

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

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

**Celebration of Worship for January 7, 2024**



The people of St. James United Church are eternal seekers who value diversity within our congregation, 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.

In Loving memory of  
**Bethany Danielle Pike**  
January 8, 1988 - May 27, 2008  
Love Susan, Stephen, Rebecca & Kyle

In memory of a loving Husband, Father, and Grandfather  
**T. Alex Hickman**  
Ever missed, and always remembered by wife Nancy,  
Sandy, Heather, Harry and Peter, spouses, and grandchildren

**January 7, 2023, Old Christmas/Epiphany Sunday**

Leading Worship and Music: St. James Guitar Group  
Accompanist: Amy Dalziel  
Ushers: Michelle & Wayne Skinner, Marilyn Adams,  
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

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

**We Come to Worship**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP**

*We take time to give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who continue to steward it; we also commit to be an inclusive community for all.*

**INSTRUMENTAL INTROIT**

**AN OPENING POEM:** "Epiphany" by Clairel Estevez

**LIGHTING OF CHRISTMAS CANDLE AND OPENING PRAYER**

One: As we gather on this last Sunday of Christmas, we once again light our candle, grateful for the divine gift that it signifies.

*Two: As the flame flickers like a star, we are reminded that Jesus came as a light, bringing new understanding to all who seek it.*

*(We light the centre candle.)*

**All: Holy One, gift of light in our darkness,  
today we celebrate the epiphany of your Holy Child,  
your gift of love shining bright in our world.  
May the star that rose to reveal his coming,  
lead us to him as well,  
to the light that enlivens us in your wisdom and grace.  
We pray in the name of Emmanuel,  
the One whose coming we celebrate. Amen.**

\* **HYMN:** “As with Gladness Men of Old” (*Voices United 81*)

### We Share with Love

#### **OUR LIFE AND WORK**

*We acknowledge the connection between our work and worship.*

**OFFERTORY:** *There are many ways to share financial gifts with St. James United Church. If you prefer not to place a contribution in the offering plate, 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 word 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 for Wisdom

#### **PRAYER OF AWAKENING**

#### **LEARNING TOGETHER**

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

\* **HYMN:** “Away in a Manger” (*Voices United 69*)

**READING:** Luke 2:16-19

\* **HYMN:** “Precious Memories” (*see overhead*)

**READING:** Matthew 2:1-12

**ANTHEM:** “Mary’s Lullaby”

**READINGS:** Mark 1:4 and 9-11  
John 2:1-11

\* **HYMN:** “Mary’s Boy Child” (*see overhead*)

#### **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 in turn are called to do something about.*

## THE PRAYER OF JESUS

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. The thine is the kingdom the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## SHARING OF PEACE

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

### We Leave to Serve

\* **HYMN:** "Silent Night" (*Voices United 67*)

**A CONCLUDING POEM:** "For Those Who have Far to Travel" (Jan Richardson)

## SENDING FORTH:

One: Go forth with hope and joy, go forth in grace and peace:  
for the One we call Emmanuel, God-with-us, has been born.

**All: We go forth to share God's love in the world!**

## POSTLUDE

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### St. James United Church

Council Chair:	Michelle Skinner
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](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org);  
Emergency Cellphone: 709-359-0983; Website: [www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org);  
WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC



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**We accept the following donations to the Memorial Fund:**

\* In memory of David Hapgood from Nancy and Heather Hickman

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

\* In loving memory of Bethany Danielle Pike Love Susan, Stephen, Rebecca & Kyle

**Memory Tree Correction:**

In loving memory of Parents, Margery & Ralph Brown from Jennifer Whitfield

**Eventide Worship:** There will be no Eventide Worship this evening. The Eventide Worship in the style of Taizé will go ahead next week on January 14<sup>th</sup>.



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