

Saint James United Church

December 29, 2019

120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7M1H1

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Website: saintjamesunited.ca

Presider: Bev Sharpe Music Director and Organist: Amy Anderson

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

Ushers: Conrad Anderson, Ron Murray, John McLellan



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 Bev Sharpe, 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

Call to Worship

One: Glory to God in the highest, and on-earth, peace and goodwill toward all.

All: For out of God's own being, Jesus has come to bring light and love to all people.

One: Jesus is Emmanuel, God-with-us, come to gather our tears and laughter, our work and our play, into God's loving embrace.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all.

Welcome

Minute for Mission

Announcements

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 29 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Intergenerational
Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in the Board Room

January 5 Welcome to Rev. Adekunle Benjamin Adeniyi and family
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Epiphany Sunday
Sunday School 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..
Food Bank Sunday
Pot Luck Lunch and Crown Cake in the C. E. Centre

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."

Also be sure to check out our Website which is currently being updated.

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.

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.

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

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.

UPPER ROOMS FOR January and February at the back of church. Cost \$ 3.00

DONATION

A donation has been made to the Children's Health Fund by St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Phyllis and Gordon Greer from their children.

A donation has been made to the Floor Project in loving memory of husband, James Hall, and parents, Grace and Archie Flemming by Joan Hall.

Opening Prayer

God of sultry stable air, God of frosty wind and snow, we come to you this wintry day, yearning to be swaddled against the raw chill of separation, loneliness, and lovelessness. Thaw within us whatever keeps us from echoing the angels' praise. Warm our moaning with the shine of your glory, as you fill the empty stable in our hearts with your outpouring of home and love. Amen

Hymn

Children's Time

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you offer us new life in the baby at Bethlehem, but we confess that we have made something trivial, something sentimental, out of Christmas. Your light comes into the world, and we only see the pretty lights on trees. You shine in the darkness, but we turn away from the darkness of our world and miss you. Your Word is made flesh, but we would like something nicer, more spiritual, than the humanity of God with us in the flesh. Amen

Words of Assurance

Hymn

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Scriptures

Isaiah 63: 7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2: 10-18

Matthew 2: 13-23

Anthem

Message

Music for Meditation

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory VU # 55 verse 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.

Offertory prayer

O' God you birth abundant life! We thank you for the birth we celebrate today. In response to your great labour of love, we offer you, our gifts. As we open ourselves to you, may your love be born in us this Christmastide.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern and the Prayer That Jesus Taught

Closing Hymn

Closing Prayer

Thank you scandalous God, for giving yourself to the world, not in the powerful and extraordinary, but in weakness and the familiar, in a baby, in bread and wine. We thank you for offering, at journey's end, a new beginning. Amen

Choral Benediction VU#43 – Go Tell It on the Mountain
(chorus only)

Food For Thought

“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me.” Ebenezer Scrooge-A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Lectionary Scriptures for January 5, 2020

Isaiah 60: 1 – 6 Psalm 72: 1 – 7, 10 – 14
Ephesians 3: 1 – 12 Matthew 2: 1 - 12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GET YOUR WALKING SHOES ON UPDATE:

We have walked 478 kms this week. We have completed the travel for Rev. Ben and Family. Keep walking!

We will now help the King Family from Vancouver. B.C. to Woodstock. We have 2579.30 Kilometers to go.

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 has been set up outside 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.

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 \$.

COMMITTEES FOR 2020 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.