



Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy), Hee-Jung Choi (Organist)  
Christine Morrison, Peter Rawding (Choir Directors)  
May MacKenzie (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 27, 2020 - Sunday after Christmas

### GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

Martha Palmer

Call to Worship (responsive from Isaiah 61:10-62:1)

Let us greatly rejoice in the LORD,

**let our whole beings exalt in our God.**

For the Lord God has caused righteousness to come into our world.

**So we will not keep silent, we will not rest,**

We will proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Approach (together)

**Eternal God, we come in this holy season to give you thanks. Thanks that you answer us in our need with the bounty of your love and grace. Thanks that you touch us with your peace and surround us with your love. Thanks that your joy has reached us once more through the gift of yourself in Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle (responsive)

The promise is a reality and God's love has come to earth.

**We celebrate that the light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

We light this candles because the hope and peace of heaven are seen through the child born in Bethlehem.

**Emmanuel, let the light of your love burst upon our lives and fill with us with the joy of your birth now and always, Amen.**

Children's Story and The Lord's Prayer

Meditative Music

### GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Second Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Anthem *All Poor Ones And Humble*

Sermon "The Days After Christmas"

Martha Palmer

### GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Meditative Music

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give God thanks and praise.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

This holy season our voices combine with the choirs of angels and all of creation in praise and celebration. For the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings has come down from heaven and the goodness of God has spread out to the ends of the earth.

**"Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will to all."**

Immanuel, you blessed us at Bethlehem by coming as a tiny babe. In the barren land among humble people you chose to share your life with us. You took flesh so that all the world might know the face of God.

**"For unto us is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."**

As one of us you matured and grew. From that tiny babe adored by shepherds and travellers from the east, you grew into an adult who proclaimed the way of God. Through your miracles and words, your stories and healing, the world knew the love of God.

**"Come, let us see the thing that the Lord has made known to us."**

You walked from the stable at Bethlehem to the cross at Calvary. You showed us the way of grace and peace, of mercy and love. With your friends you broke bread and taught them the meaning of sacrificial love.

**"This is my body which is broken for you. Each time you do this remember me."**

You also shared the cup. With it you teach us that God has not forgotten the covenant but instead renewed it. Through your love and grace our

lives have been reconnected with each other and with you.

**“This cup is the new covenant which God makes with you in my blood. Each time you drink from this cup, remember me.”**

Send we pray, your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup that through them we might celebrate your birth, honour your life, and rejoice at your resurrection. May the bread be the bread of life through which we remember your sacrifice. May the cup be the cup of salvation through which we recommit ourselves to you this day, **Amen**

#### Benediction and Postlude

**A warm welcome** to everyone who is joining us for worship. May this be a time for you to draw closer to God. The services online will be posted each week on our website and through social media.

**The Rev. Peter Smith will be away** from Monday December 28<sup>th</sup> until Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>. If there is a pastoral emergency during this time please contact the Rev. Meredith Marple at 902-863-0452.

**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.

**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 throughout this time.

**Truth & Reconciliation – Call #64** Education for Reconciliation – We call upon all governments that provide public funds to denominational schools to require such schools to provide an education on comparative religious studies, which must include a segment on Aboriginal spiritual beliefs and practices developed in collaboration with Aboriginal elders.

**The end of the calendar year is quickly coming.** Wednesday, Dec 30<sup>th</sup> will be the final date for donations to be received and credited 2020. Donations can be dropped off anytime up to and including that day through our secure mail slot.

#### **Scripture Readings for Next Sunday**

Jeremiah 31: 7 - 14 • Ephesians 1: 3 - 14 • St. John 1: 1 - 18