

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of parents, **Graham & Beatrice Pike, Capt. Stephen & Mrs. Cecilia Penney** and sister **Bernice Pike** from Adolphe & Minnie Penney.

And in loving memory of **Lester Lewis** from the family.

St. James United Church

December 24th, 2015/Christmas Eve

Minister: Rev. Terrie Burry
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Choirs: Youth and Senior
Choir Director: Doreen Brown
Music Director: Amy Dalziel
Band: Sight Restored

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.

Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.

Musical Prelude: Sight Restored, Organ

Liturgical Dance: *One Child* by Mariah Carey Jr. & Sr. Dance Groups

Scripture: John 1:1-5 Richard Jackson

Processional Hymn: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* 60

Welcome



Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: Tonight we are excited; **All: Bless us with wonder.**
One: Tonight we are expectant; **All: Bless us with gladness.**
One: Tonight we are on tiptoe; **All: Bless us with new birth.**

Opening Prayer: (together) Prince of Peace, You come into this world as a wrinkled newborn baby, shocking us with Your vulnerability and crying need. King of Kings, You come into the world as one of the insignificant ones for whom the world can find no room. Key of David, You present yourself to us in the animal shed where Mary brought You into the world. Lamb of God, You come to us as a child on the edge, granted safe space by a man who was not Your father. Come to us now; we wait for You. Amen.

-2-

Lighting the Christ Candle: *Tune: White Christmas*

*I'm dreaming of a bright Christmas, with every Advent flame that lights.
When our lives turn softly, toward the Godly, & we hear angels in the night.*

*I'm dreaming of a bright Christmas that will remind us of the child.
Newborn in a manger, no more a stranger, the One in whom God's love has smiled!*

We're dreaming of a bright Christmas, and now the Christ Child's flame's alight.

May these days be merry and bright; may we live Christ's love with all our might!

Prayer: A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright. This is the flame of friendship, of daring love. We see the flame, we feel it. Let it burn within us and within everybody. Let it burn in cold places and lonely places. Let it burn in troubled places. Let love grow and grow until no one is cold, no one is lonely, no one is troubled. And for the times we let the flame of love flicker, the times we keep it to ourselves, the times we turn our back on it, help us, enlighten us, forgive us. Amen.

Carol: *A Candle Is Burning, v. 5* 6

Carol: *Angels We Have Heard on High* 38

Anthem: *Christmas Gloria* Youth Choir

Offertory Invitation

Anthem: *Let There Be Peace* Sight Restored

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

Offertory Prayer: (together) We ask a blessing on all the gifts given everywhere tonight, but especially for those offered here and all the people they will touch. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 2: 7-14

Carol: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* 44

Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* 64

Carol: *Silent Night, Holy Night* 67

Christmas Prayer: Dear God, thank You for this time together. Thank You for the angel who has helped us to think about Christmas. Show us how to look for and follow the star so that we can find You in our hearts and in our lives. Amen.

Blessing:

One: Rock us gently. **All: Rock us with love.**
 One: Cradle us tenderly. **All: Cradle us with love.**
 One: Swaddle us firmly. **All: Swaddle us with love.**
 One: Bless us kindly. **All: Bless us with love.**

Carol: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* 43

Musical Interlude Sight Restored and Senior Choir
Welcome to those joining for Holy Communion

Call to Worship: (responsively, with sung response):

One: The Prophet Isaiah said: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

**All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appears.**

One: The Priest Zechariah said before John’s birth: by the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**All: O Come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
 O bid our sad divisions cease, and be for us the Prince of Peace.**

One: The Evangelist John said: “What has come into being in Him was life, and the life is the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

**All: O Come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.**

One: God is with us. God is coming into our lives in a new way. The birth of the Christ-child is the renewal of hope, a reminder that Christ will come again. Keep watch for the light; it is drawing near.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee O Israel!

Opening Prayer: (together): O God of love, You have brought us together tonight and blessed us with Your very self. Open our eyes to the light of Christ which glows in the darkness of a world engulfed in apathy, pain and loss; a world separated from You. Speak to us now that we may hear the

good news of Your salvation. Bring us into the wonder of Your presence. Fill us with that light that we might carry it out with us into our lives and into Your world. Amen.

Carol: *’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* 71

Scripture Reading: John 1: 1-18 Terry Burry

Solo: *What Child Is This?* Carys Jackson

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Carol: *Still, still, still* 47
 (Offering and elements brought forward)

Offertory Prayer: (together) On this night of many gifts when the wondrous gift is given, receive what we have offered here and bless all those whose lives it touches, in the name of the Christ child, we pray. Amen.

Anthem: *Once in Royal David’s City* Senior Choir

Sacrament of Holy Communion: (Please see projected liturgy.)

Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup



Communion by Intinction

Prayer after Communion

Carol: *Joy to the World* 59

Blessing and Sending Forth, followed by Musical Postlude

Ushering this week is provided by:

Usher in Charge: Dave Hapgood **Greeters:** Jennifer Tremblett, Claire Neary

Ushers: Dot Hapgood, Susan Pike, Stephen Pike, Laun Shoemaker, Sophie Shoemaker, Caroline Schiller

**Merry Christmas to all, and on earth, peace,
 goodwill to all beings.**

We gratefully acknowledge the following **Christmas Donations:**

Roof Fund: in loving memory of parents Capt. William & Susan Moss, Clarence & Margaret Beckett, and Aunt & Uncle Bessie & Chester Prince from Sheilah, Jim and David Beckett; parents Leah & Lewis Bursey, Mary & Chesley Granter and daughter Kimberley Renée from Doug & Joan Bursey.

Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Camp Fund in Bethany's memory for Christmas from Fred & Pam Earle.

Project Grace: In appreciation of my Pop, Philip Saunders from Sarah Davis; in loving memory of Harvey Tiller from wife Vivian, daughters Krista (Jeff) and Amanda (Dwayne), and grandchildren Abigail and Jack; daughter Joanne Hapgood, R.N.,B.N. and grand-daughter Bethany Danielle Pike from Dot & Dave Hapgood; parents Phyllis and Richard Hapgood, baby brother and baby sister Frances and Shirley Hapgood, mother and father Chesley & Stella Stratton and brother Lloyd Stratton from Dot & Dave Hapgood.

AOTS: in loving memory of Ron Abbott, Patrick, Kathleen and Tommy McDonald and Catherine Harvey from Terry, Debbie, Dylan and Jason.

Operating Budget: in loving memory of husband and father, Don Jones from June, Jim and Brad.

Memorial Fund: in loving memory of Rev. Dr. Wallace Baker from wife Muriel and son John; Clarence & Sylvia Martin from Robert & Minnie Gullage; mother & father Laura & Andrew Hillyard and brothers Bill, Ewart, Jack, Bert and sister Noreen from Roly & Marg Hillyard and family.

A Christmas Memorial in loving memory of Jean & Gilbert Inkpen from Gillian Brown; parents Everett & Ruby LeDrew from daughter Donna LeDrew-Hunt.

Cemetery Fund in loving memory of husband Fred Higdon from his wife, Claire; husband Charlie, daughter Shawn Kelly and mom & dad Stokes from Annie Parsons.

Bridges To Hope: in loving memory of Edgar David Adams from Marina and family; husband Fillmore N. Daya from wife Mary.

The manger scene at the front of the church was donated in memory of two people who truly loved the spirit of the Christmas season, Bethany Danielle Pike and Joanne Hapgood, from Stephen, Susan and Rebecca Pike.

Our third beautiful Christmas poinsettia is in loving memory of Annie & Matthew Brake from their family.

