

St. James United Church

December 23, 2018, fourth Sunday in Advent, Love/Baptism

Minister: Rev. Brian Colbourne
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Organist/Choir Director: Paul Rodermond
Choir: Senior
Usher in Charge: Jack Head
Greeters/Ushers: Florence Head, Oliver Wellon, Bruce Hunt,
Ron & Lorraine Robbins, Don Blackmore

St. James United Church is a safe place for all people to worship, regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background or sexual orientation.

Musical Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Community Candle

Introit: *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming* Choir

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

One: Today we light the Advent candle of Love.

(*The fourth candle is lit.*)

**All: We welcome the warmth that lightens the winter chill,
the warmth that comes from the heart of God.**

One: Come, Holy Stranger, messenger of love on this Advent
journey: welcome us as we welcome You and worship You.

All: We receive the light of love.

Opening Prayer: (together) God, grant us a vision of Your future, so we may live and love abundantly. Let it give us comfort when we are grieving, and gladness in times of celebration and worship. Amen.

Hymn: *Hope is a Star, v. 4* 7

*Love is a flame that 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.*

Hymn: *O Come, All Ye Faithful, vs. 1,2,3,5* 60

Children's Time, Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

Addison Mary Husk

(daughter of Heather Danielle Noseworthy Husk & Joseph Kevin Husk)

Lillian Josephine Husk

(daughter of Heather Danielle Noseworthy Husk & Joseph Kevin Husk)

Isla Rae Elizabeth Sutton

(daughter of Melanie Dawn Noseworthy Sutton & Joshua William Sutton)

Baptism Chorus:

*I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.
I've been washed in the fountain, filled with God's love.
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.*

Anthem: *One Child* by Jill Gallina

Choir

Offertory Invitation

Offering

Offertory Song: *In the Bleak Midwinter, v.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 I can I give him - give my heart.*

Offertory Prayer: (together) Loving God, through these gifts, may all heed the voice of justice, hear the call to compassion, embrace the way of sharing, and know solidarity with the loving Christ. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Isaiah 7: 10-16
Matthew 1: 18-24

Meditation: 'God's Reason for the Season is Us.'

Hymn: See *Amid the Winter Snow*
See amid the winter snow born for us on earth below,

See the tender Lamb appears promised from eternal years.

*Refrain: Hail the ever-blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn.
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

*Lo within a manger lies He who built the starry skies,
He who throned in height sublime sits amid the cherubim. Refrain*

*Sacred infant, love divine, what a tender love was Thine.
Thus, to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this.
Refrain*

*Teach, O teach us Holy Child by Thy face so meek and mild.
Teach us to resemble Thee in thy sweet humility.*

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

38

Blessing and Sending Forth: The word of the Lord is that of hope, peace, joy, and love. Let us spread God's message of acceptance and inclusion; let us be the light and be the change as we carry God's word each and every day.

Benediction followed by Musical Postlude

Let us share the peace of Christ with each other as we leave.

St. James United Church Life and Work, December 23, 2018

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations to the General Fund:

*in loving memory of father Captain Walter Blackwood from Lorna Jamieson;

*in loving memory of Jean Brown from:

Aubrey & Ruby Hill,

Ron Robbins,

Clyde & Brenda Flight;

*from St. James AOTS Men's Club.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations to the Memorial Fund:

* in loving memory of Jean Brown from Gilbert & Lillian Thomas;

*in loving memory of parents Edison & Cassandra Butt, Clyde & Gladys Heath and brother John from Sam & Brenda Butt.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations to the Cemetery Fund:

*in loving memory of a dear husband and father, Neil Anthony from Pauline and Conrad;

*in loving memory of Fred Higdon from his wife Claire and family.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations to Project Grace:

- * in loving memory of Bethany Pike and Joanne Hapgood from Susan, Stephen and Rebecca Pike;
- *from Ajay Pande & Vanessa Sutton Pande;
- *from Cheryl Briggs.

We gratefully acknowledge a donation to the CE Library Fund from Paul Walsh & Robin Bartlett.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations to Bridges To Hope from

- *Sidney & Menetha Dyke, in memory of loved ones;
- *Ruth Shute.

We gratefully acknowledge an anonymous donation to Stella's Circle.

Financial Update: To meet our budget, we need average weekly givings of \$4,115. (This includes the weekly PAR contributions.)

Givings for:	December 2:	\$4,249
	December 9:	\$4,945
	December 16:	\$5,992

Tomorrow, Monday, December 24: Please join us for our annual Christmas Eve Family Service at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Next Sunday, December 30: 11am Worship Service only. (9:30 Service cancelled.)

WaterWerks Communications Annual Christmas DiaperDrop to 96 LeMarchant Road, or to Sarah (in Sunday School). diaperdrop.ca

Please remember to NOT keep anything visible in your car in the parking lot.

This week: making last minute contributions over the Christmas period:

The office will be open at the following times:

December 24: 9:30am-1pm December 27: 9:30am-3:30pm

For contributions outside of these hours, please use the secure mail box (lock box) to the right of the exterior office door. **The financial year end is Dec. 31.**

Guy Matthews Medical Assistance Fund: Rev. Guy Matthews a minister and friend to most of us underwent Heart Transplant Surgery in Ottawa in late September. Guy is doing very well, but a fundraising appeal has been established to help the Matthews family deal with the financial stress associated with this surgery. Your donation clearly marked "Guy Matthews Assistance Fund" can be made in several ways:

*Send / drop off donation to St. James Church office.

*Drop your donation in the collection plate at a regular Sunday service.

*Email money transfer to guymatthewsmedicalfund@outlook.com

*Online through the Guy Matthews Medical Assistance Fund Go Fund Me website www.gofundme.com/guy-matthews-medical-assistance Google "go fund me" and then search for "Guy Matthews." More Information regarding this fund raising can be found on the St. James United website www.stjamesuc.org or by contacting Stephen Pike, stephen.pike@nf.sympatico.ca 765-2438

Our gifts to M&S support programs that empower women in the developing world. At the Morogoro Women's training centre in Dodoma, Tanzania a sign reads "*Serve God gladly.*" This centre has partnered with M&S since 1979. It offers a variety of courses, from legal advocacy to agriculture to maternal health. The goal is to empower women to make a better life for themselves, their families and their communities. For the past 5 years, the UCW has supported the traditional Birth Attendants program at the centre. 500 women have graduated from this program and are able to assist mothers to give birth safely in communities that lack a clinic or hospital. Traditional Birth Attendants play a significant role in reducing maternal and infant mortality through pre-and post- natal care and birthing techniques. Mothers and their children are alive thanks to this program and to the vision of the Morogoro Centre. Our ongoing gifts to M&S enable core support for the Morogoro Women's Training Centre.

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