



Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft  
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and Senior Choir  
Ushering: Skyler Simpson, Michelle & Wayne Skinner,  
Jennifer Tremblett, Amy Claire Neary, Marilyn Adams,  
Jean Thompson & Susan Pike

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*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 AND SHARING OF CHRISTMAS PEACE**

**INTROIT:** "Still, Still, Still" (*Voices United 47 v1*)

**POEM:** "Do You Think That Night Was Quiet" by Frances McNiven

### **CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHTING**

*One:* Each Sunday of Advent we lit a candle, the growing light a reminder of the dawn that comes to the world in Jesus' birth.

*Two:* A reminder that in him God's new day has come, a day of hope, and of love set loose in the world, set loose in our hearts.

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

**We worship God, the people pray that love will cast out fear. We wait and watch and work to see the Day of God draw near. We worship God, the people pray, the Day of God is near.**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**Holy God, we gather tonight in hopeful anticipation!**

**In the birth of Jesus, we experience the dawn of a new day.**

**As we pray together, may our hearts open to this promise,  
the light of your loving grace born in every heart.**

**We pray in the name of the One whose birth we honour. Amen.**

**CAROL:** "O Come All Ye Faithful" (*VU 60, 1, 3 and 4*)

## **We Share in Love**

**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](http://www.stjamesuc.org)), e-transfer (email [treasurer@stjamesuc.org](mailto: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.*



**CAROL:** “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**

## **READINGS AND CAROLS**

**First Testament:** Isaiah 9:1-2, 4 and 6-7

**Anthem:** “The Angel Gabriel” (Traditional Basque Carol)

**Gospel (Part 1):** Luke 2:1-7

**Carol:** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (*Voices United 58*)

**Gospel (Part 2):** Luke 2:8-14

**Carol:** “Angels We have Heard on High” (*Voices United 38*)

**Gospel (Part 3):** Luke 2:15-19

## **REFLECTION**

**CAROL:** “What Child is This” (*Voices United 74*)

## **WELCOMING ALL TO THE TABLE**

Jesus’ birth was a gift of hope to the world. We experience that same hope this night, for he is present, bringing us peace.

**He is with us as we share in table fellowship. As we break bread and share the cup, may we know his love and his joy.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

God is here.

Open your hearts.

Let us give thanks.

**God is within and all around us.**

**We gladly open them to God.**

**It is good to give thanks and praise.**

It is good to give thanks Holy One. On this night our hearts are filled with joy. Your love is revealed in the birth of your Promised Child, swaddled in cloth and lying in a manger! Like shepherds keeping watch while an angel appears to announce this coming, all we can do is echo their song of praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of hosts, all praise be given!  
All your glory fills the earth; all your power fills the heavens.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Blessed is the one who came,  
bringing love and light divine.  
Blessed is the one who comes through this meal of bread and wine.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

*(Sing to tune for "Angels We Have Heard on High")*

We give thanks for this child grew in wisdom and went on to announce your saving reign, proclaiming your hope in word and deed as he healed the sick, confronted the comfortable, revealed your mercy and love to a needy world. He embodied this love on the night before he died, when at table he took bread and offered you thanks. Then he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body, given for you." Likewise he took the cup and offered you thanks. Then he gave it to them, saying, "This is a sign of the new covenant in my blood. Do this in memory of me."

Holy One, we obey your Son's command. We celebrate his birth, give thanks for his life, proclaim his death and resurrection as we wait in hope for the coming of his kingdom.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. (x2)**

*(Sing to the tune of "What Child Is This")*

Made one with him, we offer these gifts and ourselves, praying that you may send your Spirit upon them both, that they may be our sharing in Christ and we may grow in his likeness. May we too reveal your mercy and love with all in need of it, especially those who are far from home seeking shelter, children who do not even have a manger to sleep in, any who live in fear of oppression and so hunger for justice and thirst for your peace. Nourished by this sacred meal, may we like shepherds share your saving word.

Holy One we offer praise: through your Word made flesh, in the power of your life-giving Spirit, all glory is yours, forever and ever.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen. (x2)**

*(Sing to the tune of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly")*

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS** (*Voices United* p. 918)

## SHARING COMMUNION

We break the bread of life,  
**and that life is the light of the world.**  
We share the fruit of the vine,  
**love poured out that all may live.**

*Everyone is welcome to receive communion. A gluten free option is available for those with a gluten allergy. The 'wine' is non-alcoholic. For those who need to stay seated, someone will bring communion to them. During communion the choir will sing "All Poor Ones, and Humble".*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Holy and Saving God, we celebrate the gift of your grace in the birth of Jesus. In him your love is extended to all people. May this meal strengthen us to be messengers of his mercy in the world. We pray in the name of Jesus-Emmanuel. Amen.**

### We Leave to Serve

**SHARING OF LIGHT:** "Silent Night" (*Voices United 67*)

## CHRISTMAS LITANY

## BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

Our waiting is over. The One we call Emmanuel has been born! Let us go forth with love in our hearts to share this good news!

**We go, blessed to share God's blessing to the world!**

**CAROL:** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (*Voices United 43*)

## POSTLUDE

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### St. James United Church

Lead Minister:	James Ravenscroft
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Associate Music Director:	Bob Rose
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
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Wishing you a very safe, healthy, and blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Staff and Council here at St. James United Church.

**We accept the following donation to the Memorial Fund:**

\* In Loving Memory of Dot and Dave Hapgood, Joanne Hapgood and Bethany Pike from Cathy and Luke Grenning

**We accept the following donations to the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Camp Fund:**

\* In Loving memory of Bethany. Love Susan, Stephen, Rebecca and Kyle

\* In memory of Bethany Danielle Pike from Susan L. Pike and Michael Kavanagh

**We accept the following donation to the Memorial Fund:**

\* In Memory of loving parents: Dot and Dave Hapgood, Olive & Roy Pike.

**We accept the following donations to the Maintenance Fund:**

\* In Memory of Daughter, Kimberley Renee; Parents Chesley and Mary Granter and Leah and Lewis Bursey, and Brother Gordon Bursey, from Doug and Joan Bursey and family.

\* In Memory of Bethany Pike, Andrew Winsor, Nicloe Fortier and Blair Tulk From Doug and Joan Bursey and family

\* In Memory of James B. Marshall from Doug and Joan Bursey

**Christmas Office Closure:** A reminder that the church office is closed until the morning of January 2nd.

**Preparing for December 29:** Do you have a nativity set at home that is unique or holds special memories for you? Bring to the church on December 29 and if you are comfortable, set it up in the sanctuary. As part of worship that day, there will be time in the service for people to look at different nativities and share about them.

**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.

**Bridges to Hope:** Bridges To Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month. Of course, this item, and other non-perishable food items, can be given any other Sunday as well. These items are staples in the food hampers distributed and will go a long way to ensuring that hampers can be filled.

The suggested item(s) for December 2024, especially useful for Bridges to Hope - Canned Meat. Other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated!

Thank you for your support!

**St. James Christmas Worship Services:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas Service - December 29 @ 11AM