



Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy), Hee-Jung Choi (Organist)
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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 26, 2021 - First Sunday after Christmas

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *Mary Did you Know?*

Charles Lowe

Welcome and Announcements

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)

Eternal God, this season we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in our world. For in the midst of our despair you send your hope and peace. In the midst of our fear you send your joy and love. For in the midst of our darkness you send your light among us to shine and show us not only the way but the truth of your grace and salvation, Amen.

Children's Story and Lord's Prayer.

Hymn: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 148, p 871 VU

Praise God from the heavens, give praise in the heights!

Give praise, all you angels; praise God, all you hosts!

Praise God, sun and moon; give praise, stars and lights!

Praise God, farthest heavens, and all waters

beyond heaven. R

Let all things praise the Holy One at whose command they were created, who established them for all time, setting bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise God from the earth, great sea creatures and ocean depths, lightening and hail, snow and frost, gales that obey God's decree,

all mountains and hills, all fruit trees and cedars,
wild animals and cattle, creatures winged and earth-bound.

sovereigns who rule earth and its people,

all who govern and judge this world,

young men and women alike, old people and children

together! R

Let all things praise the name of God,

the name above every other, whose splendour covers heaven and earth.

You give strength to your people,

songs of praise to your faithful,

to Israel, the people dear to your heart. R

First Lesson: Isaiah 62:6-12

Second Lesson: Titus 3:4-7

Gospel: John 1:1-14

Anthem *Silent Night, Holy Night*

Charles Lowe

Sermon: "What Did We Get For Christmas?"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: *What Child is This?*

Prayers of the People

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

A warm welcome to everyone who is joining us for worship. We recognize that we gather in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and we seek to be good neighbours to the First Nations. May this be a time for you to draw closer to God. The service is posted each week on our website (www.stjamesuc.com).

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 24th until January 9th. When conditions change we will resume in person worship services.

Rev. Peter Smith will be away from December 26th until January 6. If there is a pastoral emergency during this time please contact the Rev. Doug Stewart at 902-735-2102

Next Sunday we are pleased to welcome the Rev. Doug Stewart who will lead our service of worship.

The end of the calendar year is quickly coming. Thursday, Dec 30th 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>

Next Sunday's Scripture

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