

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith



This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
Murley Bursey (October 13, 1927 - November 26, 2012)
Forever remembered and loved by Shirley, kids, and families.

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
Carlson Kimberley and son Brian
from his loving wife and mother Ann.

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
William (Bill) Butt (January 2, 1938 - December 7, 2020)
from his wife Barbara and family.

**December 5, 2021 – Second Sunday of Advent
& White Gift Sunday**

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

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME

We extend words of greeting in Innu-aimun, Twi, German and English.

HYMN: "All Earth Is Waiting" *Voices United 5*

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel."
One whose name is "God with us," our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more
within our hearts

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

One: As we light our second 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 purpling sky, as the flame begins to burn, we are reminded of the gentle wind that each dawn brings, pushing us closer to your promised reign.*

All: **As we wait through Advent for the celebration of Jesus' birth, may we be drawn together into a circle of peace. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE: "A Candle Is Burning" *Voices United 6, v.2*

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to single that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

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.

PRESENTATION OF DONATIONS FOR WHITE GIFT SUNDAY, RECOGNITION OF OFFERINGS AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

We give thanks for the ways people contribute to the community as we bring forward donations to Stella's Circle and other agencies in our community.

SOLO: "I Will Wait" (G. Warren; N. Chegus)

We Listen

PREPARING THE WAY: Luke 1:68-79

PRAYER OF AWAKENING

One: As nights lengthen at this time of year, we yearn for the dawn, for the light that restores our vision and brings peace. Let us pause now as we seek the grace of insight.

All: **Creator God, awaken us to your gentle nudging that causes us to turn around, pay attention, correct our course. Amid the lure of the twinkling lights and the familiar carols, may we also seek the quiet centre that grounds our being. We pray in the name of the one who comes. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 3:1-6

HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *Voices United 1, v. 1, 7*
(Please stay seated as we sing two verses of this sing reflectively.)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,

and be for us the Price of Peace.

Oh! Viens, Jesus, oh! Viens, Emmanuel

POEM: "Touched by an Angel" by Maya Angelou

MESSAGE: "The Promise of Peace"

We Respond

HYMN: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness" *Voices United* 18

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the God, our God, may go!

O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away.

But the word of our God endureth,
the arm of the Lord is strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,
and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
the lambs so gently hold;
to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to fold.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the God, our, God may go!

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 Herald Angels Sing" *Voices United 48*

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity.
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Refrain

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

ORGAN POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

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

Life and Work – December 5, 2021

We gratefully accept the following donations to the Memorial Fund:

- *In loving memory of Cecil G. Cole from Muriel and family.
- *In memory of James Beckett from Aubrey and Ruby Hill

We gratefully accept the following donations to the General Fund:

- *In memory of Jim Beckett from Shirley Bursey
- *In loving memory of Jim Beckett from George & Jean White.

We gratefully accept the following donation to the Choir Fund:

- *In loving memory of Captain Peter & Mrs. Olive Parsons, and daughter Susan Bishop from Heidi Janes, Brenda Newton, and Jean Babstock.

Keep updated with news from St. James by signing up for our weekly email. Call Tracy at 722-1881 to be added to the list.

2022 "My Offering" envelopes are available for pick up at the office. Office hours: 10am - 2pm Monday - Friday

You can collect them at Sunday's worship service as well.

If you are unable to pick them up, please get in touch with Tracy at the office 722-1881.

"Blue Christmas" Service

It will be held at St. James United Church on Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Please extend this invitation to members of the congregation who have had a death in the family this past year as well as anyone who may be feeling blue because of job loss, illness, the end of a relationship, have become empty nesters, etc.

The service is co-led by the ministers of the NE Avalon.

Upcoming Young Adult Event: Are you between 18 and 35 (give or take)? Want to hang out with others around the same age? SJUC's young adult group meets regularly on the 1st Wednesday of the month. We hope to see you at the next meeting on Wednesday, January 5th, 2022. For more information about this you can email info@stjamesuc.org

Stella's Circle - It's the time of year for generosity and giving to those in need. As usual, St. James is collecting donations for Stella's Circle's clients on White Sunday, December 5 and up till December 15.

Their Christmas Wish List includes new household items, kitchen supplies, toiletries, clothing and adult activities (E.g. cards, art supplies) and we kindly ask that you do not wrap these items that are donated on White Gift Sunday, December 5.

Robin Bartlett, Chair of Stewardship, will also be collecting items until Wednesday, December 15. The church office will be accepting items as well and you can drop your donations off Monday to Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, or after hours, call Robin at 682-3927 for pick up. You can also drop items directly to Stella's Circle, 142 Military Road by December 22, and ask for Cathy White (738-7730). Thank you!

A New Committee

Are you interested in community issues like systemic racism, housing insecurity and right relations with Indigenous peoples?

Do you worry about climate change and loss of biodiversity?

Are you concerned about international conflicts and other global issues?

Then you will be interested in a new ad hoc committee that we are establishing to help us respond to social and ecological justice issues. Contact James for more information.

Email: james@stjamesuc.org Phone: 722-1881 Cell: 351-0983

Men's Club - This is an advanced notice that the activities of the Men's Club will resume in January 2022, if current COVID regulations remain in place. Dinner meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. New members are encouraged to consider attending and participating in the activities of the club.

Zatoun Products

St. James is again offering Zatoun Olive Oil for sale. Zatoun products reflect the rich culture and the essence of Palestine, and they make perfect fair-trade gifts. Proceeds benefit farmers and children living in occupied Palestine and create awareness for peace in Palestine.

COST: Olive Oil is being sold for \$20.00 per bottle, contact Karen Brown at 437-1520 or email tomkarenbrown@yahoo.com

Contact Tracy at the church office (722-1881) to get yours now!

Memory Christmas Tree

At this time of the year, thoughts of our loved ones are never far from our minds. One of the ways we acknowledge this is through the Memory Tree. For a donation of \$5, a coloured bulb will be changed to a white one in memory or celebration of a loved one.

The changing of the lights is a beautiful, seasonal, visible symbol. Even when the tree comes down, the gift continues in the on-going projects at St. James.

Please have your request into the office by noon on Friday, December 17 for inclusion in the Christmas Eve bulletin insert.

God bless you for your kindness.
Best wishes for a Christmas of peace, love and joy!

Introducing "The Great Christmas Visit" (see insert to sign up)

The Advent-Christmas season is upon us. It is a favourite time of year for so many, especially because it is a great time to connect with loved ones (while following public health protocols).

Family and friends include all of the church family, so why not reach out to members of St. James United Church who may be feeling isolated or lonely, especially if they have trouble getting around or are staying in due to the pandemic.

You can participating in our *Great Christmas Visit* by simply signing up and you will be matched with someone to visit this holiday season (remember to wear your mask and stay 2 meters apart).

Visit with your match at some point between Sunday, November 28, 2021 and Thursday, January 6, 2022, extending to them the care of this faith community.

Community News

Wesley United

This holiday season we present "Music From Around the World"

WHEN: Friday, December 10th at 6pm

WHERE: Wesley United Church 101 Patrick St, St. John ' s

DETAILS: Free admission, Wheelchair accessible, Parking available

Register: mary.o@mwonl.com or 726-0321

All attendees required to present vaccine passport and photo ID.

Mask wearing protocol will be in place.

Cowan Heights United Church - Christmas Craft Fair

When: Saturday December 4, 2021, from 10am -4pm

Where: 141 Frecker Drive

Admission: \$2, children under 12 free

George Street United Church and the Jimmy Pratt Memorial Outreach Center - CHRISTMAS Vegetable Hampers –

offering fresh local Vegetable Hampers at Christmas time.

Hampers include 13 pounds of locally grown vegetables including potatoes, cabbage, carrots, and turnip. This would make a wonderful gift for friends and family at Christmas.

Pick-up dates: December 21, 22, and 23.

Cost: Hampers are \$20.00 each.

To place your order please contact: Ruth Butler at 722-4961, Ruby Shea at 745-4807, Nancy McCarthy at 726-8775 (Office), or George Parsons at 685-0066.

Cowan Heights United Church

Mid-Week Advent Worship: Join us on Wednesday evenings this upcoming Advent season for a more reflective and quiet service. Through times of silence, poetry, scripture, and song, we will be reflecting, longing, waiting, and discovering as Advent people on this journey through the December darkness.

DATES: December 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 7:00 p.m. You can register for the services by visiting our website www.cowanheightsunited.ca or by calling (709) 745-2871.

George St. United Church

Join Newfoundland Music Legend, Bud Davidge with Hamilton Sound as they ring in the Holidays in Traditional Newfoundland style. Enjoy your favorite Simani songs including those from their Iconic Christmas Album, Christmas Fancy.

If that weren't enough, Corey Crewe (Corey and Trina) will be along with some tales and tunes to tickle your funny bone.

WHEN: Friday, December 10, 2021, at George St. United Church

COST: Tickets are \$35 each and are available at www.quayconcerts.com

St. John's Choir invites you to its Christmas Concert

"A Festive Noel"

WHEN: Saturday, December 18th

WHERE: The Anglican Cathedral, Church Hill.

Doors open 6:30 p.m. Concert starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door.

For more information contact stjohnschoir.info@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page @StJohnscChoirNL.