

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
A very special husband, father and poppy,
Ray Sulley,
 from his wife Christine, daughter Tanya and family,
 son Brian and family.
 “Love you forever.”

St. James United Church

December 14th, 2014/3rd Sunday in Advent - Joy /Sunday School White Gift

Minister: Rev. Terrie Burry
 Minister of Visitation: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
 Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
 Choir: UCW
 Choir Director: Doreen Brown
 Organist: Sophia WerdenAbrams

**Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.
 Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.**

Prelude

Welcome and Life and Work of St. James



Introit: *Come To Us Now, Emmanuel* Choir

Liturgical Dance, Jr: *Do you hear what I hear?*

Dance Choreographers: Allison Bartlett, Katelyn Mayo

Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: Come among us, God,

All: source of life and heart of all—so that we may know your Love.

One: Come among us, God,

All: wrapped in human flesh—so that we may touch and see and hear your Love.

One: Come among us, God,

All: blowing bubbles of joy and hope—so that we may become your Love in the world and share the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality, and solidarity with all people. Come and be with your people, God as we come to worship you!

Opening Prayer: (together) God, while our eyes seem glued to all the shiny new things we want, You tug at our hearts, whisper our names, entice us toward compassion and joy with others, spin us into your web of relationships and teach us to seek out each other’s names. May that be our first act of embracing the dignity and worth of every human being within your web of creation. Amen.

Hymn: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* 2

Celebrating Relationships: Children’s Time, Passing the Peace

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Candle of Joy

One: On the first Sunday of Advent we lit a candle for Hope. (*Light 1st Candle*) Our second candle was lit for Peace. (*Light 2nd Candle*) Today we light a candle for Joy. This is the Joy we search for:

All: the Joy that comes when we go out of our way to help others, the Joy that overcomes fear and repression, the Joy that Jesus brought to the downtrodden and despised,

One: the Joy that chuckles out from a young baby, the Joy that is in the energy of a street-hockey game, the Joy that comes with a new job and is found in a purposeful retirement,

All: the Joy of compassionate friendship, the Joy of a Christian faith that is central to all we do and are,

One: a Joy to release us,

All: a Joy to delight us,

One: a Joy to encourage us,

All: a Joy to challenge the despair on our hearts, in our city, and among the hopeless of our world. Amen. (Light 3rd Candle)

Invitation to the Offering: ‘Walk Humbly’ video

Offertory: *She Walked in the Summer* Choir

Offertory Hymn: *In the Bleak Midwinter, v. 4* 55

Offertory Prayer: Advent God, You have called us by name, and we now give ourselves to You through these symbols. Multiply their goodness so that there is light in the darkness, dignity for all and hope and joy in every heart! Amen.

WHITE GIFT DRAMA

Scripture: Isaiah 11: 1-9
Hymn : *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verses 1,3,6,7* 1
Act 1: The Prophecy

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38
Hymn : *All Earth Is Waiting* 5
Act 2: The Annunciation

Anthem: *Sing Joy!* Choir

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-7
Hymn : *Once in Royal David's City* 62
Act 3: Bethlehem

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-20
Hymn : *Angels We Have Heard on High* 38
Act 4: Shepherds

Hymn : *Away in a Manger* 69

Pastoral Prayer

Liturgical Dance, Sr: *Ave Maria*
Dance Choreographer: Shawna Gallegar

Benediction

Postlude

White Gift Drama Cast:

Mary: Rachel Moss
Joseph: Liam Evans
Act 1 Mom: Claire Neary Act 1 Child: Kaitlyn Brown
Angel: Katelyn Mayo
Act 2 Mom: Julianne Moss Act 2 Child: Jewel Verbiski
Act 3 Mom: Rev. Terrie Burry Act 3 Child: Hannah Sheppard
Act 4 Mom: Sophie Shoemaker Act 4 Child: Avajane Seymour
Animals: Willow Pilgrim, Gracie Pilgrim, Annalynn Seymour
Sheppard, Alex Hooper, Griffin Seal, Quentin Seal