

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
Ray Sulley,
from grandchildren: Katie, Matthew, Evelyn and Rowan.
"Love you forever, Poppy."

St. James United Church

December 20, 2015/Advent 4, Love/Youth Choir Service

Minister:	Rev. Terrie Jackson
Minister of Visitation:	Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Choir:	Youth
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Choir Director:	Doreen Brown
The Reflector:	Rebecca Ann Bartlett

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

Musical Prelude

Welcome & Life & Work of St. James



Passing the Peace of Christ:

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: You are invited to share in signs of peace with your neighbours.

Introit: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel, v. 7*

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Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: On the way to Bethlehem there are many beginnings, conceptions, waiting times, births.

All: What do You conceive in us, O God? Who do You bring to new life?

One: O come, O come, God-with-us, give what is needed to set us free, as we find ourselves bound by so many things until You come into our lives....again.

All: While we await Your coming, we cannot keep from singing. We will Worship You.

Opening Prayer: (Together): O God, how will we meet You? In a tiny baby, reliant upon the care and well-being of those around? In a toddler, visited by Wise Ones? In a teen, changing and challenging, learning and teaching, growing into self? In an adult, healing and caring, loving to death and beyond? O God, how will we meet You? Wherever we may find You, warm our hearts to Your presence, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

60

The Circle Song & Children's Time

Advent Candle Lighting: The Candle of Love

(Sung Invitation to the tune of *Santa Claus is coming to town*)

*Oh, with hearts open wide, with hands open, too;
Living God's love each and every day, through--
Jesus' people, walking Christ's way.*

*Opportunities here, opportunities there,
Using our talents, God's gifts we will share--
Jesus' people, walking Christ's way.*

*This Advent flame is burning, to brighten day and night,
Invites us to discipleship--
to shine out the Christ light!*

*Oh, with hearts open wide, with hands open, too;
Living God's love each and every day, through--
Jesus' people, walking Christ's way!*

Prayer: (together) Love is alive in every heart as Jesus' birth draws near! We're opening our lives, inviting others in- it's the year of Jubilee! Love alive, carried in the womb, ready to be born, to live, to grow, to be. God help us to be like Jesus' parents, wondering if we've done all we can to get ready. If we haven't, if we've missed something, we know Your love is with us, and with all the world. Help us to live that love in ways that change the world as much as this birth-to-be! In Jesus' name, in the Creator's love, in the Spirit's dance, we ask it. Amen.

Sung Response: *Hope is a Star, v. 4*

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Youth Choir: *Christmas Gloria*
 Animals of Bethlehem
 A Christmas Wish

Invitation to the Offering

Solo: *Christmas Shoes* Katelyn Mayo

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 freely given, with hope and joy and love; let our small gifts join with others so that our world may become Your dream of peace. Amen.

Hebrew Scripture: Micah 5: 2-5a Rev. Bill, father of Rebecca Ann Bartlett

Youth Choir: *The Very First Christmas Morn*
 Gentle Mary
 Angels All Around

Hymn: *Away in a Manger* 69

Gospel: Luke 1 : 39-55 Kim, mother of Laura and Katelyn Mayo

Youth Choir: *Silent Night* Flute: Krista Brown; Soloist: Jennifer Bartlett
 A Christmas Gloria
 One Little Candle

Hymn: *What Child Is This?* 74

Pastoral Prayer

Closing Hymn: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* 48

Blessing & Sending



Postlude