

Song for the Journey (MV 220)

Joy shines as the solitary star.

Faith is the inner light.

You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,

And illumine the pathway home.

The Life and Work of St. James United Church

For many worship is a time for prayer and quiet reflection. To preserve this atmosphere St. James requests that unless you are emergency on-call you turn off (or set to silent) your cellphones during worship. Thank you!

Memorial Tree Donations: Please note that donations for the Memorial Tree will be accepted up until Dec 15, 2024.

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Dec 15 – Downhome Christmas 6:30pm

Dec 19 – St. Paul's 7:00pm Longest Night Service

Dec 22 – Communion Service

Dec 24 – St. James 6:30pm Christmas Eve Service

St. James United Church

3rd Sunday of Advent

Joy

December 15, 2024



St. James United Church

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The Life and Work of St. James United Church

Advent Candle Lighting – “God is Near”

Hymn: VU 28 “Herald Sound the Note of Gladness”

Responsive Litany

During Advent our eyes are opened to the wonders of God.

With God all things are possible.

During Advent our faith is nurtured by the promise of God.

With God all things are possible.

During Advent our hope is reawakened to the presence of God.

With God all things are possible.

During Advent our lives are touched by the love of God.

With God all things are possible.

Candle Lighting

Today we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us that Advent is a time to hear again the message of hope offered through the Saviour’s birth. The **second candle** calls us to believe that just as God worked mighty deeds in ages past, God is still actively at work today. The **third candle** is lit as we draw closer to God in faithful acceptance. Advent reminds us that even when God’s ways exceed our understanding, God’s word still demands our trust. As we continue our Advent journey, let us hear what God has spoken, believe what God has promised, and accept what God has revealed.

Response (VU 1)

O come, O Dayspring, from on high, and cheer us by your drawing night; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayer

All: Gracious Lord, as we continue our Advent journey, help us to hear again the message of the season, to place our faith in your unfolding promises, and lead us towards full acceptance of your will as it unfolds in the world and in our lives. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:1 - 11

Anthem

A Story of Tradition

Annika Sangster

Hymn: VU 35 “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Lori Van Santvoort-Jansekovich

Offering Hymn (VU 55)

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.

Prayer of Dedication (together)

Fraser Williamson

Gracious God, with thanks and praise we joyfully bring this Advent offering. We ask that these gifts be used to bring joy to our community and joy to the world. We ask this in the name of the one you sent to bring us joy, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn: VU 38 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Benediction