

## St. James United Church

December 8, 2019/Advent 2, Peace/Communion

Minister: Rev. Brian Colbourne  
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM  
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown  
Organist: Amy Dalziel  
Choir: Senior  
Choir Director: Branden Olsen  
Usher in Charge: Clyde Flight  
Greeters and Ushers: Brenda Kelleher-Flight,  
Grace Dean, Leslie Dean,  
Carol Smith, Clifford Smith

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St. James United Church is a safe place for all people to worship, regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background or sexual orientation.

### MUSICAL PRELUDE

### WELCOME

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE:** (One) The Christ Candle reminds us that the light of Christ shines on the road to peace and illuminates our most difficult hours.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Today is the second Sunday of Advent. Today is the day we light a candle for peace.

**All: Peace – much needed in our world!**

One: This is one of the reasons we have come to worship, to bring our longing for peace: for our world, for ourselves and for those we love.

**All: A part of our Advent waiting is waiting for peace. We are waiting to welcome the One who is the Prince of Peace – Jesus.**

**OPENING PRAYER:** (together) Ever-faithful God, once again we continue our journey to Bethlehem. We seek peace, we seek joy, we seek love, but we are not always able to find them. We pray that Your Spirit will fill us with the confident expectation that Your promises will be fulfilled. Help us, as Advent people, to do our part in bringing hope, peace, joy, and love to Your waiting world. Amen.

**HYMN:** *People, Look East*

9

**LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE:** (One) Isaiah spoke of the Wonderful Counsellor, the Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be

endless peace. Let us celebrate our inner peace and seek peace for the world. Let peace embrace creation, winding like a ribbon until it enfolds the earth.

(Light two candles)

**ADVENT VERSE:**

*Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
Giving a promise of safety and worth  
When God is a child there's joy in our song  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
And none shall be afraid.*

**CHILDREN'S TIME, BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**HYMN:** *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

18

**OFFERTORY INVITATION  
OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY CHORUS:** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures high and low;  
Give thanks to God in love made known;  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:** (together) God of Peace, we offer You our gifts, that peace may come to our troubled world. Help us to build peace with justice, wherever our lives touch others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**ANTHEM:** *In the bleak midwinter* by Harold Darke

Choir

**SCRIPTURE:**

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Matthew 3: 1-12

**MEDITATION**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION:** (One) God has opened to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them. Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** (together) Gracious God, we confess our impatience with waiting and our questioning of the wonder of Your love. We want to remember that Jesus taught us that waiting and having faith in You is truly a rewarding way to live our lives, so help us not to rush through this season, but rather to take our time to prepare for Your holy Christmas gift. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**A NEW CREED**

918

**HYMN:** *Bread of Life, Feed My Soul*

MV194

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

(Please follow the congregation communion liturgy.)

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING OF THE CUP**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:** (together) God of great mystery, we have shared in Your feast, not only with those who gather in this place this morning, we also share this Holy Communion with sisters, brothers, and siblings around the world. A range of languages and smiles have praised You, O God, from all around the earth. Unite us to one another. Recommit us to Your cause. May Your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN:** *O Day of God, Draw Nigh*

688

**SENDING FORTH:** (One) In this season filled with waiting, we await the holy child, God, who comes to dwell within us, bringing peace to humankind, God is with us —this we know. Let us spread peace wherever we go.

**BLESSING** followed by **MUSICAL POSTLUDE**

*(Let us share the peace of Christ with each other as we leave.)*

*St. James United Church Life and Work, December 8, 2019*

**We offer our condolences to** Judy Barrett, her family and friends, on the passing of Judy's husband George on November 27. His funeral took place from Barrett's Chapel last Monday. We also offer our condolences to the family of Jessie Oates, whose funeral took place from Carnell's Chapel last Wednesday.

**The white Christmas poinsettia adorning the Sanctuary today** is in loving memory of Nellie & Bill Bishop from their children, Bev, Keith and Karen, and grand-daughter and family, Kara, Stephen, Juliana and Joshua.

**Bethlehem Market thank you!** The organizing committee would like to thank all the people who helped to make the market a success. From the people who donated all the items that we asked for; to the people who looked after the publicity; to the people who got us the animals; to the people that helped set up and clean up; to the people on the stalls; to the servers in the café; to the kitchen staff; to the musicians; the tax collector and everyone else that helped out. Without everyone's support this event could not have happened. It was great to see both the congregation and the community come together to start the advent season. Please mark November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 on your calendar for our next Bethlehem Market. We did raise \$2378.00.

**We gratefully acknowledge the following donations to the General Fund**

in loving honour of Mom's, Ruby Hiscock's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday tomorrow, from her daughter Patsy;

\*in celebration of Ruby Hiscock's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday from Glenn Hiscock.

**We gratefully acknowledge the following donations to the General Fund in loving memory of:**

- \*Helen Crummell, "*a true friend*," from Shirley Bursey;
- \*Helen Crummell from Barbara & Bill Butt;
- \*Ben Lake from Philip Saunders;
- \*George Barrett from Marilyn & Kevin Pardy;
- \*a special friend, Beth Holloway, from Glenn Hiscock;
- \*Jessie Oates from Doug & Joan Bursey;

**We gratefully acknowledge a donation to the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Camp Fund**  
from Susan Pike and Michael Kavanagh.

Financial Update: St. James sincerely thanks our congregation for their ongoing support. To meet our budget, we need average weekly givings of \$3,961. (This includes the weekly PAR contributions.) Givings: November 17: \$3,264 November 24: \$4,585 December 1: \$4,929
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**Poinsettias** will be available for pick-up and sale today in the Fellowship Room following the Services; \$15 per plant. This is a fundraiser towards our Youth participation in Rendez-vous 2020 in Calgary in the summer.

**Youth Ministries' Fundraiser:** Gift wrapping! Take the stress out of Christmas; drop off gifts to the church office during the coming week. Our Youth will wrap, label and even deliver locally for you. The gifts can be picked up on Saturday, December 14, 1-2pm, or at church next Sunday.

**Gifts with Vision catalogues** are available on the coffee table in the office area.

**Important notice:** In 2020, our Contemporary Worship Service will move to Saturday afternoon at 4:30pm, beginning on Saturday, January 4.

**Are you looking to help in some way?** Our Lay Visitation Program Co-ordinator is seeking folks who may be interested in participating in the program. If this area of help speaks to you, please call or email SuAn in the office, and let her know your availability.

**This afternoon at 3pm** in the Sanctuary: Project Grace Semester freewill donation; all welcome!

**Monday, December 9:** Last session for the season: Susan's Sewing Studio continues 3-6pm.

**Tuesday, December 10 at 3:30pm at Pleasant View Towers:** Members of the Men's club and St. James youth will gather at the East Wing of Pleasantview Towers at 3:15 on Tuesday December 10 for Carolling with the residents, 3:30 - 4:30. Other members of the congregation are welcome to join us. It's always a great activity.

**Tuesday, December 10 at 4:30 – 6pm, Project Grace Open House at The Bethany Center** (10 Paton Street - former Manse). Please drop by for some tea, coffee, hot chocolate and sweets, along with a holiday sing a long! Some of our students and teaching artists will be performing, and you'll have the opportunity to see what we've been up to next door!

**Swarovski Starfish Necklaces in Support of Project Grace:** A limited number of Swarovski Starfish necklaces are on hand to help you with your holiday shopping. These beautiful, genuine Swarovski crystal starfish on sterling silver chains make the perfect gift for friends and family. [www.projectgrace.ca](http://www.projectgrace.ca)

**Next Sunday, December 15: \*White Gift Service at 11:** As usual we will be accepting donations of toiletries, small, new household items, mitts, hats and gloves, etc. for Stella's Circle and Thrive (Street Reach).

**\*at 7pm: St. James Christmas Concert:** A varied evening of Christmas music showcasing the musical talents of St. James United Church and the local community. Performers include the St. James Senior Choir; Amy Dalziel, organist; Shelby Marshall, violinist; Gillian Sheppard, flutist; Glenda Winsor, soprano and Project Grace students. A freewill offering will be collected at the door.

**This afternoon:** The Seniors Memory Mug Up, a free and informal story sharing session for seniors at the St. John's Farmers' Market, 245 Freshwater Road.

**This evening:** Candle Light Vigil at 7:30pm at St. Mark's Church, 203 Logy Bay Road to remember those who died by suicide, and to support survivors of suicide loss. Gather in music, poems, prayers and candle lighting. You are invited to bring a framed photograph of your loved one to be displayed during the vigil. All are welcome.

**The United Church bookstore** is seeking volunteers to help with inventory, December 16-20. If you have any time to give, please call Leona Laundry, 1-800-268-3781, ext. 6141. *"More hands make light work."*

**WaterWerks** is collecting donations for their 10th Annual Christmas Diaper Drop. Diapers can be dropped off to Sarah in the Sunday School Class room on Sundays, or during the week you can delivered to 96 LeMarchant Road. You can also donate online at [diaperdrop.ca](http://diaperdrop.ca) All proceeds will be going to the Community Food Sharing Association.

**Please see the Community notice board** outside the Sanctuary for information on more community events.

**Minute for Mission:** Many ministries these days are wondering what they can do to serve young adults. In 2015, a small team of youth and young adult leaders in Southern Ontario met at Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre to envision a resource that could be used by the church to accompany young adults as they discerned questions of vocation and meaningful work. The hope was to create an opportunity for spiritual development that was more advanced than youth confirmation, but more accessible and broad than the discernment process for paid accountable ministry. The Discoverment Process, a seven-session small-group program that brings together young adults finishing high school, or in their 20s, with adult mentors to explore questions of faith in the 21st century, was born out of those conversations. It launched as a free online curriculum in early 2017. With additional funding from Mission & Service via a Vision Fund for Flourishing Ministry Programs' grant, the Discoverment Process is currently developing a workbook for individual use, as well as a series of retreats where young adults can engage with the Discoverment materials over a weekend. Mission & Service supports programs like the Discoverment Process that offer a way for young adults to discern what God is calling them to.

**At this time of the year,** thoughts of our loved ones are never far from our minds. One of the ways we acknowledge this is through the Memory Tree. For a donation of \$5, a colored bulb will be changed to a white one in memory or celebration of a loved one. Deadline: December 16 at 10am The changing of the lights is a beautiful seasonal visible symbol. Even when the tree comes down, the gift continues in the ongoing projects at St. James.

<b><u>Memory Tree Form</u></b>		
Name of person donating:	_____	
In Memory of:	_____	
Address:	Donation:	Env #:
_____	_____	_____

**THE END**