



**St. James United Church**



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

**Celebration of Worship for December 14, 2025**



## December 14, 2025 – Third Sunday of Advent

Leading worship and music: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Paul Walsh,  
Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and the St. James Pop-Up Choir  
Ushering: Kim and Gerry Mayo, Marilyn Adams, Susan Pike  
and Jean Thompson

*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

#### PRELUDE

#### **WELCOME; LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

*We share greetings in Mi'kmawi'simk, French & Farsi, and give thanks for the land upon which we gather. We commit to be an inclusive community.*

#### SHARING OF PEACE

#### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

**Reader 1:** On this third Sunday, we gather with expectant joy.

**Reader 2:** God has promised to do something new as the land is restored and a path to redemption is made in the wilderness.

**Reader 1:** We rejoice as we kindle a flame, set up a beacon, for Christ is coming to bring healing and renewal to us all.

**REFRAIN:** We light this candle for joy. Await the new life within. May our hearts now live each day, so joy can find a way, so joy can find a way.

#### OPENING PRAYER:

Come Holy One! We wait in hope for the advent of your reign!  
**Strengthen our hearts to believe your promise of future joy,  
that one day we will walk in the holy way of Christ,**

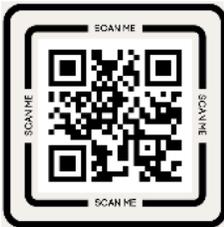
**where sorrow and sighing will be no more  
and the journey of God's people will be joy.  
We pray in the name of your coming Emmanuel. Amen.**

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

### **We Share in Love**

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

**OFFERING:** *There are many ways to financially support St. James. You can place your contribution in the plate, scan the QR code on the left, donate via PAR, website ([www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)), e-transfer (email [treasurer@stjamesuc.org](mailto:treasurer@stjamesuc.org)), or mail to the church office. In whatever way you support St. James, the community is grateful. Tax receipts available upon request.*



**\* 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 AND GRACE**

### **We Listen and Respond**

#### **LEARNING TOGETHER**

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

**\* HYMN:** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (*Voices United 44*)

**READINGS:** *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*  
Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:2-11

**\* HYMN:** "There's a Voice in the Wilderness Calling" (*VU 18*)

**READING:** *At the end of the reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*  
14<sup>th</sup> century Rhineland monk and mystic, Meister Eckhart, as quoted  
in *Ordinary Graces: Christian Teachings on the Interior Life*

## **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS**

**A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT:** *We pause for a time of quiet reflection.*

**ANTHEM:** "Long Ago, Prophets Knew"

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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.**

### **We Leave to Serve**

\* **HYMN:** "Joy to the World" (*Voices United* 59)

## **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

...Go forth in joy, waiting for the One we call Emmanuel!  
**We go, blessed in the assurance that God is with us!**

**POSTLUDE:** *Please remain seated during the postlude.*

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### **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 and Bob Rose
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Office Administrator:	Stephanie Harnum
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

Office: 1-709-722-1881, x200; Email: [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org);  
Emergency Cellphone: 1-709-351-0983; Website: [www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)

 @StJamesUCNL     @stjamesuc

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. If you are uncomfortable about the possibility of appearing on video, please speak to an usher who can seat you in an area not visible on camera. All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced/ broadcast under **ONE LICENSE. License #: #A-700000.**

## Life and Work – December 14, 2025

**We offer our sincere condolences to** Jean Rose and her family on the death of her twin brother Alan Stewart. Funeral will be held on December 15th in Glasgow, Scotland.

**We offer our sincere condolences to** Randy Butler on the death of his brother, Lloyd Butler.

**We offer our sincere condolences to** Clyde Sidwell Patey, Betty Patey's brother-in-law. Visitation at Barrett's tomorrow, Thursday, December 11 and the funeral is on Friday, December 12 at 1 pm.

**We offer our sincere condolences to** Denise and Nicole Bradbury on the passing of their mother, Yvonne Bradbury, spouse of Don Bradbury.

**We accept the following donation to the General Fund:**

\*In memory of parents, Captain Peter and Mrs. Olive Parsons and sister Susan Bishop from Heidi Janes, Jean Babstock and Brenda Newton.

**The Winter Newsletter "News From The Pews" is here!!**

The newsletter is now completely online, so please visit the church website at [www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org) to download our latest newsletter

If you would like a paper copy, please contact the office.  
Thank you to all who contributed.

**Participating at home:** Throughout the season of Advent we encourage those of you who worship from home to set up your own advent wreath (all you need is four candles.) Each Sunday light a candle at the same time as our people do in the Sanctuary at St. James.

**Bring Your Own Addition to the Manger Scene:** In the tradition of the little drummer boy, this year we want to expand our manger scene with added characters beyond Mary, Joseph, animals, shepherds and magi. You are invited to bring someone you feel should be there, someone who represents you or what you love. Perhaps it is a baker, Barbie, a fisherman, farmer, or even a teddy bear, your choice. You can bring it anytime, even on Christmas Eve, just be aware it will need to stay until the end of the season.

**After Worship Bible Study:** Rev. James will lead a Bible study each Sunday after the coffee time. This will be a chance to explore the lectionary readings in more detail. Gather in the library 30 minutes after worship for an hour-long study.

**Readers Required:** If anyone is interested in helping out during Sunday worship services by doing readings, please see the sign up sheet in the vestibule or please contact Barry Cutler at (709) 685-9030 or by email at [newfie\\_1\\_ca@yahoo.ca](mailto:newfie_1_ca@yahoo.ca). Thank you

**Buckle up for a joyride down memory lane with Spirit of Newfoundland's latest musical comedy, "Shift Happens...at 100 Smiles per Hour"!  
On February 26, 2026, Gower Theatre doors open at 6:30 p.m.**



Dinner, Show, and Non-Stop Entertainment – All for just \$120 per person!



This is your chance to grab your spot for an unforgettable night filled with laughter, community, and music!

Bypass the downtown parking, park at St. James and avail of our taxi service to Gower St UC. Please enquire about our childcare availability. Dietary considerations available upon request. Tax receipts (\$50.00 per ticket) will be issued for the charitable portion of the ticket.

Tickets are selling fast, so get yours today by contacting the church office by phone or email. Payment is due at the time of purchase via cheque, e-transfer, or cash.



Hosted by Gower Street United Church, St. James United Church, and Cowan Heights United Church, proceeds will be shared between the three churches in support of their ministries.



**Band Instruments:** We are going to be going through our band instruments inventory and are considering rehoming them. We are aware some instruments were donated but the memorial book doesn't list specific instruments. If your family has donated an instrument in the past we are wanting to connect with you. Please contact Susan Pike at [susanpike@warp.nfld.net](mailto:susanpike@warp.nfld.net) or Bob Rose at [robertharoldrose@gmail.com](mailto:robertharoldrose@gmail.com)

**Turn Debt into Hope:** KAIROS Canada is leading a campaign calling for wealthier countries to assist other countries who are facing a debt crisis. This builds on the successful 2000 campaign to cancel debt of low-income countries. In collaboration with other social justice groups, KAIROS is mobilizing communities of faith to demand:

- A debt cancellation for unjust and unsustainable debts.
- Global financial reform to prevent future crisis
- A debt resolution framework within United Nations that is transparent, binding and fair.

Join us in signing the Jubilee 2025 petition! Our goal is to collect 100 thousand signatures in Canada and 10 million worldwide by the end of 2025. A copy of the petition is available on the bulletin board in the foyer