

# St. James United Church

December 4, 2016/Second Sunday in Advent/Baptism

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  
Guest Musicians: Vocal Quartet, Haley Hynes

**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**

**Lighting of the Community Candle**

**Call to Worship:** (responsive)

One: We are all welcome in this place. Just as you are, whatever hopes or worries are on your mind, you are welcome.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths straight.**

One: Young or old, tall or small, we are all part of God's vision.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths straight.**

One: Let us welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths straight.**

**Opening Prayer** (responsive) **and lighting of Advent Candles:**

One: Today, we light the second candle in our community Advent wreath. We light the candle for hope, and remember that God lights our path.

**All: We wait in hope.**

One: Through the prophets, God tells us about a child who will lead the way into peace.

**All: We wait in hope.**

One: We remember John the baptizer as a voice crying out in the wilderness to "prepare the way of the Lord!" And so we prepare our hearts and minds as we wait for the blessed gift of Christ's birth.

**All: We wait in hope.**

**Sharing The Peace**

*You are invited to share the peace with your neighbour*

**Hymn:** *Hope Is a Star* 7

**Children's Time**

**Baptismal Hymn:** *She Walked in the Summer* 12



## Sacrament of Holy Baptism



**Presentation**

**Parent's Baptismal Vows**

**Congregational Commitment: (together, standing as you are able)**

We have heard the will of the parents. We receive this child in Christ's name as we ourselves have been received. We all belong to the one household of Christ. We will support this parent and this child through prayer, and provide a community of faith in which they are welcome to belong. May we serve God's world together. Amen.

**Affirmation of Faith:** A New Creed please see over

**Prayer of Thanksgiving & Pouring of the Water**

**Action of Baptism**

**Mackenzie Audrey Elizabeth Robbins**, daughter of Tina Christine Robbins

**Blessing:** (together) May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.

**Offertory Invitation:** God's word of hope is coming into the world. Hope for the lowly, the broken and the fearful. Hope for a better world. In anticipation of God's Hope, let us offer our gifts preparing for the coming of Christ among us.

**Offering**

**Offertory 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.*

**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.

**Scripture Readings**

**Hebrew Scripture:** Isaiah 11: 1-10  
**Anthem:** *Comfort and Joy*, arranged by Joel Raney Vocal Quartet  
**Gospel:** Matthew 3: 1-12  
**Hymn:** *On Jordan's Bank* 20

**Meditation**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**Closing Hymn:** *Hark the Glad Sound* 649

**Blessing and Sending Forth followed by Musical Postlude**