

**December 24, 2023, 4:30 P.M.
Christmas Eve Family Service**

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Music: Becca-ann Bartlett and Andie Winsor
Ushers: Jean White, Jenny Walsh, Laura and Sara Keough
Melanie, Shane, Quentin, Griffen, Callia and Lachlan Seal
Susan Pike, Marilyn Adams and Jean Thompson

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

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

OPENING CAROL: "O Come All Ye Faithful" (VU 60, 1, 3 and 4)

A POETIC WORD: An excerpt from "A Song Was Sung at
Christmas" by Timothy Dudley-Smith

LIGHTING OF CHRISTMAS CANDLE AND OPENING PRAYER

Reader 1: Through the prophets, God promised a Messiah, and on this night, we affirm that God's promise has been kept.

Reader 2: In the birth of Jesus, a vulnerable baby, God is most closely identified with us, become Emmanuel, "God with us."

Reader 1: As we light our candle, we affirm that this astounding news of long ago, still astounds us, "God with us" born to Mary and Joseph, revealed to shepherds in the words of angels.

**All: Holy One, we thank you for fulfilling your promise
through the birth of Jesus, your gift of love to the world.
Like the shepherds keeping watch as angels sing,
may we welcome the one called Saviour and Prince of Peace.
May this night so fill our hearts with hope and joy
that we tell everyone the good news of Christ's birth. Amen.**

SOLO: "O Holy Night" performed by Becca-Ann Bartlett

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

PRAYER FOR WISDOM

READING: Isaiah 9:1-7

CAROL: "Silent Night" (*Voices United 67*)

AN NL NOW CHRISTMAS

The Christmas story is told with the help of the puppets from NL Now. During the story we will sing the following carols:

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

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

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

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" (*Voices United 43*)

We Respond in Prayer

SOLO: "Star Carol" performed by Andie Winsor

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 59, 1, 2 and 4*)

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Council Chair: | Michelle Skinner |
| Lead Minister: | Rev. James Ravenscroft |
| 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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WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

All worship services at St. James are Live Streamed via video for our online congregation. By participating in this service, you acknowledge that you may be visible on live broadcast or archived video.

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