



**St. James United Church: St. John's, NL  
Christmas Eve Family Service**



In loving memory of  
**Ceanne Butt, R.N.**  
*(January 23, 1953 – December 27, 2009)*  
from sisters-in-law Glenda Winsor  
and Gloria

In loving memory of:  
**Adolphe Penney, loving husband**  
Love Minnie Penney

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Amy Dalziel,  
Andi Winsor, Joel LeFeuvre, Leah Kirk and Riley Ford.  
Ushers: Shane & Melanie Seal, Griffin, Quentin, Callia &  
Lachlan Seal, 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 & SHARING OF CHRISTMAS PEACE**

**POEM:** "Godbursts" by Ann Weems (*Kneeling in Bethlehem*)

**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**

**ANTHEM:** “Glory” (Matt Maher)

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Isaiah 52:7-10

## **THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN FOUR PARTS**

*You are invited to participate in the telling of the story based on which of six different symbols you were given as you came into the church.*

**Part 1:** Based on Luke 2:1-5

**Carol:** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (Voices United 64)

**Part 2:** Based on Luke 2:6-7

**Carol:** “Jesus Our Brother” (Voices United 56)

**Part 3:** Based on Luke 2:8-16

**Carol:** “Away in a Manger” (Voices United 69)

**Part 4:** Based on Luke 2:17-19

**SOLO:** "Christmas Lullaby"

## **REFLECTION ON THE STORY**

**CAROL:** "What Child Is This" (*Voices United 74*)

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS**

**Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **We Leave to Serve**

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

### **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 in the knowledge that God is truly with us!**

**CAROL:** "Joy to the World" (*Voices United 59*, v. 1, 2 and 4)

## **POSTLUDE**

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### **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

**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