



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship: December 28, 2025



In Loving Memory of:
Ceanne Butt, R.N.
(January 23, 1953 – December 27, 2009)
from sisters-in-law Glenda Winsor and Gloria Le Feuvre
and Families

December 28, 2025 – First Sunday of Christmas

Leading worship: Clyde Flight & family, Amy Dalziel, Guitar Group
Ushering: Skyler Simpson, Leah Kirk, Marilyn Adams,
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

*Please rise as you are able where there is an * in the service.
Print in **bold** indicates that the portion is read or sung by everyone.*

We Come to Worship

WELCOME; LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We give thanks for the land as we commit to be inclusive of everyone.

SHARING OF PEACE

INTROIT: “Away in a Manger”

Reader 1: We gather in awe in these days of Christmas!
In the coming of Jesus, God draws near to us in their love.

Reader 2: Through a humble birth, everything shines in God’s grace,
nothing falls outside the reach of God’s holy, loving light.

REFRAIN: We light this candle for Christ.

**Await the new life within. May our hearts now live each day, so
Christ can find a way, so Christ can find a way.**

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God,

we gather today with wonder!

**In the birth of Jesus, your light touches every heart,
bringing needed healing and calling us into your kin-dom.**

As we worship together, may we rest in your grace,
your love joining us together to embody your way of peace.
We pray in the name of the One whose birth we honour.
Amen.

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

We Share in Love

OFFERTORY: *There are many ways to give to St. James. You can place an offering in the plate, scan the QR code on the left, contribute via PAR, website (www.stjamesuc.org), e-transfer (email treasurer@stjamesuc.org), mail to the church office or drop in our secure mailbox. In whatever way you choose to give, the community is grateful.*



* **HYMN:** "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.**

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

We Listen and Respond

CAROL: "Mary's Little Boy Child"

READING: Matthew 2:1-12

ANTHEM: "Mary's Lullaby"

READING: Matthew 2:13-23

POWERPOINT SLIDESHOW

SHARED MEDITATION

The congregation breaks into groups of two or three to consider where the gospel reading about Herod's murderous rage is lived in our world. As they ponder the parallels, they are invited to also consider how we are called to respond as followers of Jesus.

VIDEO: “Refugee” by Steve Bell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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. 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*)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

The One we call Emmanuel has been born!
God’s love has come near, bringing peace to every heart!
Let us go with love in our hearts to share this good news!
We go, blessed to be a blessing to others!

POSTLUDE: “Christmas in the Harbour”

St. James United Church

Chair of the Church Board:	Pamela Norman
Minister:	Rev. James Ravenscroft
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Co-Directors of Music:	Amy Dalziel & Bob Rose
Office Administrator	Stephanie Harnum
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

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 @StJamesUCNL  @stjamesuc

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

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