



St. James United Church
330 Elizabeth Ave,
St. John's, NL



Celebration of Worship for December 29, 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.

December 29, 2024 – First Sunday of Christmas

Leading Worship: Clyde Flight, Amy Dalziel,
Bob Rose and Jean Rose

Ushering: Gerry & Kim Mayo, Marilyn Adams,
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

*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

WELCOME; LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We give thanks for the land as we commit to be inclusive of everyone.

SHARING OF PEACE

* **CAROL:** “Angels from the Realm of Glory” (*Voices United* 36)

OPENING POEM: “It is not over” by Ann Weems

CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHTING

As we continue to celebrate Christmas, we do so in the glow of God’s light, a light of love made known in Jesus’ birth.

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 today with hope and with joy!

In the birth of Jesus, your light has dawned.

**As we worship together, may we rest in its warmth,
your loving grace joining together every heart.**

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

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), 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

CAROL FEST

We join together in singing some of our favourite carols.

READING: Luke 2:15-19

SHARED MEDITATION

Like Mary pondering the words of the shepherds, we reflect on the Christmas story, especially as rendered in various nativity scenes. Those who wish may share about the scenes that they brought.

READING: Luke 2:22-40

SOLO: “Mary, Did You Know”

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

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: “Go Tell it on the Mountain” (*Voices United* 43)

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: 351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



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