

St. James United Church

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

Celebration of Worship for January 5, 2025



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

Remembering Bethany's Birthday

January 8th

Love you forever

Stephen, Susan, Rebecca and Kyle

January 5, 2025, Epiphany Sunday (Last Sunday of Christmas)

Leading Worship & Music: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Amy Dalziel, David Kelleher-Flight, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir

Ushering: Guy & Julie Hollett, Marilyn Adams & 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

WELCOME; LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We share greetings in Innu-aimun, French and Portuguese, and give thanks for the land upon which we gather as we commit to be inclusive.

SHARING OF PEACE: *We greet others while also conscious of their comfort with touch. This time is concluded with a choral introit.*

INTROIT: "Arise, Your Light is Come" (*Voices United 79 v. 1*)

OPENING POEM: "The Magi" by Malcolm Guite

CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHTING

As we conclude our celebration of Christmas, we pray the glow of God's light revealed in Jesus' birth may continue to shine in us..

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 here.

OPENING PRAYER

God of Promise, let your Spirit burn in our hearts;

And let your love glow brightly in our world.

**May the light Jesus brings shine in our hearts,
a sign that we are all God's Beloved.**

We pray in the name of the One whose birth we celebrate.

Amen.

* **HYMN:** "As with Gladness Men of Old" (*Voices United 81*)

We Share in Love

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

Solo: "O Holy Night" by David Kelleher-Flight

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*

Isaiah 60:1-5; and Luke 2:41-52

ANTHEM: "The First Noel" / *Pachelbel's Canon arr – M. Clawson*

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

* **HYMN:** "In the Darkness Shines the Splendour" (*Voices United 92*)

WELCOMING ALL TO THE TABLE

Jesus' birth was a gift of hope to the world. We experience that hope as we pray together, 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.

God is within and all 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 give thanks Holy One. On this day our hearts are filled with joy. Your love is revealed in the birth of your Promised Child, a gift not only to his own people but to all the nations. Like the star that appeared to magi from the east, he revealed the light of your wisdom and love to a world in need of both. And so we now join the angels and echo their song of wonder and 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. Nourished by this sacred meal, may we have the courage to find a different road to travel, one leading to the fullness of your reign of peace.

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

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 as messengers of his mercy in the world. We pray in the name of Jesus, your holy child. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

* **HYMN:** "Will You Come and See the Light" (*Voices United* 96)

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

The One we call the Light of the World has been born for us!
So let us go with love in our hearts to share this good news!
We go, blessed in the knowledge God leads us on our way!

POSTLUDE

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



@StJamesUCNL



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WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

Life and Work - January 5, 2025

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

* Remembering Bethany's Birthday - January 8th. Love you forever: Stephen, Susan, Rebecca and Kyle.

We accept the following donations to the Memorial Fund:

* In loving memory of my dear Husband, Ben Hicks from Dorcus

* In memory of Clayton Humphries from his Wife Ethel, Sons Paul, Dwight and Jennifer

We accept the following donations to the Memory Tree:

* In memory of Sandra Blackwood-Sullivan and Evelyn Blackwood from Donna Blackwood

* In memory of Parents Adelaide & Harold Ross, Sarah & Louis Taylor; Husband Clyde Taylor and Son Brian Taylor

Upcoming Power Outage on Sunday, January 12: There is a neighbourhood wide power outage scheduled for Sunday, January 12 from 7 am to 3 pm. This clearly impacts our regular church service. We will broadcast a recorded service on that day so stay in your pj's and worship from home.

Opportunities to Share Your Talents in 2025: As you think about the coming year, consider as well how you may share your gifts at St. James. There are many ways we can do so including some vacant positions on our council.

These are:

- Vice Chair of Council
- Chair of Finance
- Chair of Trustees
- Secretary of Council
- March 2025 - Council Chair

For other possibilities, be sure to check our new bulletin board where volunteer opportunities are listed. As we move into this New Year, please consider offering your talents to support the future and growth of our congregation. Wishing you all the blessings in this New Year.

Michelle Skinner, Chair of St. James Council

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.

Taizé Prayer Service: Normally held on the first Wednesday of the month, this coming Taizé service will be on January 8th immediately following the silent prayer vigil, from 6:30PM to 7:15PM.

