

Saint James United Church

December 23rd, 2018, Fourth Sunday in Advent

120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7M1H1

Phone: 328-6114 Fax: 324-9349 Evenings: 328-3198

Email: stjames@nb.aibn.com Website saintjamesunited.ca

Presider: Heather Donnelly

Music Director and Organist: Amy Anderson

Admin. Assistant: Mary Wheelan C.D. Coordinator: Joan Hall

Ushers: John McLellan, Jolene Caverhill,, Conrad Anderson

Candle Lighters: John McLellan and Spencer



Welcome all visitors and their families who may be worshipping with us this morning. We pray that you will feel at home here at Saint James and that you will feel the presence of God's Holy Spirit, as we worship. After the service please introduce yourself to Heather Donnelly, sign our guest book at the back of the sanctuary and join us for coffee, tea and fellowship in the Board Room.

WE GATHER

Prelude

Introit VU#1 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs.4)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

May our souls magnify God.

May our spirits rejoice in God, our Saviour.

God gives rest from all that afflicts us.

God goes with us wherever we go.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Dec. 23 4 th | Sunday of Advent | 10:30 a.m. |
| | Presider: Heather Donnelly | |
| | Coffee, Tea and Fellowship | |
| Dec. 24 | Family Christmas Eve Service | 7:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 30 | First Sunday after Christmas Day | 10:30 a.m. |
| | Presider: Bev Sharpe | |
| | Intergenerational Sunday | |
| | Coffee, Tea and Fellowship | |

SCENT FREE ENVIRONMENT: *A few of our congregation members have been experiencing problems due to perfumes in the church. We have tried to maintain a Scent Free Environment within Saint James United Church. We would like to remind everyone to please consider this request and refrain from wearing perfumes.*

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**If you have noticed someone missing from our congregation, please contact them by phone or visit them in person.
*You may be their "angel"***

MINUTE FOR MISSION

SERVE GOD GLADLY

Our gifts for Mission & Service support programs that empower women in the developing world.

At the Morogoro Women's Training Centre in Dodoma, Tanzania, there is a sign that reads, "Serve God gladly." Morogoro has been a Mission & Service global partner since the centre's creation in 1979.

The centre offers a variety of courses, from legal advocacy to agriculture to maternal health. The goal is to empower women to make a better life for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Over the past five years, United Church Women have supported the Traditional Birth Attendants program at the centre. Five hundred women have graduated from this program and are now able to assist mothers to give birth safely in communities that often lack a clinic or hospital. Traditional Birth Attendants, or midwives, play a significant role in reducing maternal and infant mortality through pre- and post-natal care and birthing techniques. Mothers and their children are alive thanks to this program and to the vision of the Morogoro Centre.

Our ongoing gifts for Mission & Service enable core support for the Morogoro Women's Training Centre.

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Advent Candle Lighting

(The first three candles are lit)

Today we kindle the Advent candle of Love.

(the fourth candle is lit)

**We welcome the warmth that lightens the winter chill,
the warmth of passionate embrace, the warmth that comes from
the heart of God.**

Come, Holy Stranger, messenger of love on this Advent journey;
welcome us as we welcome you.

We receive the light of love.

Sing: VU#6 – A Candle is Burning, vs.4

Opening Prayer:

God, birthing hope, fill us with kindness and compassion.

Give us eyes to search you out in the least likely places.

Fill our lives with hope!

God birthing peace, fill our world with all that is green and growing. Give us hands to tend this earthly garden and to care for your children everywhere.

Fill our world with peace!

God birthing joy, fill this holy place with singing and dancing as we serve in your way.

Fill your peoples with joy!

God birthing love, fill our days with story and memory.

Open us once more to new beginnings and to as many possibilities as there are stars in the sky.

Fill our lives with love. Amen.

Prayers for All Seasons – Year C, Seasons of the Spirit Collection

Hymn VU#46 – Gentle Mary Laid her Child

Children's Time

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Time of Soul Searching

Oh God, teach us to sing your praise,
Teach us to sing with notes formed by hopes and acts of justice.
Teach us to sing with harmonies shaped by mercy's wide embrace.
Teach us to sing Mary's song of birth and rebirth for all creation.
Amen. Seasons of the Spirit – Year C

Ministry of Music “ Mary Rocked the Little Baby”

Scripture:

Micah 5:2 – 5a VU#64 O Little Town of Bethlehem vs.1&4

Psalms 80 VU page 794

Luke 1: 39 - 45

Luke 1: 46b – 55 VU page 898

Message

Music for Meditation

Hymn MV #134 There Was A Child in Galilee?

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Presentation of the Offering

*Offertory What can I do? What can I bring?
 What can I say? What can I sing?
 I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
 I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.*

Offertory prayer

With these gifts, dear God,
accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts,
which rejoice in your goodness and love.
Let our gifts point to your presence in the world,
and further your dream for the world
through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

-Rev. Susan A. Blain, Worship Ways, United Church of Christ

Minute for Mission (printed)

Announcements

Prayers of the People and The Prayer of Jesus

Heavenly Father, Heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let Heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river,
From each one to each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence, beyond the evil of our days,
Come swiftly, Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the mercy and the glory.
Forever your name is all in one. Amen.

- adapted by Parker Palmer

Hymn VU # 62 Once in Royal David's City.

Blessing and Sending Forth

Choral Benediction VU # 7 Verse 4 Hope is A Star

Postlude

**WHAT'S A GREETING CARD
AUTHOR UNKNOWN**

*It's a little piece of paper
That tells someone how you are
It can be a ray of sunshine
It can be a wish or prayer.*

*It can simply say "I love you"
Or just say "I understand"
It can be a little visit
Or the clasp of someone's hand.*

*It can be a word of comfort
When somebody's heart is sad
It can be a smile or chuckle
Making someone's heart feel glad.*

*It can help keep folks together
Even though they're far apart
It can show someone you're thankful
From the bottom of your heart.*

*It can travel any distance
In all kinds of weather, too
And it has the magic something
That some big things never do.*

*Yes, it's just a piece of paper
And it costs no big amount
But it proves that old, old saying
"It's the little things that count.*

*The bulletin today has been dedicated today
in loving memory of our brother, Arnold Drake,
by the Drake Family.*

DONATIONS

*A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of
Bette Farrell by Fran Grzesik, Charles and Gloria Calhoun.*

*A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of
Lona Thomas by Charles and Gloria CaLhoun, Jolene Caverhill.*

*A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of
my husband, Allison MacNabb, by Ruby MacNabb.*

*A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory
of my husband, Robert MacFarlane and Kayla MacFarlane
by Marion MacFarlane.*

*A donation has been made to the Kirk Church Fund in loving
memory of Glen, Esther, George, Malcolm and David Young,
and Lorna Cluff by Blair and Angela Young.*

*A donation has been made to the Kirk Church Fund in loving
memory of Lorna Cluff and Baby Girl by Donald Cluff.*

*A donation has been made to the General fund in loving memory
of Roberta and Granville White and Nellie and Frank White
by Richard White.*

*A donation has been made in loving memory of Mary, George and
Allen Cliff by Jolene Caverhill and family.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORTS

Just one more meeting in December for the Committees then it is annual report time. **Reports are due by January 15, 2019.**
Thank you!

COMMITTEES FOR 2019

It may seem early but we need to think about our committees for the up coming year. If you are not presently on a committee and would like to be, just leave your name at the church office and you will be contacted.

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY SUPPORT GROUP

This support group meets at Saint James the 3rd Monday of each month. The next meeting will be from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on **January 21, 2019.** All those who are care givers may like to mark this on your calendars. Please call the church office to confirm meetings over the summer, as sometimes there are changes.

UNITED CHURCH OBSERVER Time to look at **renewal** of you United Church Observer. If you do not wish to renew, please let Mary know at the church office or if you are a new subscriber, we can add your name for a subscription for the up coming year. **Cost is \$ 25.00.**

CHURCH CALENDARS 2019 Cost \$ 5.00

UPPER ROOMS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY
are at back of church. Cost \$ 3.00

GIFTS WITH VISION BOOKS have arrived. Located at the back of the Sanctuary.

PAR REMITTANCE PROGRAM This is a great time of year to sign up for our PAR REMITTANCE PROGRAM! If you have automatic debits from your bank account to pay your bills, then you understand the PAR principle. It means regular contributions throughout the year. Even when we are away, our church has commitments every week. This is a convenient way to support both the local church and M&S. **CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE DETAILS.**

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP.

Anyone desiring to transfer their membership to St. James United Church from:

- 1) another United Church congregation needs to acquire a certificate of transfer of membership from their previous United Church
- 2) another denomination (ie: Roman Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, Lutheran) needs to clearly assure they have been baptized and confirmed;
- 3) as in the case of churches like Baptist, or Pentecostal with adult baptism only (based on profession of faith) requires a certificate of baptism.

Adherent: a person who contributes regularly to the life and work of a congregation but is not a full member. (Many people establish long-standing, committed relationships with congregations without formally becoming “full members”. These people are often valued participants in the life of congregations as “adherents”).
Please contact a member of Session for more information.

COMMUNICATION We are working on letting everyone know the up and coming events of the church. I would appreciate having your email address as each week I send out a message called “Keeping In Touch.”