

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
a dear husband and father, Neil Anthony,
from
wife Pauline and son Conrad.

St. James United Church

December 22, 2019/Advent 4, Love

Minister:	Rev. Brian Colbourne
Minister of Youth/Christian Education:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Organist:	Amy Dalziel
Choir:	Senior Choir
Choir Director:	Branden Olsen
Soloists:	Andie Winsor, Glenda Winsor
Usher in Charge:	Jack Head
Greeters and Ushers:	Oliver Wellon, Eric King, Betty Pilgrim, Ruby & Aubrey Hill

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 is with us, guides us along on our journey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLO: *Nachtwanderer* Andie Winsor
by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Prepare the way of the Lord.

All: In the wilderness of our minds, in the desert of our hearts, we clear a way for our God.

One: Shout Good News so that all may hear:

All: Our God is coming!

OPENING PRAYER: (together) God, we long for You to be with us — not as an echo from the distant past, not as a rumour spread by wishful thinkers, not as the substance

of someone else's faith, but as a presence strong and real. Be with us and help us to reflect the presence of Christ in the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, verses 1-3 60

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE:

One: As the morning sun separates the horizon, night from day, light from shadows,

All: we assemble to hear the ancient story told again this year,

One: a story of God's love burning brightly in a waiting world;

All: a spark of new life that unites us with God's love.

(Light the four candles)

ADVENT VERSE:

*Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart.
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.*

HYMN: *A Candle Is Burning* 6

CHILDREN'S TIME, BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERING SOLO: *Christmas Time is Here* Glenda Winsor
from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

OFFERTORY CHORUS: *In the Bleak Midwinter, v. 4* 55

*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.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (together) Loving and gracious God, we offer these gifts in anticipation of the gift of Christ to our lives and our life together. May they be used that others might hear the story, and feel the Love that we know in the coming of Christ. Amen.

ANTHEM: *Silent Night, Holy Night* Choir

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 7: 10-16
 Matthew 1: 18-25

MEDITATION

HYMN: *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* 44

PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* 1

SENDING FORTH: (One) Advent challenges us to change, to turn ourselves around, to reach out with mercy, forgiveness, and love. Let us go forth with an open heart, ready to respond in our community and in our world. Amen.

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

Minute for Mission: Rhonda Johns, Program Coordinator of Nations Uniting on the Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation in Ohsweken, Ontario, engages with a lot of seniors, many of whom are residential school survivors, and with youth who don’t know who they are and where they belong. Observing this intergenerational dynamic, she realized that many on the reserve needed to experience healing. She asked herself what she could do. The answer came to her in the form of the *Reclaiming Our Path* program. It helps youth and young adults understand who they are, and how behaviours learned from the families raising them, peers and the community, impact who they are. Using an Indigenous framework and traditional teachings, individuals and families now have an opportunity to reframe who they are, and begin to walk a new path toward a future of hope. *Reclaiming Our Path* is a way to create healthy, future leaders.

St. James United Church Life and Work, December 22, 2019

We offer our condolences to Mary Wiseman, her family and friends, on the passing of Mary’s beloved husband, Eugene, on December 16. His funeral took place from Caul’s Chapel last Friday.

Message of Thanks: Merry Christmas from the Staff, Board of Directors and Volunteers of Bridges to Hope Food Aid Center. “*The generosity of your congregation’s food and financial donations is the backbone of the important work we do, and allows us to relieve hunger and restore dignity in our community.*”

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:

****to the General Fund in loving memory of:**

- * father Captain Walter Blackwood, from Lorna Jamieson;
- * father Gilbert Hiscock, brother Gil and sister Lona from Patsy.

****to the Cemetery Fund in loving memory of:**

- * parents Edison & Cassandra Butt, Clyde & Gladys Heath, and brother John Heath from Samuel & Brenda Butt;

*Fred Higdon from his wife Claire and family.

****to Bridges To Hope in loving memory of:**

*Bill Coish from Daphne;

*Nicole Fortier from Uncle Cal;

*grand-daughter Nicole Fortier from Hope Mercer.

****to the Memorial Fund in loving memory of Helen Crummell from the St. James' UCW.**

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: December 1: \$4,929 December 8: \$6,714 December 15: \$4,940
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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: Poinsettias are available for purchase, \$15 per plant.

Christmas Eve Family Service: Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30pm. Please join us for 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 and have children interested in participating, please advise the church office, 722-1881, ext. 200 or email info@stjamesuc.org by tomorrow, December 23rd, at noon. We want to ensure that we have costumes for all interested children.

Christmas Eve Service: St. James encourages members of the congregation to sit in the front choir pews and help lead the congregational hymns. All ages and abilities welcome - there will be no anthem and no rehearsal - simply take a seat at the front a few minutes before the service begins.

Contemporary Worship Services have now ended for 2019. Beginning Saturday, January 4, 2020, the Service will move to Saturday afternoons at 4:30pm.

WaterWerks Annual Christmas Diaper Drop to 96 LeMarchant Road, or to Sarah (in Sunday School). 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.

Making last minute contributions over the Christmas period:

The office will be open at the following times:

December 23 and 24: 9.30am – 3:30pm December 25, 26: closed

December 30 and 31: 10am-3pm

If you wish to make a contribution outside of these hours, there is a secure mail box (lock box) for your use to the right of the exterior office door.

The financial year end is December 31.

THE END