



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship for December 7, 2025



In Loving Memory of:
William (Bill) Butt
January 2nd - December 7th 2020
From wife Barbara and family.

"Those we love never truly leave us. There are things
that death cannot touch" ~Jack Thorne~

December 7, 2025 – Second Sunday of Advent

Leading worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Michelle Skinner,
Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose, Jean Rose and John Austin
Ushering: Damien Betts, Shirley McNeil, 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 Innu-aimun, French & Bangla, then give thanks for
the land upon which we gather as we commit to be fully inclusive.*

SHARING OF PEACE AND INTROIT

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 1: On this second Sunday of Advent, we once again gather in
prayer as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Reader 2: More than that, we affirm his coming as an adult to announce the
advent of God's reign of peace.

Reader 1: And so we light a candle, the flame a glowing sign of the peace
and harmony that only God can bring.

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

OPENING PRAYER:

Come Holy One, and be with your people,
**present as we await the promise of your coming reign.
Open our hearts through the gifting of your Spirit,
that turning them back to you, we will sow seeds of peace,
and so come to live in harmony with one another,
through the companionship of Jesus, your Emmanuel. Amen.**

* **HYMN:** “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” (*Voices United 2*)

We Share in Love

OUR LIFE AND WORK

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.*



* **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.**

* **PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND GRACE**

We Listen and Respond

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

ANTHEM

READING: *At the end of the reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
"The whole world is your own" (A saying of Sri Sarada Devi, Hindu mystic)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

* **HYMN:** "O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts" (*Voices United* 472)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: Jesus came to bring God's hope and peace to the world.

All: In table fellowship may we know his joy and love.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God is here. **God is within and around us.**

Open your hearts. **We gladly open them to God.**

Let us give thanks. **It is good to give thanks and praise.**

It is good to praise you, God of promise, as we gather on this Advent morning. We thank you for Jesus: born in Bethlehem, proclaimed by the Baptizer, bearer of good news for the world.

All: We give thanks too for the words of prophets, for the courage of Mary and Joseph, for the song of the angels.

With them we raise our own voices in praise:

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and sings your name always!

God of hope we give thanks, for the child born to us did not stay in a manger but grew in wisdom and announced your reign. He grew up to heal the tormented, confront the powers, and make present your mercy. Arrested for his witness to your truth, he was put to death; in fulfillment of your promise, you raised him to life.

We give thanks for his birth long ago; for his life of hope and teachings of love, teachings lived out profoundly at table.

He embodied these teachings on the night before he died. Gathered with his friends, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them saying, "This is my body, given for you."

In the same way he took a cup at the end of the meal, and after blessing it, gave it to them saying, "This is a sign of the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you do this, remember me."

God of peace, we remember as we gather around this table, open to your presence as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again! Sing Christ has died
and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

God of wisdom, open our hearts to the presence of your Spirit flowing within us and through these gifts. As you touched Mary and Jesus with Spirit's breath, so fill us with your power.

Renew us through this holy meal and send us pregnant with your grace to bear your love to the world.

Holy One we give you praise. Creator God, we praise you, through Your Word made flesh, in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

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 IN COMMUNION

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

Happy are those called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

Everyone is welcome to share communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. Come to the front to receive the bread and grape juice (in a glass). Please tell us if you need gluten free. If you prefer a blessing, cross your arms over your chest to indicate as much. If you are unable to come forward, someone will bring communion to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace,

**we thank you for love revealed in Mary's child,
experienced anew through bread and wine.**

**Strengthen us as your Advent people,
sharing the gift of your love. Amen.**

We Leave to Serve

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

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

.... Go forth in peace, 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.*

St. James United Church

Chair of Council:	Michelle Skinner
Minister:	Rev. James Ravenscroft
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Associate Music Director	Bob Rose
Office Administrator	Stephanie Harnum
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

Office: 1-709-722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;

Emergency Cellphone: 1-709-351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org

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 7, 2025

InsideOUT LGBTQIA+ Spirituality Gathering - Sunday, December 7, 2025:

InsideOUT is an LGBTQIA+ an opportunity to explore the intersection between queerness and spirituality. Held in the Quadrangle Outreach Room at 7:30PM

Tapestry: Saturday, December 13 @ 5:30PM. Beginning with a potluck at 5:30 pm, this service celebrates the strands that make us who we are in terms of faith, experience, and identity.

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.

Thank you

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

The Visitor is now completely online, so please visit the church website at www.stjamesuc.org to download your edition.

If you would like a paper copy, please contact the office.

Thank you to all who contributed.

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.

Baking Spirits Bright Bake Sale: Don't have time to bake your Christmas cookies, cakes or treats? Let us help you out! On Sunday, December 14th directly after the worship service 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 sweets for a free-will offering. We are asking for donations of soup, chile,

rolls and sweets. Please contact Jean at treasurer@stjamesuc.org, speak with one of the ushers on Sunday or email/call the church office at info@stjamesuc.org or 709-722-1881. We hope to see you all there. We are accepting donations for the bake sale on Saturday evening Dec 13th from 4 – 6 pm. All donations are welcome.

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. 

REMINDER!!! White Gift Sunday: It's the time of year for generosity and giving to those in need. As usual, St. James is collecting donations for Stella's Circle's clients! Donations can be made to St. James United Church Office. **Please bring them in on Sunday, December 7th as they will be presented during the service.**



Christmas Wish List

Household Items

(New items only, please!)

- * Dishes
- * Non sticks pots & frying pans
- * Cutlery & utensils
- * Cutting board
- * Kettle
- * Toaster
- * Reusable food storage containers
- * Aluminium foil, plastic wrap
- * Dish cloths & pot cloths
- * Cups, mugs & glasses
- * Baking sheets
- * Dish racks
- * Casserole dishes
- * Can openers
- * Colander
- * New bed sheets (twin & double)
- * New blankets & pillows
- * New bath towels, hand towels & face cloths
- * Mops, buckets, brooms
- * Garbage bags
- * Household cleaners, rubber gloves
- * Laundry detergent & dryer sheets
- * Paper towels & toilet paper
- * Dish liquid
- * Light bulbs, batteries, candles
- * Reusable water bottles
- * New throw blankets
- * Alarm clocks

Gifts should be new & remain unwrapped.

Please package in reusable bags for delivery no heavier than 20 pounds for the safety of staff.

Donations can be delivered to:

Employment Services
114 Cabot St, St. John's
Mon-Fri, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Housing Services
84 Prescott St, St. John's
Mon – Fri, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Emmanuel House
83 Cochrane St, St. John's
Mon – Sun, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Monetary Donations:
Stella's Circle Foundation
142 Military Road
St. John's, NL A1C 2E6

Questions? Please contact:
Craig Drover
709-738-7730
c.drover@StellasCircle.ca

Thank you!

Personal Care Items

(New items only, please & for all adults)

- * Shampoo
- * Conditioner
- * Dry shampoo
- * Hairspray, mousses & gels
- * Hair brushes, combs & accessories
- * Deodorant
- * Razors, shaving creams & gels
- * Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss
- * Soap
- * Body wash
- * Moisturizer & hand lotion
- * Q-tips & tweezers
- * Lip balm
- * Nail care items (clippers, nail file)
- * Face cleanser
- * Make-up remover wipes
- * *Some unscented toiletries would be helpful*

Other Helpful Items

(New items only, please & for all adults)

- * Socks
- * Slippers
- * Underwear (sizes XS – 5X)
- * Pyjama/ pyjama bottoms (sizes XS – 5X)
- * Hats, gloves, mittens, scarves
- * New winter coats & jackets
- * Leggings of all sizes
- * New outdoor footwear
- * Backpacks & reuseable bags
- * Playing cards, games, colouring supplies
- * Movie passes
- * \$5 & \$10 Gift Cards (Dollarama, Sobeys etc)

Blue Christmas Service: Tuesday, December 16 at 7 pm.

A reflective service for those who need extra support or feel blue during the holidays, especially because of a recent death, illness, break up or any other loss.

**St. James United
Church Presents**

Blue Christmas Service

December 16, 2025

7:00pm

**330 Elizabeth Avenue,
St. James United Church**





THE GREAT CHRISTMAS VISIT



The Advent-Christmas season is a great time to connect with loved ones as we share with each other the hope made real in the birth of Jesus. While we visit family and friends, our hearts go out to people who may feel isolated or lonely at this time, especially members of St. James United Church who have trouble getting around or just having a harder time this year.

So...we invite you to take part in our "**Great Christmas Visit**"!

Simply sign up and you will be linked with one of our more senior members. Visit with them at some point between December 1, 2025 and January 6, 2026, extending to them the care of this faith community. Full instructions will be given to help you share this important ministry.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

In addition, if you know someone who would appreciate a visit, please list their name and contact information below.

Name of Person(s) to be visited: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

**Thank you for sharing your gift of time
this Advent-Christmas!**

