



Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy), Hee-Jung Choi (Organist)  
Christine Morrison, Peter Rawding (Choir Directors)  
Claire MacDonell (CE Dir) Chad Brazier (Custodian)  
Patsy Farrell (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 24, 2020- Christmas Eve

### GOD GIVES US HOPE

Prelude

Call to Worship (responsive- Isaiah 9:6)

A child has been born for us, a son given to us;

**authority rests upon his shoulders;**

and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Opening Prayer (together)

**God with us, Emmanuel, this night**

**we come to celebrate Jesus bring born in Bethlehem.**

**We see in the nativity all the hopes of your people**

**becoming fulfilled in the child laid in a manger.**

**For we hear in the good news of great joy a new promise**

**that you make to us through Jesus.**

**A promise of your presence and love within our lives**

**this night and all of our nights, Amen.**

Scripture Isaiah 9:2-7

Meditation "Waiting for the Light"

Solo *Coventry Carol/ I Wonder as I Wander*

Ron Johnson

Lighting of the Advent Candles (together)

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

**We light this candle to remind us that God is with us.**

For Jesus, Emmanuel, has been born in Bethlehem.

**Jesus Christ, source of hope, peace, joy, and love, fill our hearts with your presence this night and always, Amen.**

### GOD FILLS US WITH PEACE AND JOY

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

Meditation: "The Splendour of the Light"

Music *Gesù Bambino* (Pietro A. Yon)

Robert Murray

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Meditation: "The Light Shines in the World"

Solo *Huron Christmas Carol*

Martha Palmer

### THROUGH THE LOVE OF GOD MADE FLESH

Scripture: Titus 3:4-7

Meditation "Carrying the Light Within Us"

Prayer at Christmas (responsive)

Gracious God, we pray this night

**for all who come with us to Bethlehem.**

We pray for all who are poor and cold and hungry like the shepherds,

**that they may hear good news and feel hope and joy.**

We pray for all who are wandering and searching like the magi,

**that they may find the place to leave their gifts and their burdens.**

We pray for all who are busy, hurried, preoccupied like the innkeeper,

**that they may know the peace that comes from acts of hospitality.**

We pray for all like Herod who have power,

**that they may use it with compassion and for the greater good.**

We pray for ourselves—

**we who need comfort, peace and joy,**

in holy season, and all the days of our lives. **Amen.**

Anthem *Gentle Mary/ Come to Set us Free*

St. James Choir

Benediction

**A warm welcome to everyone** who has gathered with us for worship this Christmas Eve. May this time be an occasion when you experience the promise of this season and draw closer to God and to your neighbour.

*The bulletin this Christmas Eve is dedicated to the glory of God  
and loving memory of Pat and Jerry Cunningham  
by Pamela, Douglas, and families.*

**Thanks to everyone who has shared** their gifts and talents this Advent and Christmas Season. We have been richly blessed by the blending of many gifts and talents.

**The latest issue of Connections** is available online and in print. If you have a neighbour who would like a print copy feel free to pick one up for them as well. Thanks to Brenda, Ruth and all of our contributors.

**Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>** we will celebrate Holy Communion. The service will be available in person, via a facebook livestream, and an uploaded taped service on Youtube. Everyone is welcome to join us around the table and celebrate the gift God makes to us in Jesus Christ.

**Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>** will be the final date for donations to be received and credited for the 2020 income tax year. Donations can be dropped off anytime up to and including that day through our secure mail slot. Online donations can be made at anytime through our website at <http://www.stjamesuc.com>

**There is limited seating available** for the in-person worship because of the social distancing requirements. If you haven't attended yet this fall and are planning to attend on Sunday morning please call the office 902-863-2001 and let us know.

**The Church Office** is closed until Tuesday January 5, 2021 at 10:00 am. Emails and voice messages will be picked up on a regular basis and the mail slot will be checked daily.

### **Scriptures for Next Sunday**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 • Galatians 4:4-7 • Luke 2:22-40