

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of a cherished mother:

Roma Paul, November 30, 1938 – April 27, 2013.

from Nancy and Anthony.

She will always be our guiding light.

St. James United Church

November 29, 2015/Advent 1/Communion

Minister: Rev. Terrie Burry
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Choir: Senior
Choir Directors: Amy Dalziel
Sophia Werden Abrams
Flute player: Spencer Hartman

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.

Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.

Musical Prelude

Welcome and Life and Work of St. James

Passing the Peace



Introit: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v. 1-2*

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Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: The joy of God is all around us,

All: often in the midst of unexpected places.

One: In this time of stress and expectations, may we be surprised

All: as the true wonder of this season is revealed to us.

One: The joy of God is all around us.

Opening Prayer: (together) Holy One, in this season, certain baking, cards and special music are family traditions that take us into our past. News of the day and the illness of an old friend make us wonder what the future holds. In this busy season, still us and help us to be present: present to the world's wonder and hunger; present to the needs of neighbors and friends; present to our own cries of pain and of joy. Go with us to Bethlehem to do our civic duty. Come with us to a crowded inn where some are turned away. Be with us as we gaze on a manger full of hope and new life. Amen.

Hymn: *People, Look East*

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The Circle Song & Children's Time

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Candle of Hope

Sung Invitation to the tune of *Winter Wonderland*)

Advent's here – are you ready? Every year (yes, already!)

The cycle comes round, the Christ to be found,
Join us in the walk to Bethlehem!

Hope's alive – in our living, mistakes are made, but there's forgiving.

This Christmas we'll share Good News everywhere,
Join us in the walk to Bethlehem!

In our lives there can be gloom and sorrow,
Fears, frustrations – yes – they can abound.
But the Christ child's coming (not tomorrow).
In the little ones our hopes are found!

Advent's here – Are you ready? Every year (yes, already)
This first candle we light, to guide through the night,
Join us in the walk to Bethlehem!

Prayer: (together) You are the hope of the world, God. You are the guiding light in our lives. Open our eyes to Your world. Open our hearts to Your presence. Open our lives to Your hope that we might be eyes, hearts and hands of hope everywhere we go. We ask it in Christ's name. Amen.

Sung Response: *Hope Is a Star, v. 1*

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Hymn: *In the Bleak Midwinter, v.1-3*

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Invitation to the Offering and Minute for Mission

Offering

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

55

Offertory Prayer: (together) O come to us, Emmanuel, and make our giving holy. For what is here is given freely, with hope and joy and love; let our small gifts join with others so that our world may become your dream of peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Scripture: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 25

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Anthem : *Advent Prayer* Choir & Flute

Gospel : Luke 21 : 25-36

Sermon

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

Sacrament of Holy Communion



The Great Thanksgiving: (responsive)

One: May the coming God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts, people of God, your redemption draws near.

All: We will offer them to the One who leads us down paths of faithfulness.

One: Join together in singing thanksgiving to God, our righteousness.

All: We praise the One for whom we wait, this day and every day.

One: The days of creation came, God of goodness, when You spoke on that first morning..... we offer our songs of thanksgiving:

All: Holy, holy, holy are You, God our righteousness. Because of You, all creation awaits Your advent. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes to us in weakness, Hosanna in the highest!

One: You are holy, God of our salvation, and Your Child is the bearer of justice..... we remember that mystery we call faith:

All: Christ died, the Branch broken on the unjust tree; Christ was raised, declaring 'the Lord is my resurrection!' Christ will return, the advent of God's glory and grace for all.

One: Come now to Your children gathered at the Table,..... Saying together those ancient words, "Our Father....."

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup



Communion by Intinction

Prayer after Communion

Closing Hymn: *Hark the Glad Sound*

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Blessing & Sending Forth

Musical Postlude