

Saint James United Church

December 8, 2019 Second Sunday of Advent

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Presider: Heather Donnelly

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 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 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 Cathy Simister and Janice King

On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit a candle of Hope. Today, we light a candle for Peace.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 8	Second Sunday of Advent Sunday School Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in the Board Room Sunshine Singers and Handbells Christmas Kirk Service	10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
December 10	Games Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers	1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
December 11	Quilting Handbells Choir Practice Cantata Practice	1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:45 p.m.
December 12	Unity Group Meet at Riverside Court	12:00 p.m.
December 15	Third Sunday of Advent Cantata Sunday School Concert Practice Children go directly to Sunday School. Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in the Board Room Community Cantata	10:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m. followed by desserts.

DATES TO NOTE

Dec. 15	Third Sunday of Advent Cantata Community Cantata followed by Desserts	10:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 19	Blue Christmas	7:00 p.m.
Dec. 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday School Concert Family Christmas Pot Luck	10:30 a.m.
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 5	Rev. Adekunle Benjamin Adeniyi	10:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent in Canada---December 1

Many Christians in Canada celebrate the beginning of the Advent season on the first Sunday of Advent. It marks the start of the Christian year in western Christianity. Its length varies from 22 to 28 days, starting on the Sunday nearest [*St Andrew's Day*](#) and encompassing the next three Sundays, ending on Christmas Day.

Background *It is uncertain as to when exactly the celebration of Advent was first introduced in the Christian church. Some sources say that Advent began on November 11 (St Martin's Day) at some time in the fifth century in the form of a six-week fast leading to Christmas. Advent was reduced to its current length at some stage in the sixth century and the fasting was later no longer observed. Advent is originally a time to reflect and prepare for Christmas similarly to how Lent is in preparation for Easter. Advent has sometimes been referred to as the Winter Lent. In recent times the restrictions that Advent brings to Christians have become more relaxed.*

Symbols

Purple is historically the main color used for Advent because it reflects penitence, fasting, and the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the king (Jesus Christ). The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his first Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his second Advent. Some churches use other colors in recent times. For example, some churches mark the third Sunday of Advent with pink or rose, colors that represent joy. Many Protestant churches use blue to distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent.

Advent wreaths are symbolic of Advent in some countries. They are usually made of fir and decorated with gold and silver ribbons or scarlet woolen threads. Lit wreaths may be displayed on the table where family and friends sit while singing carols and preparing handmade gifts.

Call to Worship

As the flame of peace begins to burn,
And you reach out with your hearts and hands
to touch those around you
let your heart be touched
by the sacred Spirit
who comes to us now
as the Holy Child of Peace

Prayer of Approach

For our prayer, let's open 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 ribbon of Peace
draw us together into a circle of love
where the Christ can be born today.
Amen.

Opening Prayer

***Holy God, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise;
we hear your call to turn toward you. Meet us here and fill our
minds with your wisdom
and our hearts with your peace, that our worship together may open
us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all. In the Name
of the One who is coming, we pray. Amen!***

Hymn MV #7 verses 1 & 2

Children's Time

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Time of Soul Searching

Oh God, you call us to turn our lives around
and work with patience and diligence to prepare the way for your
Reign,
but we get discouraged and give up too soon.

Holy One, Have mercy.

Oh God, you call us to collaborate in community
to prepare the way for your Reign,
but we neither trust nor honor the gifts of others.

God, have mercy.

Oh God, you call us to be full of joyful confidence
to prepare the way for your Reign,
but we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear.

Holy One, have mercy.

**Forgive us, O God, and lead us in the ways of patience, community
and joy.**

Hymn VU # 4 God of All Places

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Scriptures Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7,18-19
Matthew 3:1-12

Anthem Let Me Be A Light In The Darkness

Reflection

Music for Meditation

Hymn MV # 173 Put Peace Into each Other's Hands

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

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern and the Prayer That Jesus Taught

Closing Hymn VU # 882 Prepare the Way

Benediction

Choral Benediction MV # 220 Hope Shines as the Solitary Star

**Peace 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

To Dream God's Dream: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday
of Advent, was written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship
and Gospel Arts, Justice and Local Church Ministries United

Lectionary Scriptures for December 15, 2019

**Isaiah 35: 1 – 10
Luke 1: 46B -55
James 5: 7 - 10
Matthew 11: 2 - 11**

THE SONG: TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Aside from being a cute song, the 12 Days of Christmas can help you forecast the weather for the year ahead, or at least Grandma thought so 😊:-) 😊:-)

According to weather lore and Grandma of course, the weather on Christmas Day and the next 11 days determine the weather for each month in the coming year.

Here's how: The weather on December 25th foretells the weather for January; December 26th's weather gives you an idea of what to expect in February, and so on.

I've checked the weather – temperature and precipitation - from December 25th to January 5th and, if Grandma is correct, here's what the next 12 months should be like:

January: Mild.

February: Cold.

March: Very mild and wet

April: Mild and dry

May: Normal temps

June: Mild and wet

July: Normal temps

August: Mild and dry

September: Normal

October: Normal

November: Very mild and wet!

December: Mild and dry!

DONATIONS

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Joan Porter by Charles and Gloria Calhoun.

A donation has been made to the Sunday School Fund in loving memory of Kayla MacFarlane by Marion MacFarlane.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GET YOUR WALKING SHOES ON UPDATE:

We have walked 424.5 kms this week. Only 401 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..

GIFTS ARE TO BACK BY DECEMBER 15TH.

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS Dec. 15th 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.

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 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.

ANNUAL REPORTS Reports are due by January 12th 2020. Thank You! Date for annual congregational meeting will be announced in the new year.

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

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..