

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of  
**Ceanne Butt, R.N.**  
(January 23, 1953 – December 27, 2009)  
from sisters-in-law Glenda Winsor and  
Gloria Le Feuvre and families.

## St. James United Church

December 27, 2020/ First Sunday after Christmas

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

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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.

Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. If we think on these things, there will be born in us a Savior and over us will shine a star sending its gleam of hope to the world.”

- Calvin Coolidge

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PLACE

### WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all.  
**All: For out of God’s own being, Jesus has come to bring light and love to all people.**  
One: Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, come to gather our tears and laughter, our work and our play, into God’s loving embrace.  
**All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all.**

INTROIT: *Hark the Glad Sound* VU 29

OPENING PRAYER (unison):  
**Wondrous God, thank you for revealing your glory to us through unlikely people in unexpected places. Surround us as we worship in many different places, as we remember your incarnate love born to a woman from a forgotten corner of the world.**

**Let the holy mystery that surrounds Jesus’ birth surprise us with joy and strengthen us to go out into the world with your light, that hope, peace, and love might shine forth from us to your honour and glory and praise. Amen**

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

CAROL: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night* VU 75

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9: 2,6,7

### THE STORY OF “STILL, STILL, STILL”

THE CAROL: *Still, Still, Still* VU 47

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 34: 1-10

## **THE STORY OF “ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”**

**THE CAROL:** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* VU 36

**PRAYER:** (unison)

**God of gifts, God of grace, bless our ears and our hearts this day, that as we sing these carols, hearing both stories of scripture and inspiration, we might find both comfort and challenge within them. May we be inspired to sing with gusto, telling the story of scripture through our actions with reckless abandon, so that the world might be touched by your love. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we offer this prayer. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2: 1-20

## **THE STORY OF “JESUS, OUR BROTHER”**

**THE CAROL:** *Jesus, Our Brother* VU 56

### **OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

In whatever way we have offered our gifts of time, talent, or money, we have presented them in the hope that they will help spread the light brought into the world by the new born babe.

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:** (unison)

**Gifted by your grace, we offer you what you have given us, O God, and pray that these gifts may be used for the sharing of love, the doing of justice, and the giving of peace. Amen**

**SCRIPTURE:** Revelation 21: 1-6

## **THE STORY OF GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**

**THE CAROL:** *Go Tell it on the Mountain* VU 43

### **PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS**

In the name of Jesus, we give thanks for the Light, who came as light for the world, we join in prayer for all the faithful who seek the light in true community on earth.

(moment of silence)

**God, in your love, hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we give thanks for the Light of justice born a Jew in the Roman empire, we pray for all who are persecuted, who suffer for reasons of gender or race, for reasons of faith or politics.

(moment of silence)

**God, in your love, hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we give thanks for the Light of hope, who was born in a stable, we pray for those who are in need of any kind, be it need of shelter, need of food, need of meaningful work, need of caring.

(moment of silence)

**God, in your love, hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we give thanks for the Light of compassion, for whom there was no safe place, we pray for all of the fearful, all of the bereaved, and all of the sick, and for all who are in pain and special need.  
(moment of silence)

**God, in your love, hear our prayer.**

Light of our souls, call us onward into your light, as this new year begins. Let this be the year of the coming of your dream... your Kingdom here on earth... as we pray together the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray:

## **PRAYER OF JESUS**

**SCRIPTURE:** Titus 2: 11-14

## **THE STORY OF O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

**THE CAROL:** *O, Little Town of Bethlehem* VU 64  
(masks on please)

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessed gift of heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

**COMMISSIONING:**

One: Every day of the week ahead is a Christmas Day.

**All: A day in which Christ is, and will be; A moment into which the holy one has come, and a moment which anticipates the reign of peace.**

One: Let us then, live as a Christmas people.

**All: Let us be a people filled with God here and now, compassionate, loving, justice-seeking friends of Jesus. Let us also be a people with a light in our window, awake and ready for the Messiah's return.**

**SUNG BENEDICTION:** Carol Medley see insert  
(masks on please)

***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 Joy to the World VU 59**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:  
let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground:  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the earth with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

**POSTLUDE**



## Life and Work – December 27, 2020

### **We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:**

\*Project Grace in loving memory of Joanne Hapgood from Catherine & Luke Grenning

\*Project Grace in loving memory of Bethany Pike from Catherine & Luke Grenning

\*Memorial Fund in loving memory of Emily Ivany from Patricia Bartlett

**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 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.

**We would like to send** our congratulations to Jake Thompson, St. James' tech advisor, on his nomination for the MusicNL Media Person of the Year Award. His tv show, NL Now, was broadcast on the Rogers community channel for five years but has since been picked up by NTV and will be airing in 2021. The show is hosted by Gary Wheeseltin (one of Jake's numerous puppet friends) and has featured 208 guests and 52 puppets. Good luck Jake! We are all rooting for you and cannot wait to see what your show brings in 2021.