

On earth
Peace,
good will toward men.

LUKE 2:14



December 10, 2023 – Second Sunday of Advent

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and Glen Warren
Ushers: Peter and Shirley Barbour, Marilyn Adams,
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

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

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME: *We share greetings in M'ikmawi'simk, French and Farsi.*

SOLO

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

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

* **HYMN:** "Come Thou long Expected Jesus" (*Voices United 2*)

HONOURING THE GIFT OF LENGTHENING NIGHTS

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

A POETIC WORD: "The Night Watch" by John William Streets

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 1: On this second Sunday of Advent, we read how John the Baptist kept watch for the Messiah to usher in God's Peace.

Reader 2: This is a time for us to watch as well, to seek signs that crooked ways are being made straight, that a broad highway is being made so that all people can move together in harmony.

Reader 1: And so we light another candle, the flickering of the flame reminding us to watch for ways where peace may grow.

All: Holy One, through your Spirit you inspired your people to watch for signs the Messiah's time was drawing near, calling John to go to the desert and watch for one that heaven kissed. Through that same Spirit, give us courage to keep watch as well, to stand with patience for a world made new, the nations made one through Emmanuel's touch. Amen.

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

**We watch for God, the earth cries out,
“Will violence ever cease?”
The one who saw the signs is seen
in ways that make for peace.
We watch for God, the earth cries out
for ways that make for peace.**

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 OF GIFTS FOR WHITE GIFT SUNDAY**

We bring forward donations to Stella’s Circle and other community groups and dedicate our offerings as we sing “In the Bleak Midwinter” VU 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.

HYMN: “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness” (*Voices United* 18)

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

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85 (*Voices United* p. 802); Mark 1:1-8

SOLO

REFLECTION FOLLOWING THE READINGS

We Respond

* **HYMN:** "Hark the Glad Sound" (*Voices United 29*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We take time to pray for the needs of our global and local communities.

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:** "Hark the Herald, Angels Sing" (*Voices United 48*)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: Go forth in peace, watching for the One we call Emmanuel!

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

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

Office: 722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;
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We accept the following donation to the General Fund:

- * In loving memory of Dave Hapgood from Kevin and Marilyn Pardy.
- * In loving memory of Dave Hapgood from Shirley Burse.
- * In loving memory of Parents Gil and Ruby Hiscock, Sister Lorna, and Brother Gilbert from Patsy.

We accept the following donation to the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Camp Fund:

- * In loving memory of Bethany Pike from Susan Pike and Michael Kavanagh

The Visitor: The newest edition of The Visitor is now available online. Paper copies will be available at the church office. If you would like a digital copy to be sent to your email, please contact the church office.

Young Adult Christmas Gathering on December 14: James and Glen will be hosting a pre-Christmas party at their home at 7 pm on December 14. Wear an ugly holiday sweater and come watch Holiday TV classics. BYO-Treats!

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.

St. James Christmas Bake Sale and Luncheon: Don't have time to bake your Christmas cookies, cakes or treats? Let us help you out! On **Sunday, December 17th from 12:30 to 2:30 pm**, we will be hosting a Christmas Bake sale, including breads, cookies, homemade fudge and more. Lunch we will be serving, baked beans, soup, hot dogs and muffins for \$8.00 per person. We hope to see you all there. We are accepting donations for the bake sale on Saturday evening Dec 16th from 4 - 6 pm. All donations are welcome.

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 10 - White Gift 11:00 am, Eventide Tapestry 7:00 pm

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

December 24 - 11:00 am Communion, 4:30 pm Family Service, 7:00 pm Candlelight Service

December 31 - 11:00 am Guitar Group and NO Eventide

Cochrane Street United Christmas Worship Services:

December 10 - 11:00 am Lessons and Carols - led by the choir & congregation.

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.



MEMORY CHRISTMAS TREE FORM

At this time of the year, thoughts of our loved ones are never far from our minds. One of the ways we acknowledge this is through the Memory Tree. For a donation, a coloured bulb will be changed to a white one in memory or in celebration of loved ones. We often think of this in terms remembering those who have died but we also may have happy memories that we want to acknowledge, like the birth of a child, a graduation or perhaps an important anniversary. The money raised through your gift helps to fund the many projects and activities that make St. James the vibrant faith community we love. Please have your request into the office by noon on Friday, December 15 for inclusion in the Christmas Eve bulletin insert. Best wishes for a Christmas of peace, love and joy!

Donor's Name(s):

In Memory or Celebration of:

Address:

Donation \$ _____