

## **Saint James United Church**

**December 1, 2019 First Sunday of Advent**

**120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7M1H1**

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**Website: saintjamesunited.ca**

**Presider: Rev. Shirley DeMerchant**

**Music Director and Organist: Amy Anderson**

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

**Ushers: Ron Murray, John McLellan, Conrad Anderson**



*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 Rev. Shirley DeMerchant, 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 87 I Am the Light of the World**

**I am the light of the world. You people come and follow me!**

**If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Minute for Mission**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle Kelly Eagan and Addison Eagan**

We light a candle of Hope.

(pause)

1.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**December 1 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.**  
**First Sunday of Advent--Communion**  
**Food Bank Sunday White Gifts Sunday School**  
**Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in the Board Room**  
**Sunshine Singers and Handbells**  
**Ecumenical Service—St. Gertrude's 7:00 p.m.**

**December 3 Games 1:00 p.m.**  
**Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers 6:30 p.m.**

**December 4 Quilting 1:00 p.m.**  
**Handbells 6:30 p.m.**  
**Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.**  
**Cantata Practice 7:45 p.m.**

**December 8 Second Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday School**  
**Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in the Board Room**  
**Sunshine Singers and Handbells**  
**Christmas Kirk Service 7:00 p.m.**

### **DATES TO NOTE**

**Dec. 8 Second Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m.**  
**Christmas Kirk Service 7:00 p.m.**

**Dec. 15 Third Sunday of Advent Cantata 10:30 a.m.**  
**Community Cantata 7:30 p.m.**

**Dec. 19 Blue Christmas 7:00 p.m.**

**Dec. 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday School Concert**  
**Family Christmas Pot Luck**

**Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.**

**Jan. 5 Rev. Adekunle Benjamin Adeniyi 10:30 a.m.**

**10.**

**BROADVIEW** This is the magazine that replaced the Observer.

Those who have subscriptions, would you please let the office know if you would like to renew for 2020. Also anyone who would like to purchase a subscription. Cost \$ 25.00.

**SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS KETTLE CAMPAIGN**

The Salvation Army look after emergency help for our area residents – Power Bills, Rent, Medicine, etc. and their Annual Kettle Campaign Fund this outreach. 100% of the money collected stays in our area **We need someone to co-ordinate Volunteers from our church to man the kettles. A sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside the church office with dates and times.**

**C.E. CENTRE AND KITCHEN** The Board of Stewards have decided to wait on the floor project in the C.E. Centre and Kitchen as we have not reached the goal of \$ 7,500.00. All donations would be greatly appreciated. We invite the congregation to contribute donations through their church envelopes in which receipts will be issued next year. This project will be taking place at a later date. We currently have \$ 4,919.00.

**COMMITTEES FOR 2020** It may seem early but we need to think about our committees for the upcoming 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.

**DONATIONS**

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Robert (Bob) Canam by Doreen and family.

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Joan Porter by Neil and Jane Girdwood, Fran Grzesik,

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Thelma MacNally by Carol Norsworthy

**Call to Worship**

As the flame of hope begins to burn,  
Let the promise of the ages  
Shine in our hearts  
As the great star shone  
So long ago in Bethlehem.

**Prayer of Approach**

For our prayer, let's fold our hands  
And close our eyes  
And listen for God's Spirit  
In the silence. (pause)

Let your Spirit burn in our hearts;  
Let your Light shine in our world;  
And as we wait  
Through the Advent season  
For the baby Jesus' birth,  
Let your star of Hope lead us  
To the place where the Christ would be born today. Amen.

**Hymn VU # 7 Hope Is a Star vs. 1**

**Prayer of Confession**

One: Out of a desire to be free from regret and to make a new start with you and one another, we join our voices in confession:

**Many: God of mercy,  
we confess that we have often failed to speak and act with kindness;  
to care for others as we have been cared for;  
to welcome others as we have been welcomed;  
and to live as forgiven, beloved people.  
We remember the good not done, the encouraging words not spoken,  
and grace not given or received.**

**Hear us now as we make our silent confession to you.**

(Silent confession)

We ask this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hymn VU #8 L0, How A Rose

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Scripture: Isaiah 2: 1-5  
Psalm 122  
Matthew 24: 36-44

Message  
Music for Meditation

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn: MV # 12 Come Touch our Hearts

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem Bread of Life

Children come in with White Gifts

Offertory VU # 55 verse 4 In the Bleak Midwinter

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.

Offertory Prayer  
Generous God,  
We present these offerings with gratitude for your love and kindness.  
We thank you for your wonderful grace and your many blessings.  
Use these gifts for your glory by meeting physical and spiritual needs  
in our community and around the world. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

Dedication of God's Chair

3.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GET YOUR WALKING SHOES ON UPDATE:

We have walked 392.5 kms this week. Only 825.5 kms to go.  
Keep walking! Let's help Rev. Ben and his family get here.

ADVENT CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS have arrived. They are in  
the church office. Cost \$ 4.00

THE SNOWMAN TREE

The Snowman Tree will be up Sunday, Dec. 1. 2019. Each  
snowman will have the gender and age of the needy child with some of  
their likes and a need. Please do not feel you need to provide  
everything on their list. These are just suggestions..

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
CANDLE LIGHT PARADE,. See bulletin board for announcement.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE 2020 has arrived. They are  
located at the back of the church.

GIFTS OF VISION 2020 Those who received a copy of the  
Broadview Magazine would have a copy of the Gifts of Vision.  
I also have copies in the office,

M & S SALE TABLE The M & S table will be inside the  
Boardroom for baked goods, Jams, Jellies,. Pickles and Treasures.  
Help yourself. A donation jar will be provided. Proceeds to Mission  
and Service. Items will change weekly depending on what is brought  
in.

UPPER ROOMS FOR November and December at the back  
of church. Cost \$ 3.00

CALENDARS The 2020 Church Calendars have arrived.  
Cost \$ 8.00.

8.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE**  
**UNIT 3 Come Journey With Us**

**Dec. 1 Communion and White Gift Sunday**

Children will go directly to Sunday School. They will bring in their white gifts just before Communion. Advent Coin Holders will be given out to be returned in January. The proceeds to buy a Gift with Vision.

**Dec. 8 Human Rights Sunday.** The purpose of this Sunday's lesson is to discover our part in God's vision for the world. Children go into church with parents, then to Sunday School.

**Dec. 15 Concert Practice.** Important that all children be present. They will not go into church, but directly to Sunday School.

**Dec.22 Sunday School Concert** – Meet in classrooms. Concert is during regular church time with a Pot Luck to follow.

**Dec. 29 Sunshine Sunday** Children go into church with parents, then gather together for a combined Sunday School Activity.

**Jan. 5 Epiphany Sunday** Rev. Ben's first Sunday—Children come into church with parents. Go to Sunday School at regular time to experience the journey of the Magi to Bethlehem for a Pot Luck Lunch and Crown Cake with the entire congregation. You are reminded to bring your Advent Coin Holders..

**SERVICE OF COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

As we come to this table,  
we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ  
prepared for all who seek to be nourished and sustained  
in the journey of faith.  
All who desire to experience the living Christ are welcome here.

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts in prayer.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

**Prayer**

O God of new beginnings and transformed lives, you call us to be alert and watchful for your return. As we gather at your table, we pray that you would meet us in this sacred meal. Restore us to the fullness of your love, and guide us to be the image of Christ in the world today. Unite us and join us together as the body of Christ. Shine in and through us, that we may be light to those around us. Transform us through this meal to be grace-filled and grace-giving people. Fill us so that we may be bearers of hope in our world where hope is in such short supply.

In this advent season we thank you

for those who, like Mary,

have the strength and courage

to follow you regardless of the cost;

for those who, like the shepherds,

tell others where to find Christ;

for those who, like the wise ones,

remind us that true riches are found in the Christ child.

We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us

in womb and tomb,

in cradle and cross,

in tenderness and compassion.

We commit ourselves to your this day.  
In the name of Christ, our sacrifice, savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup**

Jesus, on the night He was betrayed  
Took a loaf of bread,  
gave thanks, broke it, and said,  
“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”  
Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,  
“This is the new covenant in my blood;  
Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The body of Christ,  
**the Bread of life.**  
The lifeblood of Christ,  
**the cup of blessing.**  
**The gifts of God for the people of God.**

### **Distribution of the Elements**

#### **The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn VU # 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs. 1,2,3,7**

#### **Blessing and Sending Forth**

Our journey to Bethlehem has begun, and soon God’s glory will be fully revealed.

**We watch, we wait, and we anticipate Christ’s coming into our lives.**

May the light of God’s glory shine brightly in our lives, and may we seek to be a beacon of hope for those who walk in darkness.

**We go from this place of worship into the world of God’s creation, Beckoning others to a journey of new beginnings.**

Go with the blessing of God – Creator, Christ and Spirit. Amen.

5.

### **Choral Benediction MV # 220 Hope Shines as the Solitary Star**

**Hope shines as the solitary star**

**Faith is the inner light**

**You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,**

**And illumine the pathway home.**

### **Postlude**

#### **Lectionary Scriptures for December 8, 2019**

**Isaiah 11: 1 – 10**

**Psalms 72: 1 – 7, 18-19**

**Romans 15: 4 - 13**

**Matthew 3: 1 - 12**

**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.

6.