

# St. James United Church

December 6, 2020/

Minister: Rev. Jim Von Riesen  
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM  
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown  
Music Director: Amy Dalziel  
Associate Music Director: Branden Olsen  
Soloist: Glenda Winsor

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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

O CANADA  
WELCOME

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:** (One) We light this candle to remind us that the Spirit of the eternal God moves around among and within us, drawing us into Christian Community.

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Advent is a season of waiting.

**All: But we do not wait alone.**

One: God is with us.

**All: We gather with those who have seen the signs, heard the whispers, felt the tugs in their hearts.**

One: God is birthing Peace into this waiting world.

**All: Let us worship with hearts open to receive the peace that passes all understanding.**

**OPENING PRAYER: (All) God of hope, peace and love, as this season of "sparkle and bright" unfolds before us, we may find it hard to find peace in our hearts and peace in the world. May we hold fast to the possibilities for finding and making peace.**

**As we worship this day, may your peace work its magic in our lives, that we might live it into being for ourselves, for each other and for our world. Amen.**

**HYMN:** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* VU 02

### Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace:

One: The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace.

**All: Peace is a word that we hear a lot, especially during this season of light.**

One: The prophet Isaiah spoke of "the Prince of Peace" and Jesus taught the importance of being peace makers.

**All: He said that those who make peace are blessed and shall be called the children of God.**

One: We light the candle of peace to remind ourselves that Jesus is the Prince of peace and that through him peace may be found.

Lighting of the candle

**All:** Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

**Prayer:** (together)

Thank you, God, for the peace you make available through Jesus the Christ. We thank you that your divine Spirit is always with us. Help us today, and everyday to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with one another. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

**We Respond to God's Love**

**OFFERTORY INVITATION**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER: (All)**

Gift-giving God, we ask your blessing on the gifts we have offered for the work of your church. Our hope is that they will be used to bring hope, peace, joy and love to your world, here and around the world. Amen.

**HYMN:** *God, We Pray at This Beginning*

VU 443

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

***James Ronnie William Pike***  
child of Paula Dalton and Troy Pike

***Shaun Nana Kissi Tenkorang***  
child of Abena Amponsah and Kwasi Tenkorang

**PURPOSE AND PRESENTATION**

**PARENTS' VOWS**

**CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT:** (together)

We have heard the will of the parents. We receive this child 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 their child 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)**

**LIGHTING OF THE BAPTISM CANDLE**

**THE ACT OF BAPTISM**

**PRESENTATION OF BAPTISM CANDLE AND CERTIFICATE**

**ANTHEM/SOLO/SPECIAL MUSIC**

**We Listen for God's Word**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING:** Micah 5:1-5a

**RESPONSIVE PSALM:** Psalm 25 (see insert)

**HYMN:** *Hope is a Star* VU 07

**GOSPEL READING:** Luke 1:39-55

**MEDITATION:** Where Can We Find Peace?

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE:**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**We Are Sent Forth to Live our Faith**

**HYMN:** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (see insert)

**COMMISSIONING:**

One: Let us go in faith to ponder in our hearts the mystery and the wonder of this season...

**All: We wait for the light. We trust in the light. We hope for the light. We step out with the light.  
We are blessed by the light.**

One: As we walk in the light, let us share the light, that peace may find its way into our hearts and into the world.

**BENEDICTION**

**SUNG BENEDICTION:** May God's Sheltering Wings MV 214

*May God's sheltering wings, God's gathering wings,  
protect you,  
May God's nurturing arms, God's cradling arms,  
sustain you  
And hold you in God's love, and hold you in God's love.*

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

**Responsive Psalm 25 (VU 752)**

To You, O God, I lift my soul; my God, in you I trust.  
Let me not be put to shame, nor let my foes gloat over me.

**Let none who wait for you be shamed;  
Let them be shamed who can't only break faith.**

Show me your ways; teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth and teach me;**

**For you are God my saviour,**

**For you I wait all the day long. R**

Remember your mercy, O God, and your steadfast love,  
For they are as old as time.

**Do not remember the sins and offences of my youth.**

**According to your steadfast love remember me,**

**For your goodness' sake, O God! R**

You are upright and good, O God,  
Therefore you show the path to those who go astray.  
**You guide the humble to do what is right,  
And teach the lowly your way.**  
All your ways are loving and sure  
**For those who keep your covenant  
And commandments. R**



## **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (VU 01)**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in her ways to go.

O come, O come, great God of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,  
from every foe deliver them  
that trust your mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, O Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home;

Make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

O come, O Dayspring, from on high,  
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all people's in one heart and mind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
and be for us the Prince of Peace.

## **Life and Work – December 6, 2020**

**We would like to acknowledge** the following donations to the Memorial Hymn Sing:

\*In memory of Lewis & Leah Bursey, Chesley & Mary Granter, daughter Kimberly Renee and brother Gordon Bursey from Doug & Joan Bursey

\*In loving memory of mother & father Laura & Andrew Hillyard, brothers Bill, Ewart, Jack and Bert, sister Noreen, son-in-law Sean and brother-in-law Ivan from Roly & Marg and family

\*in memory of our dear father Don, from Trevor & family, Paul Walsh and Robin Bartlett

\*in memory of husband Raymond and daughter Cathy from Agnes Baggs

\*in memory of loved ones from Vida Short

\*in loving memory of husband Al Penney from wife Minnie.

### **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, 2020. The first being at 4:00 pm and the second at 7:30 pm to allow for sanitization between services. Should there be low numbers registered for the 4:00 service, it will be integrated into the one service at 7:30 pm. As per our Covid-19 policies, registration is required (700-6064) and the deadline for both services will be 4:00 pm on December 18, 2020. In the event the 4:00 pm service does not proceed, the registrants will be contacted regarding their attendance for the 7:30 pm service.

**2021 Envelopes:** If you are attending our Worship Service and are expecting envelopes for 2021, please ask an usher to collect them for you.

### **Food Drive for Bridges to Hope**

Our youth are hosting a drive thru' food drive on Sunday, December 13th in the St. James parking lot from 12-2. It will be completely safe and contactless, all you have to do is drive up, drop your food donation and they will take care of the rest! All donations will be brought to Bridges to Hope.

### **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](http://www.nsomusic.ca) or call Lynn Ann at 722-4441.

**George St. United Church is offering fresh, locally grown, Christmas vegetable hampers:**

Hampers are \$20 each, and contain potatoes, carrot, turnip, and cabbage (13 lbs of fresh local vegetables). Early Hamper orders must be in by Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> to be picked or delivered on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Other orders must be in by Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> to be picked up or delivered on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

**Message from our Treasurer:**

*"Here is a summary of where we are at the end of October:*

**Revenue:**

Collections:	\$145,445
CEBA	10,000
CEWS	2,958
Other	<u>31,899</u>
Total	190,302

**Expenses:**

Church	53,949
Assessments	17,101
Committees	806
Salaries	<u>118,547</u>
Total	190,403

Net Loss: \$101

*We cannot compare these figures to 2019 as they are two totally different years.*

*Thank you all for supporting St. James; it is very much appreciated. We will get through this year and will have many more years to come.*

*Jean Thompson, Treasurer."*

*Thank you very much to all who continue to support St. James. Your efforts to send your contributions in the mail, drop them off at the secure mailbox at the church, and send them online are very much appreciated. Thanks also to those who have continued with their PAR contributions - Pre-Authorized Remittance. All members of the congregation are encouraged to consider PAR as a convenient means of making your financial contribution to St. James.*

*You can set up PAR so that your donation will be made monthly, automatically, from your bank account. You can set up a donation for any amount, and you can update, cancel or change at any time. Just e-mail the church office at [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org) and we'll get the information to you*