in a tomb, but three days later they found it empty, an angel telling them that Jesus was no longer there but had risen and would continue to be with them. **Hallelujah!**

Even now we experience his living presence, especially as we recall how on the night before he died he shared supper with his friends. While they were eating, he took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.” After supper, he took a cup of wine. Again he thanked you, and gave it to his friends, saying, “Take, drink. This is a sign of the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you do this, remember me.”

We remember, Sustaining God, grateful that on this day we experience the in-breaking of your kin-dom, your new life revealed in resurrection. Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Dying, Christ destroyed our death! Hallelujah! Rising, Christ restores our life! Hallelujah! We believe and we proclaim, Hallelujah! Jesus Christ will come again! Hallelujah!**

*(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)*

We thank you Gracious God, for this special way that we remember Jesus as we share a meal together in your love. **Hallelujah!**

In his name we pray that your Spirit take this bread and wine and let them echo with the whisper of resurrection; take this table that it be the place where grave clothes are folded; and take this community, infusing it with fresh spirit, living hope, risen life. **Hallelujah!**

Enlivened in your grace, may we go into the world as witnesses of the resurrection of Christ, bearing to all the gift of your redeeming

love. Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

**“Amen, Amen.” Hear our prayer, Hallelujah! As the bread and cup we share! Hallelujah! At this table, Christ we meet, Hallelujah! Present here with wounded feet, Hallelujah!**

*(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)*

**SUNG PRAYER OF JESUS (Lord’s Prayer):** *Voices United 960*

### **SHARING IN COMMUNION**

This is the bread of life, **Christ shared in hope for the world.**

This is the fruit of the vine, **Christ shared in openness and joy.**

This is the banquet of blessing, **Christ inviting everyone in love.**

*Everyone is welcome to share communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. There is a centre station to receive the bread and two side stations to receive non-alcoholic juice in small glasses. Consume the bread and juice before returning to your pew. A gluten free option is available on request. If you’re unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you once everyone has received.*

**COMMUNION ANTHEM:** “Joy Comes with the Dawn”

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *(in unison)*

**Spirit of life, in this feast we are fed by your love, nourished in your grace, and enlivened to live in your joy. Send us into your world to feed as we've been fed, forgive as we've been forgiven, and love others as we've been loved by you. Amen.**

**We Leave to Serve**

**HYMN:** "Thine Is the Glory" (*Voices United* 173)

**BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH:**

Risen with Christ: **we know the reassurance of God's presence.**

Risen with Christ: **we accept the challenge to walk God's way.**

Risen with Christ: **we are proof God's life will never die.**

Go forth in joy, in the blessing of God: Abba, Christ and Spirit!

Go, for Christ is Risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

**POSTLUDE**

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