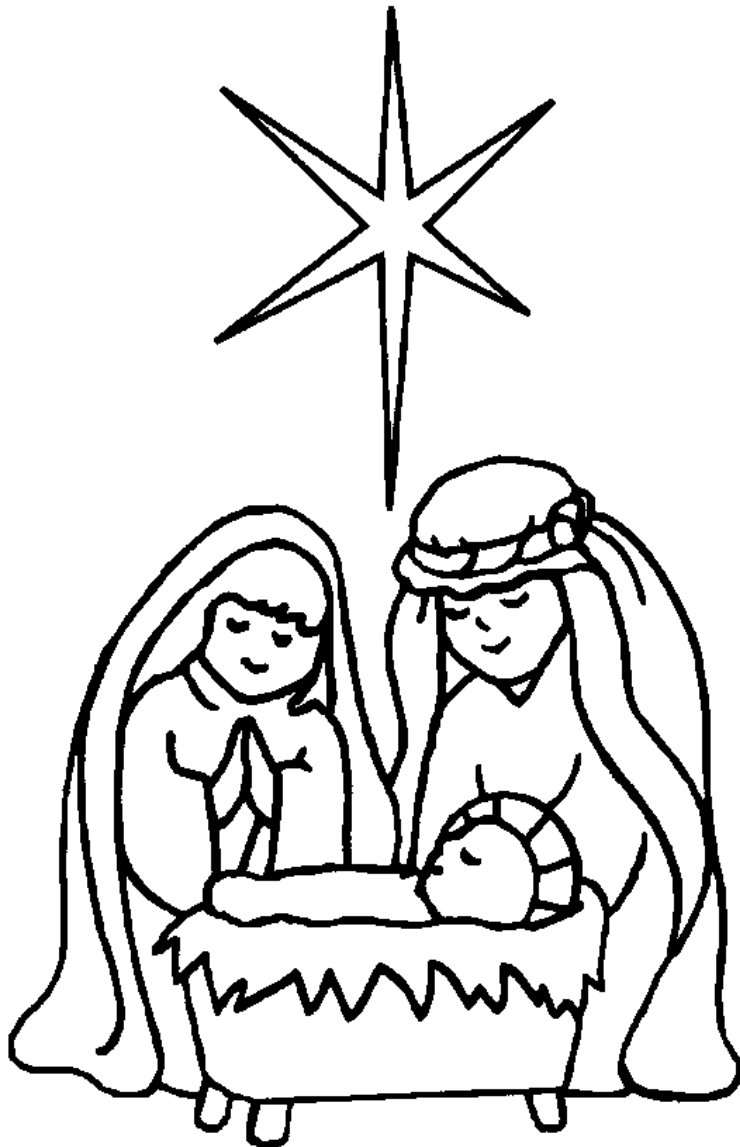


St. James United Church

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



This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of

Lester Lewis by the Family.

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

St. James United Church

December 24, 2017/Fourth Sunday in Advent Love/Christmas Eve Family Worship

Minister:	Rev. Brian Colbourne
Minister of Visitation:	Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Organist:	David Buley
Choir:	Youth
Choir Director:	Doreen Brown
Band:	Sight Restored

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

Sight Restored followed by David Buley

Prologue

Carol: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

60

Welcome

Call to Worship:

A star (*point to sky*)

Shepherds (*pretend to hold a shepherd's staff*)

Angels in the sky (*wiggle fingers back and forth in air*)

A stable (*make roof with arms*)

Parents (*cross hands, palm up, extended from body*)

A baby's newborn cry (*pull arms in to cradle a baby*)

A gift (*right hand out, palm up*)

A promise (*left hand out, palm up*)

Of life and light and peace (*slowly lift hands skywards*)

A child (*one hand to opposite shoulder*)

Jesus (*second hand to other shoulder – making sign for love*)

God's love wrapped up in fleece (*rock, pretending baby in arms*)



Opening Prayer: (together) O God of wonder in ordinary places, we wonder if we might have missed Your coming, had we been there, with the stable too out of the way, the cradle too makeshift, the animals too noisy, the shepherds too crude, and the carpenter too rough, the mother too young, the night too dark and cold. We prefer trumpets and hallelujah choirs, cherub-cheeked children, gift exchanges and shopping day countdowns. Help us to see You in out-of-the-way places and in unlikely people. Hold us close in this season of darkness and light. Amen.

Anthem: *Hallelujah!* Sight Restored

Lighting the Christ Candle: (together) *(The candle is lit.)* We light this candle to remember that God has come, and is coming, into the world. The Light that is the life of all people shines, here and now, among us. Amen.

Hymn: *Joy to the World* 59

First Reading: John 1: 1-5, 14 The Word became flesh.

Ministry of Music

Second Reading: Luke 2: 1-7 The Birth of Jesus

Carol: *Away in a Manger* 69

Third Reading: Luke 2: 8-20 An event for everyone

Anthem: *Do You Hear What I Hear?* Youth Choir

Fourth Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12 Scholars from the East

Carol: *What Child Is This?* 74

Prayers of the People:

One: We remember, O God, Mary and Joseph,

All: and in this season of Christmas, all travellers.

One: We remember the innkeeper, and in this season of Christmas,

All: all those who are homeless or unwelcomed.

One: We remember, O Holy One, the shepherds and all those who work while we sleep,

All: those whose efforts provide for us food or warmth or health care or comfort or safety or freedom.

One: We remember the Magi, and in this season of Christmas,

All: all who bear gifts and all who teach us to wonder and worship and give thanks.

One: We remember, O God of grace, the angels

All: and their message of peace and light and goodwill.

One: We remember Herod, and in this season of Christmas,

All: all those who are in positions of power, able to make decisions that affect the lives of many others.

One: We remember, O God of mercy, the children of Bethlehem, and in this season of Christmas,

All: all who are victims of violence or violence or oppression or fear.

One: We remember the Christ child, laid in a manger,

All: and when He grew up, the sick who crowded around him;

One: and in this season of Christmas,

All: we remember all we know who come to Him yet.

One: In this season of Christmas, O God, may Your presence be known in us and in what we do. Amen.

Offertory Invitation

Offertory

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) Gracious God, may these gifts be Your presence in the world. May they touch lives, care for the poor, lift up the broken-hearted, bring comfort to those in need. May others through our sharing truly experience the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ. Amen.

Fifth Reading: You are Deeply, Deeply Loved (John Harvey)

Carol: *Silent Night* 67

Blessing

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

Ushering this Christmas Eve is provided by:

Usher in Charge: David Hapgood

Greeters: Claire Neary, Jennifer Tremblett

Ushers: The Skinner family: Wayne, Michelle, Maggie and Sophie

