

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

330 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9



The people of St. James United Church are eternal seekers who value diversity within our congregation, our city, and all of society. We affirm each person's uniqueness and believe that all persons deserve to be valued, treated with equity, and respected. We are all children of God, walking many paths of spirituality.

Further, we proudly and publicly declare our commitment to practice radical hospitality and strive in every way to provide a safe and supportive place for all persons to participate in the worship and work of our church.

Guided by the teachings of Jesus, we embrace all persons, regardless of creed, race, age, ability, economic status, cultural and ethnic background, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or any other difference that has led to marginalization or oppression.

This Bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of:

John Harvey Butt

November 7, 1921 - November 26, 2005

From daughters and sons-in-law, Glenda and Glenn Winsor,
Gloria and Keith Le Feuvre and grandson Joel Le Feuvre

This Bulletin is dedication in loving memory of Parents:
Captain Peter & Mrs. Olive Parsons, and Sister Susan Bishop
From Brenda Newton, Heidi Janes, and Jean Babstock

November 27, 2022 – First Sunday of Advent

Leading Worship Today: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel and the Pop-up Choir
Ushers: Michelle and Wayne Skinner, Susan Pike,
Marilyn Adams, and Jean Thompson

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME

We extend words of greeting in M'ikmawi'simk, Tamil and Spanish.

INTROIT: "Hope Is a Star" (*Voices United 7, verse 1*)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who steward it and pledge to be a safer and inclusive space for everyone.

CENTERING SONG: "Joyful is the Dark" (*VU 284, v 4 & 5*)

HONOURING THE GIFT OF DARKNESS

We acknowledge the lengthening night with a time of quiet reflection.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 1: God of the night, we light the first candle of Advent.

(A member of a family lights the first candle.)

Reader 2: We kindle it with hope. We give thanks for long nights, for time to ponder the past and plan for the future, but we need for the sun to rise each morning with the bright hope of a new day.

Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah spoke of such a morning, when the day would dawn, and a child would usher in God's reign of justice, harmony, compassion and love. This Advent, we pray for that day.

All : Creator of day and night, we pray this Advent that your grace may dawn in our hearts. May we know more clearly all that keeps us from living your way, the path revealed through the coming of your Holy Child. In his name we pray. Amen.

HYMN: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (*Voices United 1, v 1, 2, 4, 7*)

We Share

OUR LIFE AND WORK

We acknowledge the connection between our work and worship.

OFFERTORY: "In the Bleak Midwinter" (*Voices United 55 v. 4*)

**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

We dedicate our offerings to the work of God's love and justice. Tax receipts issued at year-end if donor's name and address are provided.

We Listen

LEARNING TOGETHER

We explore themes of the day in a manner that is accessible to all ages.

HYMN: "All Earth Is Waiting" (*Voices United 5*)

PRAYER OF AWAKENING

ANTHEM: "Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old"

DRAMATIC READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

SCRIPTURE READING: Galatians 4:4-7

MESSAGE: "Waiting with Hope"

We Respond

HYMN: "O Day of Peace" (*Voices United 682*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We name our concerns both locally and globally and commit ourselves to respond with compassion and a desire for peace in our world.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*based on the original Aramaic*):

Radiant One: your Name shines within us, outside us - even darkness shines in you. Create your reign now, that your one desire acts with ours, as in all light so in all things. Grant what we need each day in bread and insight. Forgive our hidden past, our secret shames, as we forgive what others hide. Keep us from forgetfulness, the temptation of false appearances and free us to walk your path with light and joy. For from you arises every vision; to you returns the birthing glory of the cosmos. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "Hark the Glad Sound" (*Voices United 29*)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: Go forth with hope: the One we call Emmanuel is coming!

All: We go, blessed in the knowledge that he is here!

POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

Lead Minister:	James Ravenscroft, OM
Youth/Christian Education Minister:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Associate Music Director:	Bob Rose
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Office Administrator:	Stephanie Harnum
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

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