

Joy

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



December 17, 2023 – Third Sunday of Advent

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and Senior Choir
Ushers: Eric King, Theresa Roberts-Morrissey, Sheila Strong
and Susan Pike

*Please rise in body or in spirit where there is an *.*

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME: *We share greetings in Inuktitut, French and Japanese.*

INTROIT: “Wait for the Lord”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We give thanks for the land and commit to be a fully inclusive community.

* **HYMN:** “Herald Sound the Note of Gladness” (*Voices United 28*)
(*sing to the tune “Lauda Anima”, “Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven”.*)

HONOURING THE GIFT OF LENGTHENING NIGHTS

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

A POETIC WORD: “The God We Hardly Knew” by Óscar Romero

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 1: On this Third Sunday of Advent, we join with the writers of scripture to sing of God’s work of restorative and saving grace.

Reader 2: This is a time for us to join in Mary’s song of praise for all that God has done and is doing to bring about reconciliation.

Reader 1: So we light another candle, the flickering of the flame reminding us to work with others in God’s healing of the world.

All: Holy One, through your Spirit you inspired your people to join in your great work of healing and reconciliation, calling people like Mary and Joseph to call others to embody your grace. Through that same Spirit, give us strength to do the same, that our lives may be a reflection of your saving and healing love. We pray with joy in the name of your Emmanuel. Amen.

REFRAIN: “We Wait for God” (Words: William S. Kervin, 2023;
Music: Deborah Park and Tom Reynolds, 2023)

**We work for God, the nations need each one to do their part.
The Spirit works through everyone,
each hand and head and heart. We work for God;
the nations need each hand and head and heart.**

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: *There are many ways to share your financial gifts with St. James United Church. There are plates as you enter the church in which to place your offering, you may contribute by pre-authorized remittance (PAR), via e-transfer (email treasurer@stjamesuc.org), sent through the website (www.stjamesuc.org), mailed to the church office or dropped into our secure mailbox. In whatever way you give, the community is grateful.*

* **PRESENTATION HYMN:** *We dedicate our offerings to the work of God's love as we sing "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 man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.**

We Listen

PRAYER OF AWAKENING

LEARNING TOGETHER

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

ANTHEM: "Angel's Carol"

READINGS: *At the end of each reading, please say, "Thanks be to God."*

Isaiah 61:1-11; Lk. 1:47-55 (*Voices United* p. 898); Matthew 1:18-25

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

REFLECTION FOLLOWING THE READINGS

We Respond

ANTHEM: "Christmas Angel"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We take time to pray for the needs of our global and local communities, knowing that what we pray for we also are called to do something about.

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. 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.

SHARING OF PEACE

We commit to the prayers we have made with a sign of peace.

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** "Joy to the World" *(Voices United 48)*

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: Go in joy, working together with the One we call Emmanuel!

All: We go, blessed in the assurance that God is with us!

POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

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

Office: 722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;
Emergency Cellphone: 351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



@StJamesUCNL



@StJamesUnited



@stjamesuc

Life and Work - December 17, 2023

We accept the following donation to the General Fund:

* In memory of our Mom & Dad, Nellie and Bill Bishop, our Brother Keith Bishop, David Wicks and other family members. Love from Karen Bishop, Beverley Wicks and Family.

We accept the following donations to the Memorial Fund:

* In memory of Rev. Ettie Gordon from Clyde and Brenda Flight

* In memory of David Hapgood from Brenda and Clyde Flight

* In memory of David Hapgood from Ron and Lorraine Robbin's

Zone Captains: The newest edition of The Visitor is now available for pick up. Zone captains can pick up their packages of The Visitor during regular office hours.

Wild Light Spiritual Oasis (Forest Church): Winter Solstice Celebration on Thursday, December 21 @ 7PM at Susan's address. Address available upon request.

Looking for Puppeteer Volunteers: This year's Christmas Eve Family Service (at 4:30 pm) will use puppets to tell the Christmas story. We are looking for 2 or 3 people who would like to team up with Jake Thompson of NL Now and help bring some of his puppet friends to life. Contact Rev. James if you can help.

Social Action and Outreach Committee: Pastoral Care will be holding an ongoing community food drive for clients of the Opioid Maintenance Treatment Clinic in Bell Island. Our church office will be the drop off donations site. Please label for whom the donations are intended (Ex: Opioid Maintenance Treatment Clinic Donation), as to not confuse them with other donations. The Waterford Hospital Cafeteria is also an alternate drop-off site. Suggested Items: Canned Food, Pastas, rice, condiments, Oatmeal, Baby Food/Formula.

St. James Christmas Worship Services:

December 17 - Senior Choir 11:00 am, 7:00 pm Eventide

Celtic Vespers

December 24 - 11:00 am Communion, 4:30 pm Family Service,

7:00 pm Candlelight Service

December 31 - 11:00 am Soloist and NO Eventide

Cochrane Street United Christmas Worship Services:

December 17 - 11:00 am Advent service led by Rev. Karen.

December 24 - 11:00 am service with Communion led by Rev. Karen.

Waterwerks Annual Christmas Diaper Drop: WaterWerks is collecting donations for their Annual Christmas Diaper Drop. Diapers can be dropped off at 96 LeMarchant Road, or you can donate online at diaperdrop.ca. All proceeds will be going to the Community Food Sharing Association.