

**Saint James United Church**

**120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7M 1H1**

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**Website: saintjamesunited.ca**

**Minister: Rev. Adekunle Benjamin Adeniyi**

**Music Ministry: Sarah Sharpe**

**Admin. Assistant: Mary Wheelan**

**Ushers: David and Sandra MacNally, Conrad Anderson,  
John McLellan**



Welcome all visitors and their families who may be worshipping with us this morning through live stream. We pray that you will feel the presence of God's Holy Spirit, as we worship.

**St. James United Church, Woodstock, N.B.**

**Order of service for December 6th, 2020 10:30 a.m.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent/White Gift Sunday/ Baptism Sunday**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcement**

**Lightning of Advent Candle 2 (Brian Hayden)**

Our Advent journey continues our time of waiting. As we wait, we prepare ourselves and our world for the Prince of Peace.

**We come to embrace Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace.**

We light the first candle reminding us of the way of hope.

(The first Advent candle is lit.)

We light the second candle to signify Christ's path of peace in a broken world.

(The second Advent candle is lit.)

**Hymn: VU # 7 Hope Is A Star (2<sup>nd</sup> Verse)**

Let us pray together:

**We come together to worship you our Lord Jesus Christ. As you bless us with your peace, release anew on us your Holy Spirit and power today and in all that we do. Amen.**

**Children Learn What They Live**

**By Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D.**

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.

If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.

If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.

If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.

If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.

If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.

If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.

If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.

If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.

If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.

If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.

If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.

If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.

If children live with fairness, they learn justice.

If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.

If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.

If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

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**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 endeavor 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.

**NOTE:** The church is currently open for all services and activities. If you have an emergency, please call the church office.

### **PREPARNG FOR ADVENT**

**For all services please follow COVID 19 protocols.  
All services will be Live-Streamed.**

**December 13<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m.**

**December 20<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent---10:30 a.m.  
SUNDAY SCHOOL CONCERT**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> Family Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.  
with Communion**

**December 27<sup>th</sup> First Sunday after Christmas Day 10:30 a.m.**

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> Epiphany Sunday 10:30 a.m.**

### **Opening Prayer**

### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

We welcome into God's family

*Abigail Grace McGrath*

*Breanna Lee McGrath*

daughters of Chance and Katelyn McGrath

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God. By water and the Spirit, we are called, claimed, and commissioned: we are called God's own, welcomed as children of God; we are claimed by Christ, united with Christ united with one another and the Christian community of every time and place; we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice, and, strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church in the world.

**HYMN: #644 VU "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"**  
*(verses 1 and 2)*

### **PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES FOR BAPTISM:**

I present to you and the congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ in Woodstock, NB, Chance and Katelyn McGrath and their daughters, Abigail Grace McGrath and Breanna Lee McGrath who they present for baptism.

### **PROMISES OF THE PARENTS**

In the United Church of Canada, we believe there must be a response to the gift of God's love shown to us through the gift of a new born child. We say thank you to God for this gift of love and of new life through the sacrament of baptism.

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

**We do, by the grace of God.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil, and to live in love and justice?

**We will, God being our helper.**

Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, in your words and actions?

**We will, God being our helper.**

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

**We will, God being our helper.**

Will you do your best to provide a Christian home for your child and will you encourage them to seek confirmation?

**We will, God being our helper.**

### PRAYER FOR THE FAMILIES

**CONGREGATIONAL VOWS OF SUPPORT:** (all stand)

Let us pledge our support and care.

**Abigail and Breanna, as a baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the community of faith.**

May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.

**Amen.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** #918 VU A New Creed

**We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**TELEPHONE CONTACT:** Please note all calls to the church will be received at 328-6114.

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY "ARISE, SHINE"**

**Wednesday 7:00 -8:00 P.M. Through "ZOOM"**  
**Information sent out on Tuesday for Zoom.**

**A booklet is available to be picked up at the office.**

**DATES: December 2, 9, 16**

**YOUTH HANG OUT**

**Wednesday, 5:00 -6:00 p.m. Age 12 – 18**

**Come and enjoy games, study, fellowship and food.**

**PRAYER FELLOWSHIP SUNDAYS 9:45 -10:15a.m.**

**PUSH: PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS**

**GIFTS WITH VISION CATALOGUES HAVE ARRIVED,**  
**Available at Church Office.**

**CALENDARS 2021 Available at the Office \$ 8.00**

**CHRISTMAS OUTREACH** Our snowman tree is up. There are a few left to be looked after. They are to be in by Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> for the school to pick up later in the week.

**ANGEL DISPLAY** The Angel display for this Christmas Season and has been set up in the lobby outside the office. If you have an angel to bring in, just bring to the Church Office and it will be placed with the others.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**HYMN: #29 VU "Hark, the Glad Sound"** (verses 1 and 4)

## **Closing Prayer**

### **BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH: (unison)**

**Advent challenges us to change, to turn ourselves around, to reach out with mercy, forgiveness and love. We will go forth with an open heart, ready to respond, ready to help find peace in our community and in our world. Amen.**

## **Postlude**

**The bulletin today has been dedicated in loving memory of Amanda Marie Hayden Reynolds by Brian and Sue Hayden.**

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BULLETIN**

**To those who have given of their musical talents to our church, to Mary for keeping me informed what our church is doing, and to Estelle that faithfully brings me the bulletins.**

**Thank You! Thank You!  
Phyllis Robinson**

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

(You may be seated.)

## **POURING THE WATER**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation. By water, comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### **ACT OF BAPTISM AND BLESSING**

(Abigail Grace McGrath), (Breanna Lee McGrath), I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the blessing of God, Source of Love, Jesus Christ, Love incarnate, and the Holy Spirit, Love's power, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

### **MARKING WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS**

(Abigail Grace McGrath), (Breanna Lee McGrath), I mark you with the cross, the sign of Love Incarnate.

### **DECLARATION AND CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME**

Abigail and Breanna, into the household of faith we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

**Abigail and Breanna, we welcome you as members of God's family. We welcome you with love that you may learn to love. We welcome you with joy that you may learn of Christ's joy. We welcome you by your name that you may know who you are.**

**We welcome you in Christ's name that you may know whose you are. You are a part of our family and will always find a welcome place here.**

## **READING OF FAMILY LETTERS**

**LIGHTNING OF THE CANDLE:** Parent light candles...

Abigail and Breanna, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God. Amen.

**BLESSING:** (responsive)

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. **Amen.**

**HYMN: #644 VU "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"**  
(verse 3)

**Offertory prayers**

**Dear God, we bring you our gifts in Jesus' name, for we know his peace through forgiveness and faithfulness. Receive our offering and bless our gifts and our lives. Help us share the peace you offer us with our neighbours throughout the world you love. Amen.**

**Scriptures Reading: Luke 2: 1 - 20**

**REFLECTION: The Person of Christmas**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Dear God, in this season of Advent, we wait for your gifts of hope and peace to claim the world once more. We wait on you in prayers, knowing you hear us even before we speak. Prepare our hearts and minds to welcome the coming of your Son once again, and prepare our courage and conviction to follow the way of the Lord.

O Lord, we pray; **O Lord, hear our prayer**

Thank you for leading us on the Way, especially in these difficult days when the pandemic still threatens, and people are so divided. We are grateful that we can rely on your strength and comfort when so much around us has become uncertain. Comfort those who are troubled in mind or spirit as the days grow shorter. Strengthen the bodies and spirits of those who are tired or suffering. Embrace those who are living with loss, and protect children and young people for whom the future seems confusing and unimaginable.

O Lord, we pray; **O Lord, hear our prayer**

God who makes all things new, shake out the unnecessary distractions of this season. Focus us on what is truly important and who truly matters to us. Turn our lives upside right so that our priorities and purposes match those we have learned from Jesus. Shape and reshape us until we conform to his way of living and his likeness.

O Lord, we pray; **O Lord, hear our prayer**

Turn us upside down, O God, so that we value what is hidden and small more than what is showy and grand. Open our eyes to the needs of the most vulnerable in our community and help us speak out with them and for them, even if we must challenge those who usually get their way. Turn us right, O God, so that we can see we have more than enough resources to share with those who have much less than they need day by day. Hear us now as we name places, people, and situations that need your care....

O Lord, we pray; **O Lord, hear our prayer**

God, you are Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end. Strengthen us with your Spirit to build your kingdom, here and now, now and always. Hear us as we pray together, using the words that Jesus taught: