

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
 a cherished mother, Roma Paul (Nov. 30, 1938-April 27, 2013)
"She touched everyone with love and kindness"
 Ever remembered with love by Nancy and Anthony.
 And
 in loving memory of
 Joanne Hapgood, R.N., B.N. and Bethany Danielle Pike
 from the family.

St. James United Church

December 3, 2017/1st Sunday in Advent: Hope/Baptism/Hanging of the Greens

Minister: Rev. Brian Colbourne
 Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
 Acting Minister of Visitation: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
 Organist: Paul Rodermond
 Choir: UCW
 Choir Director: Doreen Brown

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.
Please silence your cell phone during the Service.

Musical Prelude

Welcome & Life & Work of St. James



Lighting the Community Candle

Introit: *Welcome Jesus* Choir

Sharing the Peace

Litany of the Greens: (responsive)

One: How can we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus the King?
 All: **With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.**
 One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the Eternal Christ?
 All: **With garlands of wreaths of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.**
 One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, our Saviour?
 All: **With arrangements of holly and ivy, symbolizing His passion, death and resurrection.**
 One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?

All: **By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the saving work of God.**

One: For God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

All: **All Glory to God in the highest!**

Opening Prayer: (together) O God of manger and star, let us enter the Christmas story once again and find ourselves kneeling with the shepherds, singing with the angels and worshipping with the Magi. Touch our hearts with the wonder of the birth, and the depths of Your love. Speak to us in word and song and lift us to the realms of glory. Amen.

Hymn: *There's a Voice in the Wilderness* 18

Children's Time

Lighting the first Advent Candle:

One: Christians around the world begin this day to await the advent of Christ. We join with them in lighting the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

All: **We gather as a people of hope.**

One: Christian people around the world stand in breathless anticipation of a miracle that has been repeated for hundreds of years, yet still astounds us anew each year.

All: **Our hope springs anew, from an ancient vision.**

One: We light the first Advent candle; let it stand for hope based not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We believe, we have seen, we have received the promise and the great Gift, and therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.

All: **We gather expectantly, and joyfully, for we have heard that a special child is to come, that God is to be among us, and that we will see a new creation on earth. We are a people of hope.**

Baptismal hymn: *Hope is a Star* 7
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism



Presentation

Parents' Baptismal Vows

Congregational Commitment: (together) We have heard the will of the parents. We receive these children in Christ's name as we ourselves have been received. We all belong to the one household of faith in Jesus Christ. We will support these parents and these children 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 918

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Pouring of the Water

Action of baptism
Aria Grace Long
(daughter of Stephanie Grenning & Justin Long)
Charlye Albert Tom Earle
(son of Krystal Earle & Chad Earle)

Anthem: *A Tiny Child Will Come* Choir

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: *Light One Candle* Choir

Doxology: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* 541

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 gifts join with others so that our world may become a world of hope; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Gospel: Mark 13: 24-37

Anthem: *Carol for Advent* Choir

Meditation: A time of restlessness.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* 2

Blessing and Sending Forth

Musical Postlude

Ushering this week is provided by Usher in Charge: Les Dean

Ushers: Ross Pilgrim, Ron Robbins, Jim Von Riesen, Jack Head, Phil Saunders

