

Saint James United Church



January 6, 2019 Epiphany Sunday

120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7M1H1

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Presider: Heather Donnelly

Music Director and Organist: Amy Anderson

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

Ushers: Randy and Eleanor Leonard, John Dolimount



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#79 VS. 1 Arise, Your Light Has Come

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Arise! Shine! Your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

All: **We have seen the star in the east, and we are following.**
We have remembered God's wonder and promise,
and we are worshipping.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan. 6	Morning Worship Epiphany Sunday Sunday School Coffee, Tea and Fellowship	10:30 a.m.
Jan. 8	Games Sparks / Pathfinders	1:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 9	Quilting Choir	1:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.
Jan.10	Unity Group	2:00 p.m.
Jan.13	Morning Worship Sunday School Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in Board Room	10:30 a.m.

**NOTE: COMMITTEE MEETINGS
AND OFFICIAL BOARD ARE JANUARY 15, 2019**

JUST A REMINDER Due to many people suffering from allergies, 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.

MISSION STATEMENT

The congregation of Saint James United Church strives to be a welcoming, caring, committed family of people from all ages and walks of life who come together in fellowship with each other and our Creator God.

We endeavour to respect each other's differences and abilities, to follow the way of Jesus, and to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in us and through us, for the ultimate enrichment of our faith, our community and our world.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

January 6

Epiphany Sunday

Surprised by Joy

Our gifts for Mission & Service support ministries to those living on the margins, like First United Church Community Ministry in East Vancouver, British Columbia. The community has become the epicentre of the converging crises of mental health, addiction, extreme poverty, homelessness, and marginalization. The people who gather here for help are people who literally have nowhere else to go—they may have been rejected by other shelters, mental health supports, hospitals, or their own families.

They are among the most regulated and constricted members of our society, and yet as Executive Director the Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne shares, "Every day since I started at First United there has been a moment where I'm surprised by joy: Watching two participants in our weekly Spirit Circle move through hostility to forgiveness. [Seeing] the brother of a young woman who was murdered on the Pickton farm sweeping our steps because he knows the role our staff play in advocating for missing and murdered women in our community.

"When we shift our view of the notorious Downtown Eastside from the negative to the positive, we receive the joy of seeing growth and community, not just poverty, addiction, and despair. I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve this community, and I hope to be always surprised by joy in this place."

If Mission & Service giving 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.

[Companion video available. View or download at www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada.]

[Disponible en français (en ligne seulement). Visitez le site www.ucrdstore.ca/m4m. Une vidéo complémentaire (en anglais, sous-titrée en français) est disponible au www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada.]

We have come not to get presents, but to give them!

Lift up your eyes and look around;
God's people now gather together,
to open our hearts and sing out our praise.

**All: The mystery of God's wonder and grace is here:
Come, let us adore!**

Opening Prayer

**God of wonder and mystery,
today we remember how you surprise us in every age.
Into the gloom of fear and want, you bring light;
into emptiness, you bring abundance;
into the cold, you bring warmth.
Into the hardness of the world,
you bring the greatest power we have known,
in the seemingly powerless form of an infant.
Enter now, Holy One, among us and within us,
and move us to joyful adoration of your mystery and wonder.**

Hymn VU #81 As With Gladness, Men of Old

Children's Time

Prayer of Confession

One: We remember the Magi who set out with singular focus on the promise of the heavens.

**All: And we remember the ways that we have lost sight of you,
God, as the bright guide for our lives.
We remember that they stayed determined on their journey,
not even swayed by Herod's power and promises.
And we remember that often we have started out well,
but strayed from your path, detoured by our fleeting fears
and desires.**

We remember the wise ones who adored the child:
wisdom and wealth falling to their knees before a poor infant.
**And we remember that too often we have given our
adoration to wealth or wisdom, not seeing the Christ in our
midst.**

-silent reflection-

Words of Assurance

Hymn VU#96 Will You Come and See the Light

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem

Scriptures *Isaiah 60: 1 – 6*
Psalm 72 Voices United page 790
Matthew 2: 1 - 12

Message

Music for Meditation

Hymn VU / 82 *A Light Is Gleaming*

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

**God of every good gift, here we present our offerings.
There is money here, fulfilling our pledges
to support the ministries we do in your name.
There are other gifts, not physically on this table
but held in the altar of our hearts.
God, we offer them all to you.
We ask your blessing on all that we give,
so that your loving care reaches into us and out to all the world,
ever more deeply and gracefully. Amen.
*Minute for Mission (Printed in bulletin)***

Announcements

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn VU #87 *I Am the Light of the World*

Blessing and Sending Forth

Choral Benediction MV # 211

Go now in peace, guided by the light of Christ,
So you may be nourished by the Word of life.

Arise! People of God, Shine! Service Prayers for the Festival of Epiphany, was written by the Rev. John A. Nelson, Connecticut Conference. Copyright 2018 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education.

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for January 13

Isaiah 43: 1 – 7

Psalm 29

Acts 8: 14 – 17

Luke 3: 15 – 17, 21 – 22

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORTS

It is annual report time. Reports are due by January 15, 2019. Thank you! The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held February 10, 2019.

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 you 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 your 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 *Located at the back of the Sanctuary.*