



**ST. JAMES UNITED**  
— C H U R C H —

Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy) Sheila Davison (Organist)  
Christine Morrison, Peter Rawding (Choir Directors)  
Ida Sarty (ChrEd Director) Chad Brazier (Custodian)  
Andrea Holland (Secretary) [office@stjamesuc.com](mailto:office@stjamesuc.com)  
197 Main St Antigonish, NS B2G 2L6  
(902) 863-2001 [www.stjamesuc.com](http://www.stjamesuc.com)

**Our Mission as a congregation:** *Love the Lord Your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy and love your neighbour as yourself. (Mark 12:19-21 MSG)*

December 18, 2016- Fourth Sunday of Advent

### GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Seasonal Music (see below)* Saint James Brass Quintet

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (O Come, O Come Emmanuel Vs 4)

***O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them  
that trust your mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Call to Worship (responsive)

Jesus, was born in Bethlehem of Judea

**He came to share our humanity, to know our pain,**

to experience our weakness, to walk among us,

**and to show us the way to God.**

Prayer of Approach (together)

**Come, Lord Jesus; come as our light,  
come as our peace, come as our hope,  
come as our joy, come as our light,  
and stay with us forever, Amen.**

Hymn: 9 VU People Look East

Prayer of Confession (Together)

**God mercy and grace, we seek possessions expecting that we will find joy in their security. We chase after pleasures expecting to satisfy the emptiness within us. We isolate ourselves thinking we can protect our hearts from hurt. When that doesn't work, we find ourselves angry and resentful. Forgive us, O God, and help us to seek joy in loving you without reservation, and in loving one another with kindness. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hymn: 69 VU Away in a Manger

The Advent Candle- Anne Camozzi, Judy Jowett, and Muriel Kennedy

**O God of Love, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts. Let us celebrate your love and help us to show that love to the whole world - both today - and forevermore. Amen.**

*A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above.*

*A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

### GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Prayer for Illumination

Responsive Reading: Luke 1:68-79 ( p. 900 VU)

Old Testament: Isaiah 7:10-16

David Young

Epistle: Romans 1:1-7

Barbara de Marsh

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Anthem

Women's Chorus

Sermon: "What about Joseph?"

### GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 68 VU All Poor Ones and Humble

Offertory *Puer Nobis Nascitur*

(Scott Villard)

Offertory Response (In the Bleak Midwinter 55 VU 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.***

Anthem *Silent Night*

(setting by Robert A Hobby) Men's Choir

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 62 VU Once in Royal David's City

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (Glory to God in 124 MV)

***Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.***

Postlude *Christmas Cheer*

(Scott Villard)

**A warm welcome to all** who have gathered with us for worship this morning. May this time be one of fellowship with God and neighbour. If you are visiting please sign our guest book and make yourselves known to those around you.

**Greeters at the door** this Sunday are Chad Brazier and Sarah Armstrong

**The prayers and Christian sympathy** of the congregation are extended to Carl and Marg Brown and family following the death of their son, Timothy Malcolm Brown last week. The funeral will be at C.L. Curry Funeral Home on Monday, December 19 at 10:30 am. Please keep Tim's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers in the weeks to come.

**Babies and toddlers who don't want** to stay in the service for worship are welcome to make use of the nursery located in the multipurpose room. The nursery has toys and a speaker for parents to hear the service. This Sunday in the nursery - Tara Nicholson

*This morning's Bulletin is dedicated to the glory of God  
in loving memory of James Adams by his family.*

*This morning's Bulletin is dedicated to the glory of God  
in loving memory of Murray Workman by Pat and his family.*

**Thanks to everyone** who is sharing their gifts and talents to enrich our service of worship this morning.

**Thanks to the Saint James Brass Quintet** who are sharing their gifts of music with us this morning. Members of the quintet today are:  
Brent MacQuarrie Trumpet Christine Templeman Cornet  
Bob MacMillan Alto David Prince Tuba  
Fred Davison Trombone

**The Brass Quintet prelude** this morning includes *Two Old Basque Noels* (Pettman), *A Child Is Born* (Villard) *Quem Vidistis* (Lassus), *Romanian Christmas Suite* (Dobrinescu), *Sleep, Little Jesus* (Villard), and *Two Christmas Pettmans* (Pettman)

**If you are interested** in reading scripture on Christmas Eve please speak to Rev. Peter after service.

**Envelopes for 2017** are now available in the Narthex before and after the service. Those wishing envelopes or to begin using PAR please contact the church office. Finance and Stewardship Committee

**Sunday School News**, The Sunday school would like to thank the congregation for their help in filling the gift bags for the food bank. We were able to fill 55 bags. The white gift offering was \$758.00 which will be shared equally with Brunswick Mission and United Church Mission and Service Fund

**There will be no Sunday school class** on Sunday December 25th and January 1st The Sunday school children, Judy and Ida want to wish everyone a very joyous Christmas and the very best for the New Year.

**The 2017 Social Justice Calendar** is now available in the narthex. Please feel free to take a copy and use it throughout the year to prayerfully consider universal concerns.

**The Staff and Board of the Antigonish Community Food Bank** would like to thank the Sunday School Kids and Congregations for their donation of the great baskets this Christmas.

**Community Christmas Dinner** Again this year, St. James United Church is hosting a community Christmas Dinner on December 25 at the St. James United Church hall in Antigonish. This event has been a success every year, but we can't do it without the help of our community. We are looking for volunteers to help with set up, food preparation, serving, and clean up. We also require donations of food, including turkeys, vegetables, condiments, and desserts, as well as monetary donations to help with expenses.

This is a wonderful way to do help others at Christmas. If you want to be involved in any way, please call Carolyn @ 863-0492 or email [webberenglish@gmail.com](mailto:webberenglish@gmail.com).

**The Winter 2016 Edition of Connections** is available at the door and the electronic copy is on the website ([www.stjamesuc.com](http://www.stjamesuc.com)). Thanks to all the contributors and to Brenda Rose and Ruth Young for their work.

## Christmas Eve Scriptures (December 24, 2016)

St. David's (4pm) : Isaiah 9:2-7 • Luke 2:1-7 • Luke 2:9-20

St. James (7pm) : Isaiah 9:2-7 • Titus 2:11-14 • Luke 2:1-7 • Luke 2:8-20

St. James (9pm): Isaiah 62:6-12 • Titus 3:4-7 • Luke 2:1-7, Luke 2:8-20

### THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

**Sunday**, December 18

10:30 am This morning we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent and light the Candle of Love.

**Tuesday**, December 20

7:30 am Yoga with Stacy Steeves in the Hall

3:00 pm Meditation Group in the Meeting Room.

**Thursday**, December 22

6:30 pm Senior Choir (Welcoming new members)

7:30 pm Women Chorus (Welcoming new members)

**Saturday**, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

4:00 pm Candlelight Service at St. David's

7:00 pm Family Service at St. James

9:00 pm Communion Service at St. James.

**Sunday**, December 25

10:30 am Christmas Day worship. Please bring something you received for Christmas for the Children's Time.

2:00 pm Community Christmas Dinner

**Looking for a gift for the person** who has everything? Want to help make our community a better place? Why not pick up a copy of the Antigonish Gift Book, a project of St. James, St. Paul's, The Sisters of St. Martha's and the Antigonish Quaker Worship Group, and donate to one of the many worthy organizations listed. Copies can be found at the back of the Church and at many locations around town.

**Gifts with Vision** Our Congregation has multiple copies of the 2016 edition of *Gifts with Vision: A Gift-Giving Catalogue from the United Church of Canada* for all of us to use and share. The United Church developed the gift catalogue in response to member requests to be able to give gifts to support that support the church's Mission and Service

partners. Gifts are available in a range of dollar amounts and include projects here in Canada and around the world many different areas of need (hunger, shelter, education, health, safety, mobility, and more). An online copy of the gift catalogue can be found at [www.giftswithvision.ca](http://www.giftswithvision.ca)

### FINANCIAL NEWS

**For 2016**

<u>Offering Last Week</u>	<u>\$2,506</u>	<u>Year - To - Date Offering</u>	<u>\$145,710</u>
<u>Required for Budget</u>	<u>\$3,708</u>	<u>Year -To - Date Budget</u>	<u>\$176,731</u>

The offering for last week reflects the money received from the congregation through donations put on the offering plate and through PAR. The required for budget amount is the total collection needed to break even, if all budgeted activities took place.

The year – to - date offering is the actual amount that our congregation has donated so far in 2016, to the end of November. The year – to - date budget amount is the required amount needed for all budgeted activities to take place this year as of the end of November, 2016.

**The end of the calendar year is quickly coming.** Thursday, December 29, 2016 will be the final date for donations to be received and credited for the 2016 income tax year at St. James.

**Stewardship Thought for this Week-** December 18, 2016

*God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.* Augustine

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thursday** Dec.22 from 4:30-6:00 pm Cultural Connections is partnering with the Friendship Cafe to have a holiday cookie decorating party in Peoples' Place Community Room. This is open to all. Some cookies (sugar and also ginger) will be baked ahead of time to allow the decorating to start promptly, while other dough will have been prepared and ready for action. International students remaining over Christmas will have the chance to mingle with Canadian families. A good time. Call Fran 902 863 3546 for more information.

