

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

330 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9



The people of St. James United Church are eternal seekers who value diversity within our congregation, our city, and all of society. We affirm each person's uniqueness and believe that all persons deserve to be valued, treated with equity, and respected. We are all children of God, walking many paths of spirituality.

Further, we proudly and publicly declare our commitment to practice radical hospitality and strive in every way to provide a safe and supportive place for all persons to participate in the worship and work of our church.

Guided by the teachings of Jesus, we embrace all persons, regardless of creed, race, age, ability, economic status, cultural and ethnic background, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or any other difference that has led to marginalization or oppression

This Bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
Dorothy (Dot) Hapgood
Remembering her birthday on December 19th.
Love, Dave Hapgood and Family.

December 18, 2022 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Leading Worship Today: Rev. James Ravenscroft

Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Contemporary Ensemble

Ushers: Jack Head, Ron & Lorraine Robbins, Marilyn Adams, Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME

We extend words of greeting in M'ikmawi'simk, Farsi and German.

INTROIT: "Hope Is a Star" (*Voices United 7, verse 4*)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who steward it and pledge to be a safer and inclusive space for everyone.

CENTERING SONG: "Joyful is the Dark" (*VU 284, v 3 & 5*)

HONOURING THE GIFT OF DARKNESS

We acknowledge the lengthening night with a time of quiet reflection.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 1: God of new life, we light the fourth candle of Advent.

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

Reader 2: We kindle it with love. We give thanks for the nurturing darkness of a mother's womb, the protective care in which a growing life is held.

Reader 1: Mary nurtured Jesus both in body and in soul, bearing with love the one who people experienced as Light of the World.

All: Creator of day and night, we pray that we too may nurture your gift within us. Through your maternal Spirit, send us pregnant with your grace, birthing your love to the world. In the name of your Holy Child, we pray. Amen

HYMN: "People Look East" (*Voices United 9*)

We Share

OUR LIFE AND WORK

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

OFFERTORY: "In the Bleak Midwinter" (*Voices United 55 v. 4*)

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

We dedicate our offerings to the work of God's love and justice. Tax receipts issued at year-end if donor's name and address are provided.

We Listen and Respond

PRAYER OF EXAMINATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

ANTHEM: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (*Voices United 8*)

READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

ANTHEM: “Star Carol” (John Rutter)

AN ADAPTED *LECTIO DIVINA*

READING: Luke 1:39-56

HYMN: “My Soul Cries Out” (*More Voices* 120)

READING: “Magnificat” by Bruce Sanguin

TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

ANTHEM: “Calypso Gloria” (Donald P. Moore)

GUIDED REFLECTION ON LOVE

We pray for others both locally and globally through a guided meditation.

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: “O Come All Ye Faithful” (*Voices United* 60, v. 1, 3 and 4)

(Please change “this morning” to “that morning” in verse 4.)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: Go forth in love: the One we call Emmanuel is coming!

All: We go, blessed in the knowledge that he is here!

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:	Amy Dalziel
Associate Music Director:	Bob Rose
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Office Administrator:	Stephanie Harnum
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

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