

# St. James United Church

January 22, 2017/ Third after Epiphany

*"The people who lived in darkness have seen a great light."*

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

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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 & Life & Work of St. James

## Entry into the Celebration

## Lighting of the Community Candle

**Introit:** *Arise, Your Light Is Come, v.4* 79

## Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: As He walked by a lake, Jesus called fishers to follow him.

**All: And immediately, immediately! they left their work and went with Him.**

One: As Jesus journeys through our lives, He asks us to follow Him.

**All: In this moment, this moment! we have the chance to leave the past behind, and pursue Christ into God's future.**

One: As Jesus wanders in our world, He invites others to join in.

**All: We would join Jesus in this ministry, reaching out to our neighbours, without delay, without delay!**

**Opening Prayer:** (together) Your heart is the shelter for our weary souls. You will not push us away, but clasp us tight in Your embrace. You refuse to abandon us, standing by our side all our lives.  
Time reaper, you are our hope!

When others try to tear us apart, You pick up the pieces, making us whole. When we wonder what the day might bring, You whisper, *"Follow Me, I will make you readers to little children, bandagers of bruised hearts, lovers of the forsaken, pilgrims who show the way to others."*

Time shaker, You are our dawn. You appeal to us to set aside all that divides us, so we might be one.

You send us to proclaim good news, not with silver-tongued sophistication but with simple words: justice, hope, grace, love, which bring light to the shadows.

Time keeper, you are our joy. Amen.

## Sharing the Peace:

One: May a heart of peace rest with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*(You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.)*

**Hymn:** *Dear God, Who Loves All Humankind* 608

## Children's Time

**Hymn:** *Simon, Simon a Fisherman* 597

## Offertory Invitation

## Offering

**Offertory Hymn:** *What Child is This? V.3 plus chorus* 74

*So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him.*

*The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.*

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

**Prayer of dedication:** (together) We are called to follow, yet are often slow to respond, God of grace. We are blessed with more than we ever need or can ever use, yet we are reluctant to part with even a portion of this abundance. As we offer our gifts to You, remind us that learning generosity is part of our call to follow the One who models Your gracious nature in every word, every gesture, every day. Amen.

## Silence

**Scripture Readings**

**Hebrew Scripture:** Isaiah 9: 1-4

## Anthem

**Gospel:** Matthew 4: 12-23

**Hymn:** *Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* 563

**Meditation**

**Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn:** *Will You Come and Follow Me* 567

**Parting Words:** (responsive)

One: We could play hide and seek, waiting for others to come find us,

**All: but we will go in God's light, seeking those in the world's shadows.**

One: We could stay where we are, our hearts and souls captured by fear,

**All: but we will follow the One who leads us to serve all longing for new life.**

One: We could cling to our burdens and worries, using them as an excuse to ignore those around us,

**All: but we will lay them down to join the Spirit in embracing our sisters and brothers. Amen.**

**Words of Blessing followed by Musical Postlude**

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**Ushering this week is provided by:**

**Ushers in Charge:** Jack & Florence Head

**Greeters & Ushers:** Lew & Kay Norman, Oliver Wellon, Bruce Hunt



**Help Us to Help You**

<input type="checkbox"/> We have sickness in our family	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like a call from a Minister	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive The Visitor
<input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in PAR, envelopes	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to discuss full membership	<input type="checkbox"/> I have changed my address

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_