

## St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

November 28, 2021 - First Sunday of Advent



This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of  
**Grandmother V Doreen (d1982), Grandfather Myles P (d1985), Uncle Neil (d1987),  
and Father M. Alastair Murry (d2007)**  
with much love Ettie Gordon-Murray and M. Alison Murray

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of  
**John Harvey Butt (November 7, 1921 - November 26, 2005)**  
from daughters and son-in-law, Glenda & Glenn Winsor, Gloria & Keith Le Feuvre and  
grandson Joel Le Feuvre.

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of a cherished mother  
**Roma Paul (November 30, 1938 - April 27, 2013)**  
love Nancy & Anthony.  
Your kind and loving ways personified the Christmas spirit. You will always be an  
inspiration to us. Love is forever.

## November 28, 2021 – First Sunday of Advent

Leading worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft  
Organist: Bob Rose  
Music Leadership: Jean Rose

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### We Come to Worship

#### MUSICAL PRELUDE

#### WELCOME

*We extend words of greeting in Inuttitut, Yoruba, Russian and English.*

**HYMN:** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” *Voices United 2*

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

*We give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who steward it.*

#### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

One: As we light our first candle, let us focus on the flame, aware of the light that flickers within and around us, gift of God’s Spirit.

*(Pause in silence)*

Two: God of hope in the dead of night, as the candle burns before us, your promise shines in our hearts.

**All: Open us to recognize your presence all around us, sparkling like the stars in the midnight sky. Amen.**

**SUNG RESPONSE:** “A Candle Is Burning” *Voices United 6, v.1*

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December’s dark night.**

**While angel’s sing blessings from heaven’s starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

### We Share

#### OUR LIFE AND WORK

*We acknowledge the connection between our work and our worship as we take time to announce what is going on in our congregation and community.*

#### RECOGNITION OF OFFERINGS AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

*We acknowledge the ways people contribute to the community of faith and wider community, especially by way of supporting St. James UC financially.*

**SOLO:** “You’ll Never Walk Alone” (R. Rogers; O. Hammerstein II)

### We Listen

**PREPARING THE WAY:** Psalm 25

**PRAYER OF AWAKENING** (in unison)

**Creator God, in the dawning of this new season,  
awaken us to signs of your presence.**

**Be with us in this time of waiting**

**and may the anticipation that is so much a part of this festive time,  
be transformed into a deep yearning for your reign.**

**We pray in the name of the One who comes. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Jeremiah 33:14-16

Luke 21:20-36

**HYMN:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *Voices United 1* (v. 1, 3)

*(Please stay seated as we sing two verses of this sing reflectively.)*

**POEM:** "We wait for you to ache" by Walter Brueggemann

**MESSAGE:** "The Gift of Hope"

### **We Respond**

**HYMN:** "God of Still Waiting" *More Voices 20*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We pray for the needs of our global and local communities, responding to the words "God hear us" with "Come, O Come Emmanuel."*

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS** *(based on the original Aramaic):*

**Radiant One: your Name shines within us, outside us - even darkness shines in you. Create your reign now, that your one desire acts with ours, as in all light so in all things. Grant what we need each day in bread and insight. Forgive our hidden past, our secret shames, as we forgive what others hide. Keep us from forgetfulness, the temptation of false appearances and free us to walk your path with light and joy. For from you arises every vision; to you returns the birthing glory of the cosmos. Amen.**

### **We Leave to Serve**

**HYMN:** "Hark the Glad Sound" *Voices United 29*

### **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

### **ORGAN POSTLUDE**

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## St. James United Church

Lead Minister:	James Ravenscroft, OM
Youth/Christian Education Minister:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Associate Music Director:	Alba Chen
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Office Administrator:	Tracy Bishop
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor



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