St. James United Church

December 29, 2019/First Sunday after Christmas

Minister: Rev. Brian Colbourne
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown

Organist: Amy Dalziel

Music Group: St. James' Guitar Group

Usher in Charge: Eric King

Greeters and Ushers: Don Blackmore, Ruth Baker, May King,

Robin Bartlett, Paul Walsh

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: I Saw Three Ships

O Come, All Ye Faithful
O Little Town of Bethlehem

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CANDLE: (One) We give thanks for the light of hope. We give thanks for the light of peace. We give thanks for the light of joy. We give thanks for the light of love.

Now let us light the Christ candle as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. The light shines in the darkness. And the darkness has not overcome it.

INTROIT HYMN: Joy to the World 59

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Light shines in shadowed places.

All: Hope abounds where once there was fear.

One: God's chosen one is born into our hearts.

All: We honour the child with gifts of devotion, love and commitment.

One: We worship with gladdened hearts.

All: Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER: (together) Dear God, we gather today to remember the birth of Jesus. Today we celebrate and give thanks that Jesus came into a chaotic world with the message of hope and peace. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME, BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

HYMN: Away in a Manger 69

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERING: Good King Wenceslas Instrumental

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) We thank You, O God, for all Your many gifts to us. Together, as Your family, we welcome Your gifts of hope and peace, joy and love, brought to us in the birth of the Christ child. May we share these gifts generously with all, not only today, but always. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HYMN: Silent Night, Holy Night 67

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13

Isaiah 6: 7-9 Matthew 2: 13-23

GUITAR GROUP SELECTION:

Mary's Little Boy Child Mary's Lullaby

PRAYERS AND LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: Go, Tell It on the Mountain 43

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH: (One) Today, we have engaged; we have perceived; we have received. We know that the response must involve our whole lives. Let us go and be people who proclaim the message of Christmas all year long.

BENEDICTION

MUSICAL POSTLUDE: Christmas in the Harbour

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

Minute for Mission: Our gifts for Mission & Service offer people of The United Church of Canada an opportunity to visit our global partners through the People in Partnership program.

An opportunity to "come and see" our Mission & Service global partners can deepen our understanding of what it means to be in partnership. The People in Partnership program goes deeper, combining the experience of what we are called to be as a United Church, and how we are to live out the greatest commandment of loving one another and loving our neighbours through a program of conversation and integration. Those who have gone on one of the "come and see" experiences have come back changed. The experiences offer a way to see the world with new eyes and a transformed heart. The result is a life-changing view of the world, and Mission & Service as the heart and soul of The United Church of Canada. Opportunities for short-term and longer-term experiences are available. To learn more, visit People in Partnership on The United Church of Canada website, www.united-church.ca

THE END