

## 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:

***William (Bill) Hedley Butt***

*January 2nd, 1938 - December 7th, 2020*

From his wife Barbara and children, Deborah, Darlene, Billy,  
Scott and Families.

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen,  
unheard, but always near; still loved, still missed and very dear" ~  
Anonymous~

### **December 11, 2022 – Third Sunday of Advent**

Leading Worship Today: Rev. James Ravenscroft

Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Glenda Winsor

Ushers: Peter & Shirley Barbour, Ruth Baker & Don Blackmore  
Marilyn Adams, Jean Thompson & Susan Pike

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## We Come to Worship

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

*We extend words of greeting in Innu-aimun, Yoruba and Korean.*

**INTROIT:** "Hope Is a Star" (*Voices United 7, verse 3*)

### **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 1 & 5*)

### **HONOURING THE GIFT OF DARKNESS**

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

### **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Reader 1: God of the night, we light the third candle of Advent.

*(A member of a family lights the third candle.)*

Reader 2: We kindle it in joy. We give thanks for nighttime, for the gift of dreams that invite us to consider something new, a promise which will come to life with the arrival of the morning light.

Reader 1: Joseph was blessed with such a dream, assured that the child that Mary was carrying would bring hope for all people

**All: Creator of day and night, we pray this Advent that we too may welcome you dream with open hearts. Through the gift of your grace, may we bring it to reality, walking the path you revealed through your Holy Child. In his name we pray. Amen**

**HYMN:** "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?" (*Voices United 31*)

## We Share

### **PRESENTATION OF GIFTS FOR WHITE GIFT SUNDAY**

*We bring forward donations to Stella's Circle and other community groups.*

**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

### **LEARNING TOGETHER**

*We explore themes of the day in a manner that is accessible to all ages.*

**HYMN:** "I've Got Peace Like a River" (*Voices United 577*)

### **PRAYER OF AWAKENING**

**ANTHEM:** "Come, Jesus, Prince of Peace"

**READINGS:** Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 1:18-25; Excerpt from H. Thurman, The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations

**MESSAGE:** "Dreaming with Intention"

**We Respond**

**HYMN:** "A Little Town of Bethlehem (*Voices United 64*)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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:** "Joy to the World" (*Voices United 59*)

**BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

**One:** Go forth with joy: the One we call Emmanuel is coming!

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

**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:	Bob Rose
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Office Administrator:	Stephanie Harnum
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

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