

# St. James United Church

July 5, 2026  
10:30 am

## Summer Worship



### The Sambro-Jollimore Pastoral Charge

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### The Life and Work of St. James United Church

#### Birthday/Anniversary Song

Happy birthday/anniversary to you, to Jesus be true.

May God's richest blessings abide unto you!

#### Lighting the Christ Candle

The light of Christ shines for all to see.

**May it shine in our hearts and in our lives.**

#### Introit (MV 62)

There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing.

There is room for all, sheltered in God's love.

And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."

There is room for all, there is room for all.

#### Call to Worship

Come and draw near to God in worship.

**We come with gratitude for longer days,**

for summer vacation and travel time,

**for time spent with family and friends.**

We come as God's faithful people,

**ready to praise God's holy name.**

Let us pray:

#### Opening Prayer (together)

Loving God, we thank you for the gifts of summer: the warmth of the sun, the refreshment of rain, the beauty that surrounds us.

Thank you for this time that slows the pace of our daily living. Be

with us in our worship, and guide us in the way that leads to life.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Hymn: VU 399 "God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us"**

## Confirmation and Transfer of Membership

**Hymn: MV 161 “I Have Called You by Your Name”**

**Scripture: Genesis 23:1-2, 19-20  
Genesis 24:1-4, 9-10, 34-38, 42-49, 58-67**

**Anthem**

**Sermon: “The Light in Sarah’s Tent”**

**Hymn: VU 82 “A Light Is Gleaming”**

**Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offering Hymn (VU 575 v. 1)**

I’m gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I’m gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

**Prayer of Dedication (together)**

Loving God, bless the gifts we offer, so that they may give rest  
and refreshment to all people and in all places where they are  
needed. We ask it in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Hymn: VU 236 “Now Thank We All Our God”**

**Benediction**

**Song for the Journey (VU 424 v. 1)**

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace;  
singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that’s new;  
faithful when we hear Christ’s call.

## The Life and Work of St. James United Church

**Confirmation and Transfer of Membership:** This morning we offer a warm welcome to everyone who is joining us in worship, and especially to Tasha Banks, whose baptism will be confirmed, and Theresa Pickart and Emma Caines, whose church membership will be transferred to St. James.

**St. James Strawberry Tea, Ticket Auction & Cake Walk:**  
1:00-3:00 pm, Saturday, July 11th, \$7. Strawberry Shortcake, Tea/Coffee. Cash only. Donations of auction items and cakes are much appreciated!

**We ask that donations of auction items for the Strawberry Tea** be received by July 9th and that they be new and not used. Thank you!

**Sou’wester Days—Sunday, August 9th:**

**Service of the Sea** 10:30 am: in St. James sanctuary.

**Blessing of the Fleet** 12 noon: meet at government wharf.

**Fish Chowder Supper** 3-6 pm: join us for a delicious meal!

**Lectionary Readings for July 5, 2026**

Genesis 24:34-38; 42-49; 58-67 Rebekah welcomes Isaac as her husband.

Psalms 45:10-17 A song for the anointed ruler.

Romans 7:15-25a I do not do the good I want to do.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 My yoke is easy; my burden is light.

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation of Baptism:  
Tasha Banks

Transfer of Membership:  
Emma Caines  
Theresa Pickart

### **Minister - Statement of Purpose**

On the journey of our life in Christ, we have opportunity to confirm the faith proclaimed in our baptism. Today we gather to affirm the power of the Holy Spirit and to celebrate the place of Tasha Banks in the people of God. We give thanks for her gifts and promise to continue to walk with her. With joy and thanksgiving we celebrate the faith we all share, and rededicate ourselves to the life and work of the body of Christ.

### **Elder - Presentation of Candidate**

Hear the words of Jesus from the Gospel of John: "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches" (John 15:4-5).

On behalf of the congregation of St. James United Church, I present Tasha Banks, who seeks to publicly confirm the faith proclaimed in her baptism.

### **Minister - Profession of Faith**

Tasha Banks, do you believe in God, Source of love; in Jesus Christ, love incarnate; and in the Holy Spirit, love's power?

**Response: I do, by the grace of God.**

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil and to live in love and justice?

**Response: I do, by the grace of God.**

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

**Response: I will, God being my helper.**

### **Laying On of Hands by Minister and Elder**

Tasha, the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may continue to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ.

**Congregation: Amen!**

## TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

### **Minister - Statement of Purpose**

The church is a community of people with different gifts, united by the Holy Spirit. We gather to celebrate God's presence and to follow the way of Jesus. By our baptism we are made members of Christ's church. We exercise this membership in the denomination to which we belong, which for us is The United Church of Canada, and within the community of our local congregation, St. James United Church.

### **Elder - Presentation of New Members**

Hear Paul's words from his letter to the Ephesians: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all, and in all" (Ephesians 4:1-6).

On behalf of the congregation of St. James United Church, I present the following who are confirmed members of the church of Jesus Christ, and who wish to make a commitment to our community here: Emma Caines, formerly of St. Paul's United Church, Spryfield; Theresa Pickart, formerly of Evangelische Kirche, Steinbach-Hallenberg, Germany; Tasha Banks, whose baptism has just been confirmed.

### **Minister - Commitment to St. James United Church**

Emma Caines, Theresa Pickart, Tasha Banks, will you join with your brothers and sisters in this congregation to share in the life, work and ministry of Jesus Christ?

**Response: I will, God being my helper.**

### **Minister - Commitment of Congregation**

Would the congregation please stand as you are able?

As sisters and brothers in Christ, do you pledge to Emma, Theresa and Tasha your support and your promise to live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church, together?

**Congregation: We are willing, God being our helper.**

### **Minister - Affirmation of Faith**

Please remain standing as we affirm our faith together in "A New Creed":

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

*("A New Creed", The United Church of Canada, 1968, alt. 1998)*

### **Minister - Prayer**

Gracious God, Giver of life, you have called us by name and pledged to each of us your faithful love. Today we ask for your blessing on Theresa, Tasha and Emma. Watch over them and guide them as they continue to grow in faith. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism and renew our trust in you. Strengthen us to do your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Blessing offered by Congregation (together)**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace. Amen.

### **Elder - Welcome**

Tasha, Theresa and Emma, in the name of Jesus Christ we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership in this congregation. We give thanks to God for your presence among us. I now call on any members of the Session and Board, who are present, to come forward to offer the hand of welcome and friendship to our new members of St. James! *(present certificates)*