

This Bulletin is dedicated:
In loving memory of:
Adolphe (Al) Penney
Love Minnie and Family

December 24, 2022, 4:30 P.M.
Christmas Eve Family Service

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
and the cast of "The Manger Mystery"
Ushers: George & Jean White, Jenny Walsh, Laura Keough,
Sara Keough, Jennifer Tremblet, Amy Claire Neary,
and Marilyn Adams

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

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

OPENING CAROL: "Long time ago in Bethlehem"

LIGHTING OF CHRISTMAS CANDLE AND OPENING PRAYER

One: All through Advent we took time to think about how God gives us night as well as day, something we know a lot about at this time of year. Night is a time for dreaming, a time of possibility.

Two: Today as the sun again begins to set, we remember a night a long time ago when shepherds watched their flocks, and angels came wrapped in the light of God's glory to announce the birth of a holy child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

(A member of a family lights the centre candle.)

All: Creator of day and night, we pray this Christmas Eve with grateful hearts - Jesus is born this happy morning. May our hearts be opened to the love revealed in his coming, that we may not only hear his message but embody it in our lives. We pray in the name of your Word made flesh, Emmanuel. Amen.

SOLO: "Sing We Now of Christmas"

OFFERTORY: *We receive offerings in support of our ministry here at St. James United Church and the wider community. Tax receipts issued at end-of-year if we have donor's name and address. We sing the following:*

**What can I give him, poor as I am. If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise one,
I would do my part; yet what I can I give him, give my heart.**

We Share the Story

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-5

CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (*Voices United 64*)

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:8-14

CAROL: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (*Voices United 38*)

THE MANGER MYSTERY: A SHEPHERD DETECTIVE STORY

The shepherds, having heard the direction of the angels, begin their search for the manger, whatever that might be, and the baby who lying in it.

CAROL: "Away in a Manger" (*Voices United 69*)

REFLECTION

We Respond

SONG: "Silent Night"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (The Lord's Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

CAROL: "Joy to the World" (*Voices United 43, v. 1-3*)

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

DONATIONS:

We acknowledge the following donations to the Memorial Fund:

*In Loving Memory of Wife - Dorothy Hapgood, Daughter – Joanne Hapgood, BN.,RN, Granddaughter - Bethany Danielle Pike, Parents -Phyllis Hapgood and Richard Hapgood, Stella Stratton, Chelsey Stratton, Sister In Law - Marilyn Sheehan, and Sister In Law - Daphne Ralph. From W. David Hapgood.

*In memory of Dorothy "Dot" Hapgood from Victoria Styles.

We acknowledge the following donations to the Bethany Pike Memorial Camp Fund:

*In Loving memory of Daughter - Bethany Danielle Pike, Mom – Dorothy (Dot) Hapgood, Sister - Joanne Hapgood, BN., RN, Parents - Olive and Roy Pike, Grandparents - Stella and Chesley Stratton, Phyllis and Richard Hapgood. From Stephen, Susan, Rebecca and Kyle.

*In memory of Bethany Pike, from Susan L. Pike and Michael Kavanagh.

*In memory of Bethany Pike from Theresa Rahal and Horace Noseworthy

We acknowledge the following donation to the Choir Fund:

In loving memory of Blanche and William Hollett from Fred Hollett

We acknowledge the following donations to the General Fund:

*In loving memory of Rev. Cyril Jack Mercer from Karen, Tom, Kelsey and Kaitlyn Brown.

*In memory of loved ones from Sidney and Menetha Dyke

We acknowledge the following donation to the Bridges to Hope Fund:

* In memory of loved ones from Sidney and Menetha Dyke

We acknowledge the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:

* In loving memory of Husband, Bas Jamieson, Father - Capt. Walter Blackwood, Mother - Mildred Blackwood, Brother - Walter Blackwood Jr., Sister - Ida Blackwood from Lorna Jamieson.