

# St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith  
330 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9  
December 25, 2016



This bulletin is dedicated 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.

Minister:	Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Acting Minister of Visitation:	Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray
Organist:	Bob Rose
Soloist:	Jean Rose

**Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.  
Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.**

## Musical Prelude

**Acknowledgement of country and First Peoples**

**Welcome and Life and Work of St. James**

## Entry into the Celebration:

One: May the love that breathes life into all humanity and all of creation

**All: be born in us today. On this Christmas Day may we celebrate the richness and diversity of life.**

## Lighting of the Christmas Candle



## Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: God of creation, shaper of seas and stars of planets and of people

**All: is here with us.**

One: Jesus, born in Bethlehem gurgling, crying, laid in a manger,

**All: is here with us.**

One: Breath of the universe flickering, dancing in the candle flame,

**All: is here with us.**

## A Reflection...

**Opening prayer** (together) On this day of days, loving God, we gather to celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ; born long ago, and still today, Child of the Universe present among us. May we, in the things we do and say, continue to give birth to the presence of the living Christ in our world today and always. Amen.

**Carol:** *Joy to the World*

## Sharing the Peace:

*You are invited to share the peace with your neighbour*

## Celebrating belonging: the Sacrament of Baptism



### The narrative

#### Presentation

#### Promises

**Congregational Promises:** (together, standing as you are able) We stand as witnesses to the commitment this family has made this day. And we pledge ourselves to their support and care as they discover the ways that the Spirit unfolds for them.

#### A New Creed

918

#### Pouring the Water

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:** (together) We acknowledge our responsibility to ensure we use the resources of water well, and make available future resources for our children and their children. We give thanks for the gift of this water. May it be the birthing waters of a new and holy life. Amen.

### The request

#### The baptism

#### Blessing

**Baptismal prayer:** (together) Bless this newly baptised child. May she always know that the Source of all Love lives and comes to unique expression, in her. Bless *Danielle and Mitchell*, may they always show their gratitude for the new life given them by loving and caring for *Lylith*. Bless this faithful people. May we all live in love. And may we continue to draw encouragement from the faith which connects our loving with the mystery we call 'God'. Amen.

#### Baptismal candle

**Baptismal hymn:** *Away in a Manger*

69

### Invitation to the Offering

#### Offering Solo:

Jean Rose

**Offering Hymn:** *to the tune of My Life Flows On*

*Sheep softly bleat, the angels sing, wise men and shepherds seek Him.*

*The greatest gift we have received; a child born in Bethlehem.*

*With grateful and with humble hearts, these gifts we gladly offer,  
to share God's love with all the earth, with Jesus Christ, our Saviour.*

**Offering Presentation:** (together) Loving God, in the birth of Jesus You show your preference for all that is humble and poor. May this mystery save us from illusions of grandeur and power, and lead us to love simplicity of heart, through Christ. Amen.

### Centering Silence

#### Scripture:

Luke 2:8-20

#### Reflections:

How old were the angels?  
Shepherd

#### Carol:

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

67

#### Reflections:

Mary  
Joseph

#### Carol:

*T'was in the Moon of Wintertime*

71

#### Reflection:

I was there

### Prayers of the people

#### Carol:

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

43

#### Parting Words:

One: Mysterious God, confounding our expectations, meeting us where we least expect to find You...

**All: stay with us now.**

One: Child of the manger, healing our pain, sharing our weakness...

**All: stay with us now.**

One: Source of life, birth of God within our own experience...

**All: stay with us now.**

One: Stay with us in our frailty, stay with us on our journey...

**All: walk beside us, live within us, lead us to glory, lead us home.**

### Words of Blessing

#### Ushering this week is provided by:

**Usher in Charge:** Dave Hapgood

**Greeters and Ushers:** Linda Babstock, Kevin Pardy,  
Karen Brown, Jean Thompson