



St. James United Church



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

Celebration of Worship for December 1, 2024



The people of St. James United Church are eternal seekers who value diversity within our congregation, 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.

In Loving Memory of a Cherished Mother
Roma Paul
(November 30, 1938 - April 27, 2013)
From: Nancy & Anthony
Your kind and loving ways personified the Christmas spirit.
You are always in our hearts.

In Loving Memory of:
Wilf Snelgrove
(November 13, 1937 to November 26, 2021)
From Wife Sylvia, Daughters Erna, Lyne and Families.
Forever loved and remembered.

December 1, 2024 – First Sunday of Advent

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft,
Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir
Ushering: Bill Pike, Cindy Pike, Marilyn Adams,
Susan Pike and Jean Thompson

*Please rise as you are able where there is an * in the service.
Print in **bold** indicates that the portion is read or sung by everyone.*

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME; LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We share greetings in Inuktitut, French & Lingala, and give thanks for the land upon which we gather as we commit to be an inclusive community.

SHARING OF PEACE

INTROIT: “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Calling”

OPENING POEM: From *Burnham’s Celestial Handbook*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

1. As we look toward the night sky and see the sparkle of stars set against the black of infinite space, we can feel so small, unsure, and in our fear close ourselves to a deeper presence.

2. Or we can feel a sense of awe, still uncertain but trusting that despite not knowing what's to come, hope still shines in the night.

REFRAIN: “We Wait for God” (Words: William S. Kervin, 2023; Music: Deborah Park and Tom Reynolds, 2023)

We wait for God, creation longs to see a new day dawn. And though the night is dark and deep we dare to sing our song. We wait for God, creation longs, we dare to sing our song.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, in the dawning of Advent, awaken us to signs of your presence and calling. Be with us in your grace, that we may hear messages of your promise with anticipation rather than doubt, may receive your invitation to be your messengers with confidence and hope. We pray in the name of the one who comes, your promised Emmanuel. Amen.

* **HYMN:** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (VU 1, v1,2, 6 and 7)

We Share in Love

OUR LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY: *There are many ways to give to St. James. You can place an offering in the plate, scan the QR code on the left, contribute via PAR, website (www.stjamesuc.org), e-transfer (email treasurer@stjamesuc.org), mail to the church office or drop in our secure mailbox. In whatever way you choose to give, the community is grateful.*



* **HYMN:** “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.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

We Listen and Respond

MARKING WORLD AIDS DAY

We pause to pray for all those who are impacted by HIV and AIDS, lighting candles in memory of those who have died, in prayer for those of us who are living with the virus, and all who are seeking a cure.

* **HYMN:** "Bathe Me In Your Light" (*More Voices* 82, v 1 and 3)

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
Jeremiah 33:14-16; and Luke 1:5-25

ANTHEM: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (*traditional, German*)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

* **HYMN:** "O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts" (*Voices United* 472)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: Jesus came to bring God's hope and peace to the world.

All: In table fellowship may we know his joy and his love.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God is here.

God is within and around us.

Open your hearts.

We gladly open them to God.

Let us give thanks.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

It is good to praise you, God of promise, as we gather on this Advent morning. We thank you for Jesus: born in Bethlehem, proclaimed by the Baptizer, bearer of good news for the world.

All: We give thanks too for the words of prophets, for the courage of Mary and Joseph, for the song of the angels.

With them we raise our own voices in praise:

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest

heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and sings your name always!

God of hope we give thanks, for the child born to us did not stay in a manger but grew in wisdom and announced your reign. He grew up to heal the tormented, confront the powers, and make present your mercy. Arrested for his witness to your truth, he was put to death; in fulfillment of your promise, you raised him to life.

We give thanks for his birth long ago; for his life of hope and teachings of love, teachings lived out profoundly at table.

He embodied these teachings on the night before he died. Gathered with his friends, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them saying, "This is my body, given for you."

In the same way he took a cup at the end of the meal, and after blessing it, gave it to them saying, "This is a sign of the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you do this, remember me."

God of peace, we remember as we gather around this table, open to your presence as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Sing Christ has died & Christ is risen, Christ will come again! Sing Christ has died & Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

God of wisdom, open our hearts to the presence of your Spirit flowing within us and through these gifts. As you touched Mary and Jesus with Spirit's breath, so fill us with your power.

Renew us through this holy meal and send us pregnant with your grace to bear your love to the world.

Holy One we give you praise. Creator God, we praise you, through Your Word made flesh, in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

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. 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace, we thank you for love revealed in Mary's child, experienced anew through bread and wine. Strengthen us as your Advent people, sharing the gift of your love. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

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

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: Go forth in hope, waiting for the One we call Emmanuel!

All: We go, blessed in the assurance that God is with us!

POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

Chair of Council:	Michelle Skinner
Minister:	Rev. James Ravenscroft
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Associate Music Director	Bob Rose
Office Administrator	Stephanie Harnum
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

Office: 722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;
Emergency Cellphone: 709-351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC



@StJamesUCNL



@StJamesUnited



@stjamesuc

All worship services at St. James are Live Streamed via video for our online congregation. By participating in this service, you acknowledge that you may be visible on live broadcast or archived video. If you are uncomfortable about the possibility of appearing on video, please speak to an usher who can seat you in an area not visible on camera. You may also speak to Rev. James after the service if you have concerns. All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced/ broadcast under ONE LICENSE. License #: #A-700000.

Life and Work - December 1, 2024

We accept the following donation to the General Fund:

* In loving memory of a loving Husband, Father and Grandfather Donald Bartlett from the family.

Tune into VOWR: Today's service will be rebroadcast on VOWR this evening at 7:00 pm. We welcome all those worshipping in person, watching via livestream, and those listening this morning.

Financial Update: Here is an update to October 31, 2024.

Revenue	\$201,598
Expenses	255,967
Net Loss	\$54,369

Some of you have been asking why we are not using the Funds to pay out bills. Unfortunately, the Funds are restricted, and we cannot use them. They have certain guidelines, and we have to stand by those.

Christmas Envelopes: With the Canada Post strike, we are not able to mail out the Christmas Envelopes. Please put your contribution in an envelope and mark Christmas on it. You can either drop it off to the church any time and place in our secure lock box, bring it to church on Sunday morning, e-transfer to treasurer@stjamesuc.org, use the donate button on the church's website or please call the church office 709-722-1881 and leave your name and address and we will get someone to drop by and pick it up.

Looking For: Our IT team is looking for a 32" TV and mount to help with our ongoing upgrades. If you have a newer model TV available, in excellent working condition, for donation please reach out to Susan Pike. susanpike@warp.nfld.net or 709-685-5613

A New Spot to Find Information: Looking for information about upcoming events, to sign up for volunteer opportunities, or learn about important issues? We are putting up an Information Area in the foyer. It will be a one stop for information of all kinds, a spot to help us improve the flow of communication at St. James.

Upcoming Taizé Prayer Service: This coming Wednesday (Dec. 4) from 6:30 to 7:15 pm. A time of readings, singing and silent reflection. This monthly service is a wonderful way to just be with God and each other in a spirit of quiet and calm, so needed right now.

Looking for Volunteers to assist Rev. James with Worship: Beginning in the new year, we are looking to have people to assist Rev. James in leading parts of the worship service like the welcome, announcements, some prayers. These portions are prepared ahead of time by Rev. James. Training will be provided for those who are interested in helping in this way. For more information or to volunteer, email Rev. James at james@stjamesuc.org.

Advent Perspectives: Do you want to spiritually prepare yourself for Christmas this year? Why not gather in small groups and prayerfully reflect together on the readings for each Sunday of Advent? At the beginning of each week, we will send out an email with readings and questions to prompt your reflection and discussion. Reach out to some friends and together make room for Christ to be born in your hearts.

Silent Vigils for Peace, December 11 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm: Beginning on December 11, St. James will be hosting a monthly silent vigil for peace. Given the many conflicts in our world, especially as we enter the second year of the war between Israel and Hamas, we all need a place to just sit together in prayer. This is to be a no-taking-sides event, and so we ask people not to bring signs, or wear clothes with slogans, or to engage in conversation about one issue or another. This is a place of silent solidarity with all the people who are suffering because of our addiction to aggression and violence, seen especially in the bloodshed and destruction in Gaza, in the ongoing captivity of hostages from Israel, in war and violence in other places in our world. Let's come together and prayerfully hold the world in love and a desire for peace.

Blue Christmas Service: December 17 at 7 pm. A reflective service for all who feel blue during the holidays, especially because of a recent death, illness, break up or any other loss.

Baking Spirits Bright Bake Sale: Don't have time to bake your Christmas cookies, cakes or treats? Let us help you out! On Sunday, December 15th directly after the worship service we will be hosting a Christmas Bake sale, including breads, cookies, homemade fudge and

more. Lunch we will be serving, baked beans, soup, hot dogs and sweets for a free-will offering. We are asking for donations of soup, chile, rolls and sweets. Please contact Jean at treasurer@stjamesuc.org, speak with one of the ushers on Sunday or email/call the church office at info@stjamesuc.org or 709-722-1881 ext 200. We hope to see you all there. We are accepting donations for the bake sale on Saturday evening Dec 14th from 4 - 6 pm. All donations are welcome.

Also, if you or someone you know has a prepared food business, we invite you to rent your own table at the sale for \$25 (per table) to sell your own goodies. (for example selling bread, preserves, sauces or make your own cookies kits, etc.)

St. James Calendar: 2025 Calendars are available to purchase. If you wish to buy one, please contact the office during regular business hours. The cost is \$20.

English-as-a-Second (or Another) Language Conversation Café: Are you a newcomer -- or do you know a newcomer -- whose first language is not English and who needs help learning and improving their knowledge of it to speak it? The Social Action group, in partnership with Teachers on Wheels, have enough volunteers to start a weekly, informal, conversation café-style session to give immigrants an opportunity to learn and to practice. We are looking for interested participants to start in mid-December or early January. Dates & times will be determined based on polling participants' availability. If interested, please e-mail robinbartlett1224@gmail.com, or leave a message with the church office: 722-1881 ext. 200. Thank you!

Topsail United Fall Craft and Bake Sale: Topsail United Church will be hosting a Fall Craft & Bake Sale on Saturday November 30 from 10 until 1 P.M. All are Welcome.

White Gift Sunday: It's the time of year for generosity and giving to those in need. As usual, St. James is collecting donations for Stella's Circle's clients! Donations can be made to St. James United Church Office. We will bring to Stella's Circle directly. White Gift Sunday will be on December 8th.
(See list of items needed below)



Christmas Wish List

Household Items

(New items only, please!)

- * Dishes
- * Non sticks pots & frying pans
- * Cutlery & utensils
- * Cutting board
- * Kettle
- * Toaster
- * Reusable food storage containers
- * Aluminium foil, plastic wrap
- * Dish cloths & pot cloths
- * Cups, mugs & glasses
- * Baking sheets
- * Dish racks
- * Casserole dishes
- * Can openers
- * Colander
- * New bed sheets (twin & double)
- * New blankets & pillows
- * New bath towels, hand towels & face cloths
- * Mops, buckets, brooms
- * Garbage bags
- * Household cleaners, rubber gloves
- * Laundry detergent & dryer sheets
- * Paper towels & toilet paper
- * Dish liquid
- * Light bulbs, batteries, candles
- * Reusable water bottles
- * New throw blankets
- * Alarm clocks

Gifts should be new & remain unwrapped.

Please package in reusable bags for delivery no heavier than 20 pounds for the safety of staff.

Donations can be delivered to:

Employment Services
114 Cabot Street, St. John's
Mon-Fri, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Housing Services
84 Prescott Street, St. John's
Mon – Fri, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Emmanuel House
83 Cochrane Street, St. John's
Mon – Sun, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Monetary Donations:
Stella's Circle Foundation
142 Military Road
St. John's, NL A1C 2E6

Questions? Please contact:
Craig Drover
709-738-7730
c.drover@StellasCircle.ca

Personal Care Items

(New items only, please & for all adults)

- * Shampoo
- * Conditioner
- * Dry shampoo
- * Hairspray, mousses & gels
- * Hair brushes, combs & accessories
- * Deodorant
- * Razors, shaving creams & gels
- * Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss
- * Soap
- * Body wash
- * Moisturizer & hand lotion
- * Q-tips & tweezers
- * Lip balm
- * Nail care items (clippers, nail file)
- * Face cleanser
- * Make-up remover wipes
- * *Some unscented toiletries would be helpful*

Other Helpful Items

(New items only, please & for all adults)

- * Socks
- * Slippers
- * Underwear (sizes XS – 5X)
- * Pyjama/ pyjama bottoms (sizes XS – 5X)
- * Hats, gloves, mittens, scarves
- * New winter coats & jackets
- * Leggings of all sizes
- * New outdoor footwear
- * Backpacks & reuseable bags
- * Playing cards, games, colouring supplies
- * Movie passes
- * \$5 & \$10 Gift Cards (Dollarama, Sobeys etc)

Thank you!