



Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy), Hee-Jung Choi (Organist)  
 Christine Morrison, Peter Rawding (Choir Directors)  
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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)*

December 24, 2021- Christmas Eve

### GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Concerto in D Allegro* (G. Torelli)

Andy Hirt

Welcome

Call to Worship (responsive from Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
**those who lived in a land of deep darkness-**  
 on them light has shined.

**For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;**  
 authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,**  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Opening Prayer (together)

**Help us, O Lord, to welcome your presence among us —  
 with joy, like the angels who announced your birth;  
 with faith, like the shepherds who responded to the invitation;  
 with firm intention, like the Magi who travelled from afar;  
 and with awe, like Mary as she accepted the miracle, Amen.**

Anthem (or music *Angels From the Realms of Glory*)

Lighting of the Advent Candles (responsive)

The Light shines in the darkness

**and the darkness does not overcome it.**

We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light

**For the light of God breaks forth into our lives.**

*We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,  
 our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.  
 O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,  
 as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.*

### TO HEAR OF SALVATION

Gospel: Luke 2:1-7

Meditation “The Voice of Rejection”

Anthem: *Away in A Manger*

Andy Hirt

Gospel: Luke 2: 8-15

Meditation “The Voice of Invitation”

Music: *O Holy Night*

Kenji Omae

### THROUGH THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

Gospel: Luke 2:16-20

Meditation: “The Voice of Awe and Wonder”

Anthem: *There's a Star in the East*

Garrett van de Wiel

Prayers of the People at Christmas

Benediction

Postlude *Joy to the World*

Kenji Omae and Hee-jung Choi

*Silent Night*

Hee-jung Choi

**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 through the carols and readings may you draw closer to God and to your neighbour.

*This evening's bulletin is dedicated to the glory of God  
 and in loving memory of Sheila Marie Polson by the Polson Family.*

**Thanks to** Hee-jung Choi, Andy Hirt, Kenji Omae, and Garrett van de Wiel for sharing their gifts of music for this Christmas Eve service.

**The Council Executive** have decided that because of the current Covid restrictions in Nova Scotia that worship at St. James will be online only from December 24<sup>th</sup> until January 9<sup>th</sup>. When conditions change we will resume in person worship services.

**The end of the calendar year is quickly coming.** Thursday, Dec 30<sup>th</sup> will be the final date for donations to be received and credited for the 2021 income tax year at St. James. Donations can be dropped off anytime up to and including that day through our secure mail slot. Online donations can be made anytime at <http://www.stjamesuc.com>