

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith
330 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9
December 24th, 2017/Christmas Eve/Communion



Happy 4th week of Advent!



"Christmas, my child, is love in action."

Dale Evans-Rogers

Merry Christmas to all;
on earth, peace, goodwill to all beings

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
Ceanne Butt, R.N.,
January 23, 1953 – December 27, 2009
from sisters-in-law Glenda Winsor and Gloria Le Feuvre and families.

St. James United Church

December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love/Christmas Eve/Communion

Minister:	Rev. Brian Colbourne
Minister of Visitation:	Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Organist:	David Buley, PhD
Choir:	Senior
Choir Director:	Emma Clark
Soloist:	Sophie Fitzgerald

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.

Please silence your cell phone during the Service.

The bulletin may be accessed at stjamesuc.org/bulletins;
password: StJamesUC

Musical Prelude

Welcome and Sharing the Peace

Announcements; Life & Work of St. James

Introit: *Still, Still, Still*



Choir, 47

Lighting the Community Candle

Opening Prayer: (together) God, we long for You to be with us – not as an echo from the distant past, not as a rumour spread by wishful thinkers, not as the substance of someone else's faith, but as a presence strong and real. As Christ was born of Mary long ago, may Christ be born in us this day, that we too may be God-bearers for the world; In Jesus name. Amen.

Lighting the fourth Advent Candle *(The first three candles are lit.)*

One: On the first Sunday of Advent we lit a candle for Hope. Our second candle was lit for Peace. Our third candle was lit for Joy. *(The fourth candle is lit.)* Today we light our candle for this last Sunday of Advent, the candle for Love.

All: The Love that gives without counting the cost, the Love that weaves compassion and justice together, the Love that endures when the going is rough, the Love that was revealed in the birth of Jesus,

One: Love that lights up the family circle, the Love that searches out and defines our faith community,

All: Love that hugs a family close, Love that shows itself in caring for others, Love that breaks out in laughter, and is felt in the silence of friendship,

One: Love within us, Love around us, Love that builds us up in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: *Love is a Flame, verse 4* 7
Love is a flame the burns in our heart, Jesus has come and will never depart.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.

Children's Time

Hymn: *Away in a Manger* 69
Solo: *Mary, Did You Know?* Sophie Fitzgerald

Offertory Invitation

Offering

Offertory Hymn: *In the Bleak Midwinter, verse 4* 55
What can I give Him, poor as I am?
if I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what can I give Him – give my heart.

Offertory Prayer: (together) Holy God; We ask a blessing on all the gifts given everywhere this day, but especially for those offered here and all the people they will touch. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 9: 2-7
Luke 2: 1-20

Meditation

Hymn: *Silent Night* 67

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession: (together) How silently, how silently You enter our lives and our worship, O God. The angels sing and carols ring, but You come as a star in the night sky. Remind us of what distance remains between us and the manger. Forgive us when we are so quick to find fault, in others and our selves. Forgive us when we are so slow to forgive and forget. In the silence, remind us of how near You are. Remind us of the Spirit of life that sets us free. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Anthem: *Angels' Carol* (John Rutter)

Choir

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



Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup

Communion by Intinction

Prayer after Communion: (together) Holy God, on this Christmas Eve we have been fed by Your gifts of loaf and cup, of word and song, the gifts of one another's company and Your presence. May Your song be our song, and Your story weave with ours. O God of mystery, increase our holiness, we gratefully pray in the name of Your Christ child. Amen.

Closing Hymn: *Joy to the World* 59

Blessing and Sending Forth: (together) Joy awaits us, the joy of Christmas friendship and love within the family circle. Challenge awaits us, the challenge of sharing the just and holy light of Jesus Christ with those we meet. Peace awaits us, the peace of God's love come at Christmas as a little child, the peace that never ends.

Musical Postlude

Ushering this morning is provided by Usher in Charge: Ross Pilgrim

Greeters: Claire Neary, Willow Pilgrim, Gracie Pilgrim

Ushers: Jennifer Tremblett, Tom & Maxine Rose, Betty Pilgrim,

Jim Van Riesen., Aubrey Hill

We welcome as our supply Organist today, David Buley, PhD: Associate Professor of Music Education, MUN