

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of

Ray Sulley

From Christine, Tonya (Robin), Brian (June)
and grandchildren Katie, Matthew, Evelyn and Rowan.

"Love you forever."

St. James United Church

December 18, 2016/Advent 4

Minister: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Acting Minister of Visitation: Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray
Organist: Ashley Ruby
Choir: Senior
Choir Director: Emma Clark

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.

Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.

Musical Prelude

Acknowledgement of country and First Peoples

Welcome and Life and Work of St. James



Entry into the Celebration

Lighting of the Community Candle

Introit: *Joy Shall Come* 23

Call to Worship: (together)

One: In a time of waiting and anticipation... **All: God is with us.**

One: As close as the air we breathe... **All: God is with us.**

One: From generation to generation... **All: God is with us.**

One: Hear the good news... **All: God is with us.**

Opening Prayer (responsive) **and Lighting the Advent Candles:**

One: In this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for love, and to remind us that God is the light on our paths.

All: Light up our hearts with Your ways. The candle is lit

One: God was with Mary. God was with Joseph. When we face uncertainty, God be with us.

All: Light up our hearts with Your ways.

One: God sends Christ to open our hearts to an immense love. God, as we wait,

All: light up our hearts with Your ways.

Sharing The Peace:

One: The peace of God is here... to stay.

All: Thanks be to God. You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.

Carol: *Once in Royal David's City* 62

Children's Time
Carol: *All Earth is Waiting* 5

Offering Invitation

Offering Anthem: *Christmas Angel, arr. Corlynn Hanney* Choir

Offering Hymn: to the tune of My Life Flows On

Sheep softly bleat, the angels sing, wise men and shepherds seek Him.

The greatest gift we have received; a child born in Bethlehem.

*With grateful and with humble hearts, these gifts we gladly offer,
to share God's love with all the earth, with Jesus Christ, our Saviour.*

Prayer of dedication: Friends, we are called to bear witness to the fragility of our human story and follow God to a manger. May we live in the light of God that we may abound in compassion and love. We bring the best of ourselves and our offerings to God's church and world. Amen.

Silence

Scripture Readings

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 7: 10-16

Anthem: *Silent Night* Choir

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-25

Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* 64

Meditation

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* 35

Parting Words: (together)

One: Leave here with the certainty that God loves you and travels with you.

All: Relax in God's love, and love in openness to God's spirit moving within you.

One: Go to live as God's people:

All: as God's eyes, God's heart and God's hands, in the name of Christ.

Words of blessing followed by Musical Postlude