

St. James United Church

December 13, 2020/ Third Sunday of Advent

Minister: Rev. Rev. Marion Davis
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director: Amy Dalziel
Musicians: Bob and Jean Rose

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

MUSICAL PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY/FIRST PEOPLES

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

WELCOME

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Call to Worship:

One: Advent is a time waiting, anticipation!

**All: A practice to assist us in our preparation for
the coming the One long promised!**

Not unlike generations before us, we know why we are anxious.

Let us show our anticipation for our Saviour with our worship today!

Brenda Duckworth in *Gathering* 2020, p29

Prayer of Approach:

One: Amid the beautiful words,

All: your hopeful Word appears, O God.

One: Amid the self-serving words,

All: your selfless word endures, O God.

One: Amid the uncaring words

All: your compassionate Word endures, O God.

One: Amid the apathetic word

All: your courageous Word endures, O God.

One: Amid the indifferent words

All: your Word of love endures, O God.

One: God says to us: heaven and earth will pass away,

All: but Jesus, my Word will never pass away.

David Sparks in *Gathering* 2020, p30

HYMN: *All Earth is Waiting*

VU 05

We Listen to and for God's Word

Prayer of Illumination:

One: Gracious God, in this season of gifts and giving,
help us to accept with joy the great gift of sacred scripture.

**All: As we unwrap the reading for today,
bless us in our receiving of the wisdom
of our ancestors in faith. Amen.**

Susan Ivany in *Gathering* 2020, p32

Epistle Reading: 1Thessalonians 5:16-24

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 126

VU 850

When God brought Zion's captives home
It seemed to us like a dream.

**But then our mouths were full of laughter,
And our tongues uttered shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations:

"God has done great things for them."

**Truly God has done great things for us,
And therefore we rejoice. R**

Restore our fortunes, O God, as streams refresh the Negev.

Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying seed for sowing,

Shall come home with songs of joy,

Bringing in their sheaves. R

Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Reflection on the Word: "Called to Testify"

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

We Respond to God's Love

Offering Invitation:

Offertory Prayer: (in unison)

**We will not proclaim our faith with our words only,
but with our lives and the gifts we have offered to
you. May they be used to further the work of love,
peace and justice. Amen**

We Celebrate an Affirmation of Faith

with Alice Quainoo

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES

Congregational Commitment: (in unison)

We receive Alice in Christ's name as we ourselves have been received. We all belong to the one household of faith in Jesus the Christ. We will support her through prayer and provide a community of faith in which she is welcome to belong. As your brothers and sisters in Christ we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church. May we serve God's world together. AMEN

Affirmation of Faith (A New Creed) (in unison)

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,**

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *Will You Come and Follow Me*

VU 567

We Celebrate Communion

The Invitation

As we come to this table, we are reminded that this is not the table of the congregation of St. James, nor is it the table of the United Church of Canada. This is the table of Jesus Christ, the family feast of the whole people of God. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith and long to live justly and in peace with their neighbour are welcome here. Let us eat and drink together for our strengthening in faith

One: May God be with you

All: and also with you.

One: Open your hearts.

All: We open them to God and one another.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: It is right and a good and joyful thing to stand open in the presence of God and one another as thankful people, lifting our voices in with those who have gone before us saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Wise and gracious God, Creator of all things, Redeemer of this broken world, you who bless your people and the earth itself. Holy is your name. At this time we remember all with whom you would have us share your feast. We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain.... all who are ill or alone..... all who live with fear, oppression, or hunger...for all whom the world counts as last and least.....We pray for the church and its varied ministries....for nations as strive for peace and justice....for all our families and friends.....Remembering Jesus and the power of your love revealed through him, we ask you to bless this bread and this wine, making it for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Bless us also, that we may be for you, Christ's presence in the world, and people in love with you and your creation. All this we ask in your holy name, that with Christ and in Christ and by the power of your Holy Spirit, we may live forever as your people, O gentle God of power and grace. **THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)**

Breaking of The Bread

One: The body of Christ, given for you, and for me

All: Thanks be to God for the bread of life.

Pouring the Wine:

One: The blood of Christ, given for you, and for me.

All: Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Prayer after Communion: (in unison)

God of new life, with joy we have received this bread and wine, giving you thanks for Jesus Christ, our peace and our hope. Unite us and your church throughout the world in continuing Christ's ministry of love and servant hood, that your name may be praised in all the earth. Amen

We Are Sent Forth to Live our Faith

Hymn: *Take My Life* (masks on please) VU 506

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love,
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Commissioning:

All: We have listened, we have shared.

One: We have sung, we have prayed.

All: We have been about God's work.

One: Go from this holy place with hope.

All: Forgiveness will be received.

One: Friendship will be given and received.

All: Compassion will be practiced.

One: Justice will be sought out.

**All: Christ will be recognized among family,
friends and strangers. With God's help, we will be about God's work.**
David Sparks in *Gathering*, Pentecost 2, 2017p45

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Life and Work – December 13, 2020

We would like to acknowledge the following donations:

To the Memorial Fund:

In memory of Captain Peter and Mrs Olive Parsons from Derek and Heidi Janes

In memory of Thomas Hill from wife Joyce and family

To the General Fund:

In honor of our son's baptism from Paula, Troy and James Pike

To the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Camp Fund:

In memory of Bethany Pike from Susan Pike and Michael Kavanagh

We offer our condolences to Barbara Butt, her family and friends, on the passing of Barbara's beloved husband of 62 years, William (Bill) Hedley Butt, on December 7. Cremation has taken place and a celebration of Bill's life will take place at a later date in 2021.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Florence White who passed away on December 5. Her funeral service took place on December 7.

The Stewardship Committee and the Ministry extend a sincere thank you to the congregation, and to the members of Newfound Sound Women's Barbershop Chorus, who donated in support of Stella's Circle. We are so pleased with the abundance of toiletries, housewares and clothing items, including many beautiful hand-knit and crocheted items. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated!

Christmas Eve Services

In light of the seating restrictions and limitations on church capacity, we have decided to offer two Christmas Eve services on December 24: the first being at 4:00 pm and the second at 7:30 pm to allow for sanitization between services. As per our Covid-19 policies, registration is required (700-6064). The deadline for both services will be 4:00 pm on December 18. Should there be low numbers registered for the 4:00pm service, it will be integrated into the one service at 7:30 pm, and the registrants will be contacted regarding their attendance for the 7:30 pm service.

Registration Christmas hours

December 21,22, 23: 11am - 4pm

December 24: 10am - 3pm

December 25: Closed

December 28, 29, 30: 11am - 4pm

December 31, January 1: Closed

Regular hours will recommence on January 4, 2021. Monday to Friday 11-4 and closed on weekends.

Bridges to Hope

Drive-thru' Food Drive this Sunday, December 13th in the St. James parking lot from 12-2. Drive up, drop your food donation and our Youth will take care of the rest! All donations will be brought to Bridges to Hope. You may also support Bridges to Hope's Christmas '*Miracle on Cookstown Road*' campaign: visit www.bridgestohope/miracle

The Worship & Sacraments Committee would like to thank all those who assisted with the decoration of the Sanctuary on December 5th. Special thanks to Josh Tobin, Amy Dalziel, Brendan Walsh, Hannah Sheppard, Joel Le Feuvre, Susan Pike and Marilyn Adams.

George St. United Church is offering fresh, locally grown, Christmas vegetable hampers for \$20 each, containing potatoes, carrot, turnip, and cabbage (13 lbs of fresh local vegetables). Early Hamper orders must be in by Tuesday, December 15th to be picked or delivered on Wednesday,

December 16th. Other orders must be in by Sunday, December 20th to be picked up or delivered on December 23rd. To order or request more information, please call the church office at 726-8775.

As a reward for your support, one purchaser and one seller will win a full turkey hamper with a fresh local turkey or a Butterball Turkey and all the trimmings including the Old Port Salt beef and local vegetables from Keith's Farm and Roadside Market In CBS.

Sunday, December 20: A Service of Lessons and Carols will take place at 11am and 7pm at Cochrane Street United Church. Soloists this year are Mary Antle, Meg Herder, and Darrin Martin along with our Music Director Evan Smith and our choir. To register to attend, visit: www.cochranestreetuc.com/christmas-instjohns

The Community Sector Council NL has many free online training opportunities happening every month, including some for professional development. Visit www.communitysector.nl.ca and click on techKNOWtutors for the full list of upcoming training events in December, including *Understanding Facebook Live*, *All About Smartwatches* and more.

Thursday, December 17, 12:30-1:30pm: the Alzheimer Society of NL will be hosting another Lunch & Learn webinar with information on the First Link program, including how to become a referring partner. This presentation is free and open to the public. If you are interested in registering for the webinar, email your name, email address and profession and/or position title to firstlink@alzheimernl.ca or give them a call at 576-0608.

2021 Envelopes: Our Zone Captains will be delivering the 2021 envelopes that have not been picked-up. If you have received *The Visitor* by snail mail in the past, your envelopes remain at the church, so when you attend a service, please ask an usher to collect them for you.

NSO Presents Handel's Messiah Online: Friday, December 11 at 7:30pm

From the beautiful Basilica of St. John the Baptist, the NSO presents Handel's masterpiece, *Messiah* – sponsored by Cox & Palmer. The NSO is joined by a special choir of local singers, a cast of all Newfoundland and Labrador soloists including: Maria Lacey, soprano; Abra Whitney, contralto; David Pomeroy, tenor; and **Branden Olsen (St. James United Church's Associate Music Director)**, baritone under the direction of conductor Kathleen Allan. The concert will begin streaming online on Friday, December 11 at 7:30pm, and will be available then for 30-days for you to enjoy as many times as you wish during the Christmas season. For details and tickets visit www.nsomusic.ca or call Lynn Ann at 722-4441.

December 3 was International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Paul Walsh, a member of our congregation, is honoured to receive 'Empower', the Independent Living Resource Centre's *2020 Cecilia Carroll Award for Individual Advocacy for Independent Living*. Paul has volunteered in the disability community

for more than 25 years, advocating for their rights. His has served with the Coalition of Persons with Disabilities' (COD-NL) board in different roles for many years including as their President for three years. Paul was also the Chairperson for the Provincial Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities from 2014-17 and for the past two years, has brought his accessibility knowledge to the city's Transportation Commission where he is currently their Chairperson. *Congratulations Paul!*

Memory Tree:

As is our tradition at St. James, we are once again lighting bulbs on our Memory Tree in the porch, in memory of our loved ones. If you wish to donate to have a bulb lit in your loved one's memory, please either:

1. complete the short form below with the name(s) of your loved ones and leave the form with your donation in the church's secure mail box.
2. e-mail the church office, info@stjamesuc.org with the names of your loved ones and your means of donation.
3. donate using the "Donate" button on our web site www.stjamesuc.org and include the name(s) of your loved ones, indicating it's for the Memory Tree;
4. contact Robin Bartlett, Chair of Stewardship, at 682-3927 or 754-5409 or by e-mailing robinbartlett1224@gmail.com.
5. leave your donation request form along with your donation in the collection plate.

Memory Tree Dedications and Donations

I wish to have a bulb lit in memory of:

Name: _____ Donation amount: _____

Name: _____ Donation amount: _____

Name: _____ Donation amount: _____

Name: _____ Donation amount: _____

Donor's name: _____

Envelope or PAR #: _____

Donor's address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Donor's e-mail address: _____

The deadline for request forms is Sunday, December 20, 2020.

Thank you for your support!