



GREETINGS FROM JAMES & SUSAN

Here we are in the middle of the Advent-Christmas season, and unlike last year, Christmas 2021 feels more like normal, our homes again transformed into sanctuaries of warmth and festivity for more than just our closest family members. As we welcome people in once again, we do need to be cautious, with the pandemic a critical concern around the world even as case counts are going down in Newfoundland and Labrador. Cases could rise here again if we let down our guard. This means we still need to follow health protocols, and if provincial authorities roll out booster shots of the vaccine, get one if we can. Looking out for the health of those around us, and not just ourselves, is a way we can show love to friends and strangers alike in this season of giving.

Another way we show our love in the Advent-Christmas season is by making donations to various charities like Stella's Circle and Bridges to Hope. These local organizations appreciate our support through White Gift Sunday and contributing to the Food Bank. But we can extend our love beyond our shores and make a donation to bring vaccinations to people in the Global South. When the pandemic began, we knew we needed our response to be global in scale. But over the months, people in wealthy nations have had access to vaccines at a much higher rate than people in poorer countries. As we celebrate the birth of one laid in a manger, may we honour him by helping people not just locally but around the world.

As we celebrate at this time, we hope you find ways to slow down and reflect. It is tempting to try and make up for what was missed last year, meaning that many of us will end up busier than usual as we pull out all the stops decorating our homes, preparing tasty treats, buying presents for those we love. While all that is good, we are reminded of how it felt last year. While the restrictions on festivities felt disorienting at first, there was a sense of relief in not needing to make as big a fuss. Not having a thousand events to go to, buying presents either online or picking them up at a store's doorstep, having a much smaller guest list for Christmas dinner, all added up to a much simpler and more meditative season, one that each of us have wanted. Let's not lose what we learned last year and find ways to slow down. Besides, when we are tired and run down, we can get sick more easily. Novel coronavirus is still in our community, and along with it cold and flu viruses are a factor each winter. We can stay healthy by keeping holiday preparations a bit simpler this year. That is a gift to ourselves and to our healthcare system.

As we continue to celebrate in this special time, let us give thanks for our many blessings, including the gift of community as well as our faith. There are a few ways to do this. For those of us who find our hearts touched with sadness at this time of year, come to our Blue Christmas Service at 7:00 pm on Sunday, December 12. If you fancy an outdoor event, join in this year's Community Carol

UPCOMING EVENTS

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Date: December 12, 2021

Time: 7 pm

MEMORY CHRISTMAS TREE

(Submissions Deadline)

Date: December 17, 2021

Time: 12 pm

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS STORY/SING-ALONG

Date: December 19, 2021

Time: 7:30 pm

WINTER SOLSTICE FOREST CHURCH

Date: December 21, 2021

Time: 7 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

Date: December 24, 2021

Time: 4:30 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE

Date: December 24, 2021

Time: 7:30 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Date: December 25, 2021

Time: 4:30 pm (Online only)

See page 4 for more details



Sing-along on Sunday, December 19 or take part in our annual Winter Solstice Service in the evening on Tuesday, December 21, hosted by our Forest Church group. And of course, we have two services on Christmas Eve – the Family Service at 4:30 pm or the Candlelight Service with Communion at 7:30 pm. And then slow things down again by tuning in at 4:30 pm for a virtual Christmas Day service, including music leadership from “Sight Restored”, and staying home the next day to watch the pre-recorded Sunday Worship Service on Boxing Day.

This is a special time of year to both celebrate and to reflect. So, in the midst of the festivities, be sure to take a breath, to pause for worship, and to explore the beauty and peace of Advent and Christmas.

Blessings of the Christ Child upon you all!

James & Susan



A MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP

Seasons Greetings to you all!

Our Stewardship Committee has been busy this autumn planning three fundraising and/or church community outreach events from October to December: a take-out turkey cold plate fundraiser; a PAR campaign; and a Community Christmas Story Sing-along.

Due to the pandemic health restrictions around food preparation and social gatherings, we realized we had to partner with a local business or a caterer and chose Scott Hillyer, owner of Coffee Matters and a professional chef, after we learned he had done this for other churches' fundraisers, we chose a safer and more efficient means of preparing the food. It's also important to support local businesses who have supported us with donations to our past fundraisers.

Thanks to Scott and his staff at Coffee Matters, to the gracious help of our many volunteers, and for the support of our congregation and friends. **Our take-out turkey cold plate fundraiser on November 10 was a huge success!** We greatly exceeded our goal by **selling 400 cold plates raising more than \$1200!** Special thanks to our group of co-operative, organized volunteers, the assembly and distribution (pick-up and delivery) of the meals went very smoothly; quicker than expected. Scott commented that our volunteers were the most organized, easiest group of any church fundraiser group with whom he'd worked! The cold plate meals were tasty, ample, and a good deal! We received much positive feedback. Thank you everyone, for your support!





PAR CAMPAIGN

For the last three Sundays in November, the stewardship committee held an informational and promotional campaign about "pre-authorized remittances" or **PAR**. Presentations were made by Paul Walsh and Trevor Bartlett, followed by Rev. James' letter to you, explaining the benefits of PAR (practicality, easy and convenient) and that St. James needs more people to contribute regularly with pre-authorized remittances for easier budgeting and fiscal management. Unlike companies and many organizations, churches and many charities don't know how much income they can expect to receive or when they will come. St. James is blessed to have many loyal contributors for which our Council is so grateful – especially during the past 20 pandemic months! However, from January to August, St. James generally receives less donations than from September to December, which makes it very difficult to plan, to budget and to carry out our ministerial and community outreach work in an effective manner.

If more people remitted regularly (weekly or monthly) with a pre-authorized remittance it would not only immensely help Council in its planning and budgeting, it would help those of you who do remit this way, with your budgeting and fiscal management. A PAR to St. James is the same convenient transaction as having your equal monthly payments for your utilities, mortgage, or insurance set up to come out of your account automatically. Furthermore, you can choose how much and how often you wish to contribute and you can change it anytime! Your monthly donation is used for a good community cause, and you get a tax credit for what you contribute. For information or help, please call Tracy at the church office or a member of your Stewardship Committee.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS STORY/SING-ALONG

Sunday, December 19 at 7:30 pm

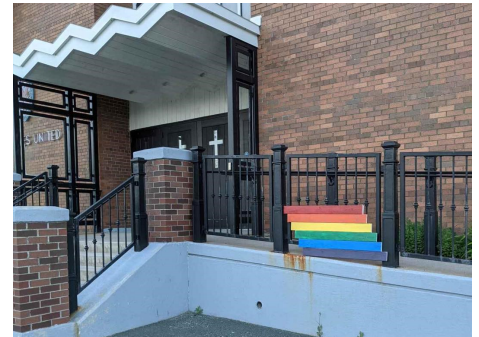
Our Stewardship Committee is working on the details but plan to expand on last year's community Christmas sing-along which was held outdoors. Please refer to the calendar of events on page 4 for a general description.

Our committee will continue its planning for 2021 and beyond. In the meantime, please see St. James calendar of up-coming events and its worship service schedule.

On behalf of our Stewardship Committee - Pam Norman, Paul Walsh, Sarah Norman, Rev. James, Hannah Sheppard, Karen Brown, Susan Sheppard - thank you again for your continuing support! We wish you all a pleasant, peaceful Christmas!

Robin Bartlett, Chair, Stewardship Committee

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS





ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

BLUE CHRISTMAS, Sunday, December 12 at 7:00 pm

A reflective service for all who feel sad at Christmas, especially those grieving the death of a loved one.

MEMORY CHRISTMAS TREE (Deadline for Submission)

Friday, December 17, 2021 at 12 pm

Donate \$5/bulb or as much as you wish, to have a bulb lit in memory or celebration of each of your named loved ones. The deadline for receipt of completed forms and donations is Friday, December 17 for inclusion in the Christmas Eve bulletin. (Use the form on the following page, obtain one at the office, or from our website.)

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS STORY/SING-ALONG

Sunday, December 19 at 7:30 pm

A Carol Sing for the whole neighbourhood. Hear the Christmas story through readings, poems, carols, songs, music and pictures of artwork projected on a screen. Stay tuned for details or call our church office. *Note: There will be no admission but volunteers will collect food and monetary donations for Bridges to Hope Food Aid Centre.*

WINTER SOLSTICE FOREST CHURCH (Outdoor Service)

Tuesday, December 21 at 7 pm

The Winter Solstice Service in Susan Sheppard's garden, located on Thorburn Road. Please Contact Susan for directions: 722-1881 ext. 204 or susan@stjamesuc.org

REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES

December 11 at 4:30 pm: ADVENT 3 (Online Contemporary Service)

December 12 at 11 am: ADVENT 3 (Sunday Morning Worship)

December 18 at 4:30 pm: ADVENT 4 (Online Contemporary Service)

December 19 at 11 am: ADVENT 4 (Sunday Morning Worship)

December 24 at 4:30 pm: CHRISTMAS EVE - Family Service

December 24 at 7:30 pm: CHRISTMAS EVE - Communion Service

December 25 at 4:30 pm: CHRISTMAS DAY (Online Contemporary Service)

December 26: FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
(pre-recorded service available for viewing online at 9:00 am)

January 1 at 4:30 pm: EPIPHANY SUNDAY (Online Contemporary Service)

January 2 at 11 am: EPIPHANY SUNDAY (Sunday Morning Worship and Baptism)

THAT MORNING STAR

By Glen Warren

The journey is long
As we come from afar
Always being guided
By that morning star

Our journey was long
The road, unsteady and scarred
By the lost and the lonely
Who could not see that star

Lost in translation
We could feel each encounter
Inviting, unwanted, undesired
But called by that star

Our pleas fall on deaf ears
The last door gets barred
Nowhere to lead us
To that morning star

On the crest of the morning
Quiet cries fill the air
And rise to the heavens
Reaching that star

That star in the East
Shining brightly so high
In the dark, empty night
Until morning is nigh.





POP QUIZ!

1. The very first child baptized within the St. James Congregation after it was established in 1958 bore an unusual surname. What was it?
 - a) Winter
 - b) Summers
 - c) Christmas
 - d) Fall
2. The number of St. James families peaked around 1983 at:
 - a) 589
 - b) 736
 - c) 863
 - d) 665
3. The average number of children attending Sunday School at St. James in 1965 was:
 - a) 86
 - b) 265
 - c) 137
 - d) 197
4. In 1967 female members of the St. James Senior Choir were given permission to:
 - a) practice without choir gowns
 - b) be absent from practice once every two months
 - c) attend services without headcover
 - d) practice without sheet music
5. The very first Sunday School associated with St. James was held on September 14, 1958 at MacPherson Academy and predated the formal establishment of the St. James Pastoral Charge on November 16, 1958. This first Sunday School as entered in the Church (Session) records was called:
 - a) the United Church Sunday School, Churchill Park
 - b) the Macpherson Sunday School
 - c) the St. James Sunday School
 - d) the Summerville Sunday School



MEMORY CHRISTMAS TREE FORM

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 Christmas 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 form in to 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!

Donor's Name(s): _____

In Memory or Celebration of: _____

Address: _____ \$ _____ Donation



HOLY HUMOUR

6 year old boy: "I don't want to go to church on Christmas"

Mother: "It's important to go celebrate the birth of Jesus"

6 year old boy: "But we don't even KNOW him!"

.....

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from house to house knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them. As they continued to get "no room" answers a little voice called from the back "YOU SHOULD HAVE BOOKED!" bringing the house down.

.....

There was a young boy who was saying a prayer out loud one night and his brother was listening to him. This boy asked God for a fresh milkshake in the morning. His brother said: "just shake a cow and milk it. It will save God the trouble."

.....

After the Advent church service, eight year old Lee said to the preacher: "When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money." "Well, thank you," the preacher replied, "but why?" "Because my father says that you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had."

.....

After the Christmas pageant, I asked my 6-year-old son if he remembered the gifts that the Magi brought to Jesus. He thought for a minute then said "gold, frankincense, and humor". We could all use that!

A POEM BY VERA MARSHALL

For several years I wrote a poem for our UCW Christmas/Annual meeting. This one was written December 15, 1980. How the years fly.

'It's two weeks before Christmas and we pause to remember,
And reflect on events since we met last December.
Reports from Committees have all been compiled,
Our budget approved and a few letters filed.
By now we've mailed out each warm Yuletide Greeting
And have settled ourselves for our Annual Meeting.

A wave of excitement floats over the air
And we wonder indeed what glad tidings we hear.
Have our thoughts all been filled with goodwill to men
As we've shared each ones company again and again?

All around there's a hustle with such demonstration
As people prepare for the great celebration.
Cards and parcels arrive from our friends far and wide
And steady inflation has left us wide eyed.
The bright eyes of our members with faces a-glow
Tell we're ready for Santa and his annual Ho Ho.
But amid all the music and magic around,
If we think of the Babe in Bethlehem town,
The Star and the shepherds attending their sheep
Then the wonder of Christmas is ours to keep.

Our year 1980 has been filled to the brim.
Speakers from various fields were asked in.
Our Social Committee cooked us up a jig's dinner-
Postponed by one night, the worst storm of the winter.
A Planning Committee was set in high gear
To prepare for us hosting The World Day of Prayer.
For Avalon Presbyterial, again we were host,
And our Scriptures reached far as the Ivory Coast.
We enjoyed a great evening with some Japanese guests.
In May we dined out before summer recess.
But with Fall Sale before us we were knitting and stitching,
While still others painted the entire kitchen.

Indeed 'twas a year of steady engaging.
We were found serving lunch to the Conference on Aging
Singing anthems and preaching on Laity Sunday,
Tuning our voices and uses on the Monday.
Our Fall Sale we conclude was a marvellous success



With an Evening Performance of fun and finesse.
We willingly gave to financial appeals
And served out a dinner to the group 'Wheels to Meals'
Let our sharing and caring and service and fun
Continue to grow in the year '81.

'It's the night before Christmas, Long may His birth
Cause wise men to labour for peace on the earth.
For the great gift of Love, may we never lose sight.
Merry Christmas to all and to all a Good Night.

Vera Marshall.



France is widely known for its food and delicacies. People in the Provence region even go so far as to serve a sumptuous feast of seven main courses and 13 desserts at Christmas! Among the most popular festive dishes are: Fougasse (pancakes), nougat with honey and pistachios, pumpkin pie and dried fruits.

BRIDGES TO HOPE FOOD AID CENTRE: INCREASED DEMANDS; CHANGES ITS DELIVERY MODEL

By Robin Bartlett

Food donations for Bridges to Hope Food Aid Centre are continually trickling in at our church and gratefully so by the recipients of the food aid centre. With the drastic rise in food prices and shortages of foods and supplies due to the pandemic, more people – from all sectors of society -- are struggling more than ever before. Our province's food banks have seen a drastic increase in demand and their use and **we have the highest rate per capita of food bank usage in our country!** Furthermore, it is estimated that **one in five children live in poverty in our country!**

In mid-October I attended Bridges to Hope's annual general meeting (AGM) as St. James' representative. I learned a lot about this amazing organization of compassionate dedicated staff and volunteers. This year, Bridges to Hope celebrated a dubious anniversary of 30 years – I say "dubious" since their mission is to reduce hunger and to help empower their clients. **2020 was a very challenging year for Bridges to Hope who provided food to more than 8,000 people.** I was impressed by their efficient operations and how their staff, volunteers and donors responded so quickly to their clients' urgent calls during the blizzard of the century when roads were blocked and grocery shelves were bare, as well as throughout the pandemic with its lock-downs and shortages.

Jody Williams, their manager, spoke about the increasing need, the compassionate and loyal volunteers and donors for which they are so grateful! He also explained how their current model of giving out donations isn't quite working, saying that donations are often "based on availability rather than on nutritional value; clients have little flexibility in other areas of their lives and feel further undignified by having their food chosen for them". For this reason, Bridges to Hope is changing to a "Client Choice Pantry Model" which allows clients to participate in choosing food for themselves like a grocery store, with a full array of available good, fresh fruits and vegetables, non-perishables and hygiene products. When clients can fill their own hamper, they will likely choose items that they can and will use..."

Therefore, they need you to please donate more nutritional foods, foods with a longer shelf-life (E.g. fresh vegetables and vacuum-packed cheeses), so-called "ethnic" foods to our food bank to meet the needs of our growing diverse population, as well hygiene products and simple items like can-openers. They also accept some perishable foods for which they use to prepare meals or hampers. To find out what their specific needs are (which keep changing), **please call them at 722-9225** or email Jody at jwilliams@bridgestohope.ca. You can also donate financially by cheque or online at www.bridgestohope.ca (by clicking on the "Donate" button at the bottom of the page).



This Christmas, please reflect on our community’s increasing needs; on how blessed you are with what you have in your lives; and to remember to practice Christ’s messages and examples of humility, respect, kindness and generosity. Reach out to those you know, or in your neighbourhood, who are alone, who are less fortunate than you, and who could use some help (but *ask how you can help*). *Take groceries or a home-cooked meal to a senior, a neighbour, or someone recovering from an illness or surgery. Call or visit someone living alone, take the time to have a good conversation and really listen. Run an errand for someone house-bound or who doesn’t have a car. Shovel a neighbour’s or a stranger’s driveway and bridge. Talk to and play with a lonely child. Give them all love and hope.*

Wishing you all quiet reflection, peace, love and contentment this Christmas,
Robin Bartlett

SOMETHING TO DO: SUDOKU

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Advent word search



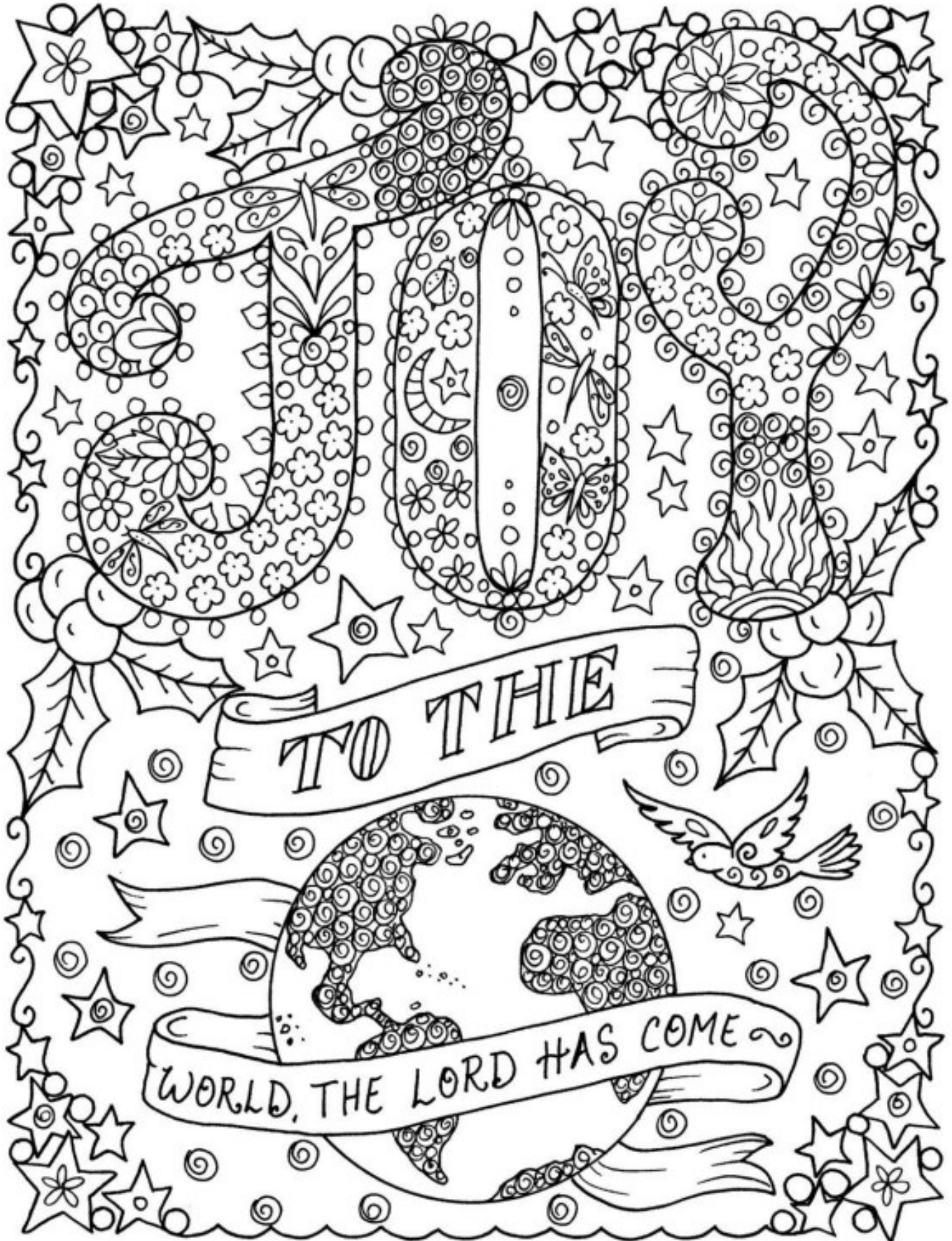
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ANGEL
ANTICIPATION
CANDLES
EMMANUEL
FOUR
HOPE
JESUS

JOSEPH
JOY
LIGHT
LOVE
MARY
PEACE
PINK

PREPARATION
PURPLE
REJOICE
SAVIOR
WAITING
WREATH







Oriental Trading
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Christmas
orientaltrading.com/freefun

Name _____





WORSHIP SCHEDULE JANUARY—APRIL 2022

Saturday: Contemporary Service | **Sunday:** Sunday Morning Worship

DATE		TIME	DETAILS	CLERGY
January 1	Saturday	4:30 pm	Epiphany Sunday	Susan Sheppard, DLM
January 2	Sunday	11:00 am	Baptism	James Ravenscroft, OM
January 8	Saturday	4:30 pm	1 st after Epiphany	Susan Sheppard, DLM
January 9	Sunday	11:00 am	Communion	James Ravenscroft, OM
January 15	Saturday	4:30 pm	2 nd after Epiphany	Susan Sheppard, DLM
January 16	Sunday	11:00 am		James Ravenscroft (PC United) Susan Sheppard, DLM (St. James)
January 22	Saturday	4:30 pm	3 rd after Epiphany	Susan Sheppard, DLM
January 23	Sunday	11:00 am		James Ravenscroft, OM
January 29	Saturday	4:30 pm	4 th after Epiphany	Susan Sheppard, DLM
January 30	Sunday	11:00 am		James Ravenscroft, OM
February 5	Saturday	4:30 pm	5 th after Epiphany	Susan Sheppard, DLM
February 6	Sunday	11:00 am		James Ravenscroft, OM
February 12	Saturday	4:30 pm	6 th after Epiphany	Susan Sheppard, DLM
February 13	Sunday	11:00 am		James Ravenscroft, OM
February 19	Saturday	4:30 pm	7 th after Epiphany	Susan Sheppard, DLM
February 20	Sunday	11:00 am		James Ravenscroft, OM
February 26	Saturday	4:30 pm	Transfiguration Sunday	Susan Sheppard, DLM
February 27	Sunday	11:00 am		James Ravenscroft, OM
March 2	Wednesday	TBD	Ash Wednesday	
March 5	Saturday	4:30 pm	Lent 1 Communion	Susan Sheppard, DLM
March 6	Sunday	11:00 am		James Ravenscroft, OM
March 12	Saturday	4:30 pm	Lent 2 Affirm Celebration	Susan Sheppard, DLM
March 13	Sunday	11:00 am		James Ravenscroft, OM
		3:00 pm		James Ravenscroft, OM
March 19	Saturday	4:30 pm	Lent 3	Susan Sheppard, DLM
March 20	Sunday	11:00 am		James Ravenscroft, OM
March 26	Saturday	4:30 pm	Lent 4	Susan Sheppard, DLM
March 27	Sunday	11:00 am		James Ravenscroft, OM
April 2	Saturday	4:30 pm	Lent 5	Susan Sheppard, DLM
April 3	Sunday	11:00 am		James Ravenscroft, OM
April 9	Saturday	4:30 pm	Palm Sunday	Susan Sheppard, DLM
April 10	Sunday	11:00 am		James Ravenscroft, OM
April 15	Good Friday	10:00 am	Good Friday Walk & Reflection	Susan Sheppard, DLM
April 16	Saturday	4:30 pm	Easter Sunday Easter Vigil Communion	Susan Sheppard, DLM
April 17	Sunday	7:30 am		James Ravenscroft, OM
		11:00 am		James Ravenscroft, OM