



ST. JAMES UNITED
CHURCH

Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy) Sheila Davison (Organist)
Christine Morrison, Peter Rawding (Choir Directors)
Ida Sarty (ChrEd Director) Chad Brazier (Custodian)
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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)*

January 1, 2017- First Sunday After Christmas

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements, and Celebrations

*God's blessing on you, on all that you do,
through all of life's journey, God's blessing on you*

Introit: (O Come, O Come Emmanuel Vs 6)

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

Call to Worship (responsive)

This is a day of beginnings:

a new day, a new week, a new month, a new year;

a time of new experiences of God's grace,

a time of new opportunities for service,

a time of new eras in one's life, a time of new relationships,

a time of new joys, a time of new pathways.

Come, let us celebrate God's new day.

Prayer of Approach (together)

God of love and light, we thank you for the dawning of a new year filled with promise and potential. Through Jesus you offer to us possibilities we have yet to discover and you choose to walk with us in our days. Open our hearts and minds for we ask in the name of the one you sent to show us your will and way, Amen.

Hymn: 45 VU Joy is Now in Every Place

Prayer of Confession (together)

**Too often, Lord, we are shackled by the past,
and our yesterdays have made our todays a nightmare.**

**We are poisoned by the bitterness of ancient wrongs,
we carry a load of sins long forgiven,**

we are obsessed with what might have been.

**Save us, Lord, from the tyranny of history,
teach us to believe in the cleansing power of new beginnings,
and set us free to serve you with freedom and joy, Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hymn: 46 VU Gentle Mary Laid her Child

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Prayer for Illumination

Responsive Reading: Psalm 8 (p. 732 VU)

Old Testament: Numbers 6:22-27

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Luke 2:15-21,39-40

Anthem

Sermon: "Whatever Happened To Baby Jesus?"

Alex Penner

Matthew Penner

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 96 VU Will You Come and See the Light?

Offertory

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.*

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 528 VU God of Life

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

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.

Greeter at the door this Sunday is Bob Murray.

The Rev. Peter Smith is away on study leave from January 2-January 9. If there is a pastoral emergency during that time please contact the Rev. Meredith Marple at 902-863-0452. Next Sunday we are pleased to welcome the Rev. Janice Alyward to the pulpit.

Annual Reports for the Congregational Annual Meeting are due in to the church office by Monday, January 16. Church Council meets on January 17 to consider them and the tentative date for the AGM is on February 27.

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.

There are no Sunday school class on January 1st. Sunday school resumed next week.

The Winter 2016 Edition of Connections is available at the door and on the website (www.stjamesuc.com). Thanks to the contributors and to Brenda Rose and Ruth Young for their work.

Next Week's Scriptures (January 8, 2016)

Isaiah 60:1-6 • Ephesians 3:1-12 • Matthew 2:1-12

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, January 3

7:30 am Yoga with Stacy Steeves in the Hall
11:00 am Hot Meal in the church hall
3:00 pm Meditation Group in the Meeting Room.

Thursday, January 5

11:00 pm Hot Meal in the Church Hall.
6:30 pm Senior Choir (Welcoming new members)
7:30 pm Women Chorus (Welcoming new members)