

St. James United Church

December 24, 2020/ Christmas Eve

Minister: Rev. Marion Davis
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director: Amy Dalziel
Soloist: Erin Lee

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

We Gather in Expectation

MUSICAL PRELUDE

**INTROIT: Come, Lord Jesus.
Come Lord Jesus.
Come Lord Jesus
Come and be born in our hearts.**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: For four weeks we have been getting ready.
**All: We've been waiting in hope, and praying for peace,
singing with joy, and living in love.**
One: And now we're ready!
All: We're ready to greet the Christ Child. Let us worship together.

PASSING THE PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

HYMN: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* VU 64 verses 1-3

We Listen and Watch for the Birth

A Reading from Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

MUSICAL SELECTION: *O Holy Night*

A Reading from Luke 2:8

HYMN: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

A Reading from Luke 2:9

HYMN: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

A Reading from Luke 2:10-20

HYMN: *Away in a Manger* VU69

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

One: Tonight, we gather to celebrate the birth of the one who is the light of the world.

All: We gather to worship God and to tell the story of Jesus, Born this night in Bethlehem of Judea.

PRAYER:

One: Blessed God, you have made this night holy by the gift of your son, Jesus, whom we proclaim our Lord and Saviour. In him we experience your love, grace and mercy.

All: **Let his light shine in our hearts tonight even more brightly than the light that shines from the candles in this place. May that light be seen in our actions in this world. Amen.**

We Respond to the Birth

HYMN: We Three Kings

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

VU 81

**As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you our heavenly King.**

HYMN: *Silent Night* (masks on please) VU 67

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

In Joy and Celebration We Leave

Carol Medley See insert (masks on please)

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

BLESSINGS AND BEST WISHES TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN THIS SEASON OF JOY!



Silent Night VU 67

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Carol Medley

Carol #1 Still, Still, Still VU 47

Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.
The Christchild in his crib lies sleeping,
Angels round him watch are keeping.
Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.

Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus, softly sleep.
While Mary sings and gently holds you
Safely in her arms enfolds you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus, softly sleep.

Carol #2 What Child is This VU 74

What Child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus:
This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. [Chorus]

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. [Chorus]

Carol #3 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear VU 44

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold,
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Carol #4 O Come All Ye Faithful VU 60

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
born the king of angels.

Refrain:
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
“Glory to God, in the highest!” R

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing R

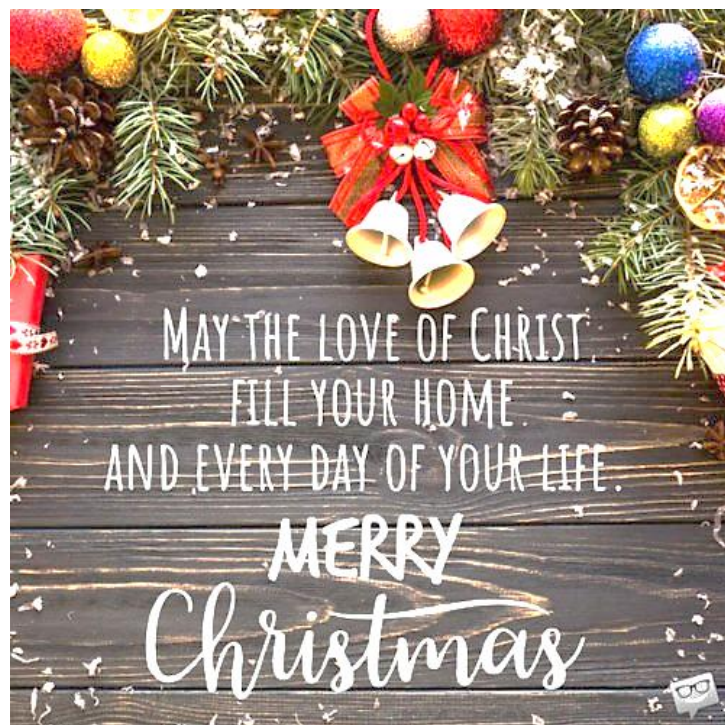
Final Carol Go Tell it on the Mountain VU 43

Refrain:
Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. R

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth. R

Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. R



Life and Work – December 24, 2020

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:

*to the Building Fund In loving memory of parents Leah & Lewis Burse and Chesley & Mary Granter from Doug & Joan Burse.

to the General Fund:

*in memory of Louise and Leah Burse from Doug and Joan Burse.

*in memory of loved ones from Samuel and Brenda Butt.

*in celebration of Claire Higdon, who celebrates a birthday on December 26, from Stephen O'Dea.

*in loving memory of Gerri Codner from her family and friends.

*in loving memory of mom & dad, Nellie & Bill Bishop, former long-time members of the church, from daughters and son, Beverley Wicks, Karen Bishop, Keith Bishop and grand-daughter Kara Sheppard and her family, Stephen, Joshua and Juliana.

*in loving memory of dad, Al Penney, from his daughter Linda.

*to St. James from Ian Barrett.

*in loving memory of parents Leslie and Pearl Noftall from Jocilyn Gorman.

to the Memorial Fund:

*in memory of Florence White from the UCW.

*in memory of Bas Jamieson from wife Lorna.

*in memory of Capt. Walter & Mildred Blackwood from daughter, Lorna Jamieson.

*in memory of sister, Ida Dowden from Lorna Jamieson.

*in memory of brother Walter Blackwood, Jr from Lorna Jamieson.

*in memory of Sylvia and Clarence Martin from Robert and Minnie Gullage.

*in loving memory of Daughter - Joanne Hapgood, RN, BN; Granddaughter - Bethany Danielle Pike; Parents - Stella and Chesley Stratton, Phyllis and Richard Hapgood; Brother - Lloyd Stratton; Sister - Marilyn Sheehan; Baby Brother - Frances Hapgood; Baby Sister - Shirley Hapgood from Dave and Dot Hapgood.

to the Cemetery Fund:

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

to the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Camp Fund:

*in memory of Bethany Pike and Joanne Hapgood, RN, BN from Stephen, Susan and Rebecca Pike.

*remembering Bethany at her favourite time of year from Lisa, Ken, Harrison and Ethan.

*to the AOTS in loving memory of Ron Abbott from Terry, Debbie, Dylan and Jason Abbott.

We wish to advise the congregation that SuAn Randall, our Office Administrator, will be finishing her work at St. James on December 31. SuAn has provided excellent service during her time with St. James, and we have thoroughly enjoyed her presence with us. We are very sorry to see her leave and wish her good health and a well-deserved retirement from her work at St. James.

Registration Christmas hours

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.