

St. James United Church

December 15, 2019/Advent 3, Joy/White Gift Sunday

Minister: Rev. Brian Colbourne
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Organist: Amy Dalziel
Choirs: UCW/AOTS
Choirs' Director: Doreen Brown
Usher in Charge: Don Blackmore
Greeters and Ushers: Oliver Wellon, Betty & Melvin Burt,
Kevin & Marilyn Pardy

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: God has called us to be together, in this place, at this time.

All: We come with our whole selves to worship our God who has created and is creating.

One: We are called to wait for the coming of the Christ child.

All: We ready our hearts to receive the gift of joy during this Advent time of waiting.

One: May the Spirit's power move through our worship today.

OPENING PRAYER: (together) God of Advent, today we come with joy in our hearts. We come for the time of celebration, away from the hustle and bustle of our daily lives. As we sing and pray together, may we be filled with joy in the totality of who we are. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN: *On Jordan's Bank*

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LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE:

One: God delights us with wonder and blessing each morning.

All: God brings smiles to our faces and joy to our sleepy souls.

One: Let our delight burst forth with the birth of new life today.

All: Let our candle of joy reflect our desire for inward happiness.
(Light three candles)

ADVENT VERSE:

*Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
Telling the world that the Saviour is born.
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

CHOIRS: *Make Time for Jesus
Where the Young Child Sleeps
On Christmas Day*

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 joy, we thank You for all Your rare and wondrous gifts. As we have received so abundantly, we give as we are able, not only gifts to our families and friends, but also gifts to help Your church and Your world. May our gifts bring joy to all who receive them. Amen.

HYMN: *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* 31

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 35: 1-10

MEDITATION

CHOIRS: *Gentle Mary, Tender Mary
Star of Bethlehem*

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: *Hark the Glad Sound* 29

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

BLESSING followed by **MUSICAL POSTLUDE**
(Let us share the peace of Christ with each other as we leave.)

Minute for Mission: In these times of change, people are asking, “What’s happening with the Mission & Service of the church?” Our congregational and our Mission & Service revenues are both declining quite slowly at this point—two to three percent a year—so we have time to make changes, and we have time to do things differently. The good news is that together we are making important changes, and we are taking the time to do things differently. We are restructuring the four courts of the church to three so that we live within our means. We are clarifying funding, so that assessments will be funding governance and shared services, and Mission & Service donations will be funding purely mission and ministry. We are continuing to keep decisions about the funding of local mission and ministry in local hands, so that regions will be deciding what mission and ministry will be funded in that region, and by that region. We are focusing on finding and trying out new models of being church by funding innovation in congregations through Mission & Service programs such as Embracing the Spirit, the New Ministries Fund, Edge, and the granting programs of The United Church of Canada Foundation. These changes will support the capacity for Mission & Service donations to continue to provide core funding to so much great work that’s been going on across Canada and around the world.

St. James United Church Life and Work, December 15, 2019

We gratefully acknowledge a donation to the General Fund in honour of Mom’s, Ruby Hiscock’s, 101st birthday from son Paul and daughter-in-law Susan.

We gratefully acknowledge a donation to the General Fund in loving memory of Matthew Arklie from grand-parents Albert & Myrna Arklie.

We gratefully acknowledge donations to the General Fund and to the M&S fund from the wonderful ladies of the St. James UCW.

Have you received your special envelopes? Our church bases much of its budget on special collections at Thanksgiving, our Anniversary and Christmas. If you have received these envelopes we encourage you to return them with your regular collection. If you don’t have one let us know and we’ll make arrangements. We sincerely thank everyone for their on-going support!!

Today, after the 11am White Gift Worship Service: Please join us for a soup lunch, hosted by our CE and Stewardship Committees. **Poinsettias** will be available for purchase in the Auditorium at the lunch; \$15 per plant. This is a fundraiser towards our Youth participation in Rendez-vous 2020 in Calgary in the summer. Your White Gift will be donated to Stella’s Circle and Thrive.

This evening in our Sanctuary at 7: St. James Christmas Concert: A varied evening of Christmas music showcasing the musical talents of St. James UC 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.

Saturday, December 21: Winter Solstice Worship and Bonfire at Susan’s house (call for directions) at 7pm. Please bring a mug a flashlight and if needed, a camp chair. Dress warmly! In the event of bad weather, an update will be posted on our Facebook page.

Christmas Eve Family Service: This year we are planning a traditional Christmas Eve service focusing on the family and the birth of Christ. There is sure to be something for all ages. In that regard we are seeking children to dress as angels and/or shepherds. There are no speaking parts and costumes will be available at the church. If you are planning to attend the service (6:30pm) and have children interested in participating, please advise the church office, 722-1881, ext. 200 or email info@stjamesuc.org as soon as possible, but no later than December 23rd at noon. We want to ensure that we have costumes for all interested children.

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

The United Church bookstore is seeking volunteers to help with inventory this week, 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. All donations can be dropped off at 96 LeMarchant Road, or given to Sarah (in Sunday School) All proceeds go to the Community Food Sharing Association. diaperdrop.ca

Broadview magazine is offering special gift subscriptions for only \$20, plus tax. This makes an inspiring gift for family or friends. Contact Barry Cutler for details, newfie_1_ca@yahoo.ca

Remember to NOT keep any valuables in your car, particularly over the holiday season.

Christmas 2019 Memory Tree deadline is tomorrow! Please ensure that the office receives the wording for your contribution.

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

THE END