



ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH
MAKING FAITHFUL DISCIPLES FOR JESUS CHRIST

Parish Profile



50th Anniversary Celebration Service

WHO (we are)

St. James recently celebrated our 50th Anniversary and said farewell to our retiring rector of 27 years. We are seeking a new incumbent to lead us in the next season, building on our values and characteristics, which are foundational to our parish's way of life and worship.

We are a multifaceted community; liturgical and charismatic, traditional and contemporary, sinners and saints. While being diverse in many ways, above all we are a congregation that bases our discipleship on the revelation of God in Scripture, and in being open to the work of the Holy Spirit. We believe the living Lord Jesus moves in our midst. We are a people who love worship and desire teaching that leads us into a deeper relationship with our Lord, seeking to be more Christ-like.

Our Values

- We desire to live out our theology in practical ways that reveal and demonstrate the historic Christian faith. We desire to enable ourselves and others to:
 - Receive the Father's Love, and the Spirit's empowering.
 - Experience the joy of repentance and forgiveness.
 - Make an initial and ongoing commitment to follow Jesus.
 - Know the privilege and power of prayer.
 - Seek God's will for the wholeness of body, soul, and spirit.
 - Live lives of holiness.
 - Be aware of and engage in the spiritual battle.
 - Serve God through his church and in his world.
- Liturgy, sacrament and praise are key elements of our corporate worship.
- We look to the Holy Spirit for guidance in every area of our community life.
- Everyone is encouraged to serve and to minister in the community (as well as beyond).
- We are a church that values and has a number of small groups providing opportunities for discipleship and fellowship.
- We believe that growing Christians need to engage in spiritual formation and discipleship.
- We believe in the importance of being a welcoming and integrative community.

Our Characteristics

Every church reflects different facets of the Christian tradition and St. James emphasizes these six characteristics in our worship.

Scriptural: we believe that the truth is revealed in Holy Scripture, which is the infallible word of God.

Liturgical: we explore the rich variety of the themes of the Christian year. Our liturgical style ranges from relatively informal to traditional. We follow a variety of formats in our Sunday worship.

Charismatic: we make room to discern the Holy Spirit's direction and his word to us as individuals and as a congregation.

Traditional: our worship is based on long-standing practices of Christian worship.

Contemporary: every generation expresses worship in ways that are more accessible to people in their place and time.

Evangelical: we wish to bring all people the good news of Christ's love for them and that God's kingdom is near.

WHY (people come to St. James)

People come to St. James for many varied reasons. They come to be fed, so that they can grow in discipleship and feed others. People come seeking Biblical teaching that stirs and challenges hearts, helping them grow and mature their Christian faith and spirit.

They come for music, which has been a pivotal element of our worship. Whether traditional hymns, or meaningful contemporary music, we pray they will be moved by each song, refrain and chorus. Both the hymns and contemporary songs relate to the readings of the day.

We are open to the presence and inspiration of the Holy Spirit in our worship. This is often evident during the singing of worship songs at the beginning of the 10:00 a.m. service. Another way this has been woven into our 10:00 a.m. services is the sharing of Words of Wisdom. These words are discerned through prayer and delivered when deemed appropriate, by the incumbent during the service. Prayer ministry for healing is offered during communion and after the service. People who seek this ministry sometimes come in response to the Words of Wisdom, or other aspects of the service, sometimes in response to a personal longing for prayer. Those who pray are members of the rector-led prayer ministry.

We are a gathered church, with members coming from around the corner and across the city. We strive to be a welcoming church, meeting visitors and regular attendees at the door with a warm greeting. We offer a traditional BCP and contemporary BAS service, with weekly communion that is shared with reverence and love.

Our 8:00 a.m., Book of Common Prayer service is a traditional sung communion, where the clergy and lay readers robe every Sunday. This service is an important part of our culture that is precious to our community. At the 10:00 a.m. service, we follow the Book of Alternative Services in a contemporary communion, with customized additions, many from the

Church of England's litanies. The service begins with songs of praise, led by a worship team, and also includes traditional hymns. Clergy and lay readers only robe and process on significant holy days and seasons, but the seasonal colours and themes are at all times honoured. It is during this service the young church (nursery to grade 6) and youth group (grades 7 – 12) meet for their own service and teaching, joining their families for communion toward the end of the service. In both services, lay readers share the readings, lead the prayers of the people and assist in serving communion. During Lent, an intimate mid-week morning communion service is held and one Sunday a month, an evening service provides a contemplative time of worship and prayer, where a brief homily and communion are shared.

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HOW (we serve)

We are a large congregation (our average attendance is about 40 at the 8:00 a.m. service, and 210 at the 10:00 a.m. service), where people form relationships through small groups, and other ministries. These are places where we care for each other. Leaders are appointed, to ensure they have the skills and heart to disciple others. We have many lay ministries, some that serve within our community and others that serve outside our community. Some of these ministries include our ELL classes, the Good Food Box, Brown Bag Lunch, and outreach to prisoners and the homeless (Inn from the Cold).

Our Vacation Bible School is our most lively evangelical outreach. It is always oversubscribed and draws children ranging from 4 years to those entering grade 6 in September. They come from the surrounding community and beyond; those not from St. James come from other churches (often brought by grandparents), and about 1/3 are unchurched. Many of the unchurched return year after year, with some now serving as junior helpers. Our Vacation Bible School infuses 15 hours of God-time into a child's life in the middle of summer, and we know God will not let those seeds go to waste.

We are a tithing community and, with the agreement of each family who give to the church, we direct 10% of our annual givings to mission work. The mission projects, which support local and international missionaries, are chosen by our missions committee, in consultation with clergy.



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We pray. We have an active prayer chain and a prayer team. Although separate, both groups commit our parish, parishioners and those they love to prayer. Our intercessory prayer team meets weekly to pray for the parish and its overall wisdom. We have an active care-givers ministry that is led and supported by volunteers. We care for each other in many ways.

Currently, we have 4 full or part-time staff members. Full time staff include our office administrator, and youth and young adult pastor. Part-time staff include our children's pastor, and custodian. Volunteers assist in all these areas, but the youth and young adult pastor and children's pastor each have a team of committed lay helpers. We have customarily had an assistant priest and part-time staff members who provide leadership in the areas of pastoral care and senior administration. The new rector would actively lead the choice of the new assistant or associate priest and lay team.

WHERE (about the community of Ranchlands)

St. James is located in the community of Ranchlands, in north west Calgary, about 25 minutes from downtown. It is a family-oriented community, just an hour's drive from the year-round mountain playgrounds of Kananaskis and Banff National Park. It is a community with playing fields and green spaces, including a sizable natural park. It has both a public and separate elementary school, serving families with children from Kindergarten to grade 6. Close by are middle and senior high schools, recreation centres and libraries. City demographic statistics (<https://bit.ly/2NZYTta>), show that Ranchlands' cultural diversity closely mirrors Calgary's, with about 24% of the community made up of visible minorities, and 3% First Nations members.

The community's faith diversity is represented by 86% Christian, 9% Muslim and 1% Buddhist. We are one of two Christian churches in Ranchlands, with many others in adjacent communities. Some of our Ranchlands' neighbours attend the Muslim Centre adjacent to our property.

WHAT (we are seeking)

We desire to grow as a parish in the following:

- A greater concentration of parishioners aged from 20 to 49;
- Intentional shepherding and development of leaders and volunteers;
- Increased engagement with the local community;
- To make it easier for newcomers to become integrated into the congregation; and
- To provide pathways to find and/or offer support in areas of pastoral care.

We seek an incumbent who:

- Is a Christ-centered preacher and teacher;
- Is anchored in Scripture and seeks daily refreshment in God's word;
- Has an openness to the Holy Spirit in all aspects of our community;
- Has a love for worship;
- Is very pastoral;
- Is a leader with humility;
- Is a person who can effect change with a loving and patient heart;
- Continues to learn through self-directed means as well as professional development;
- Is able to shepherd, guide and collaborate with staff and other leaders, as we have a relatively large number of people in leadership roles including honorary clergy, staff, and many leadership volunteers;
- Has a heart for leading our church's engagement with the local community, sharing and embodying the Good News;
- Seeks intentional growth of the congregation – including individuals and young families and people within the community of Ranchlands and beyond;
- Provides Christ-like leadership in the midst of the challenges faced by the Anglican Church of Canada.