



Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy), Carolyn Curry (Organist)  
May MacKenzie (CE Dir), Chad Brazier (Custodian)  
Barb Shea (Secretary) [office@stjamesuc.com](mailto:office@stjamesuc.com)  
197 Main St, P.O. Box 1178, Antigonish, NS B2G 2L6  
(902) 863-2001 [www.stjamesuc.com](http://www.stjamesuc.com)

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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 5, 2025- Epiphany

### **GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (Hope is a Star 7 VU vs4)

*Love is a flame that burns in our heart,  
Jesus has come and will never depart  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.*

Call to Worship (responsive from II Corinthians 5:17, 19)

If anyone is in Christ they are a new creation:

**the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.**

God was in Christ reconciling the world

**and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.**

Prayer of Approach (together)

**O God our Creator, in you alone are the riches of life.**

**We come from the East and we come from the West**

**knowing we follow, on our different roads,**

**the same star to the same place.**

**May we share what we know of its light,**

**learn from each other the way to the stable,**

**and worship you as we serve the world in Jesus' name, Amen.**

Hymn: 79 VU *Arise Your Light has Come*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 68 VU *All Poor Ones and Humble*

### **GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 72:1-7 (Part 1 790 VU)

First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Brenda Rose

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

Tara Nicholson

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Anthem *The Perfect Light* (Ed Rush)

Choir

Sermon: "The Twelfth Day of Christmas"

### **GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND**

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

Offering and Offertory Response (As With Gladness 81 VU)

*As they offered gifts most rare at that manger crude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.*

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 87 VU *I Am the Light of the World*

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

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**A warm welcome** to everyone joining us for worship. May this time help you draw to closer to God and your neighbour. 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.

**Coffee Hosts** this morning are Beryl Duggan and Joan Poole

**Thanks to everyone** who shared their gifts and time to enrich our church services through Advent and Christmas. Many voices and talents have combined in this season of hope and joy to help us celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

### **Scripture for Next Sunday**

Isaiah 43:1-7 • Acts 8:14-17 • Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

**Monday**, January 6

9:00 am The Church office reopens.

**Tuesday**, January 7

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program

3:00 pm Meditation Group in the Parlour. Contact Fran for more information 902 870-1198.

7:00 pm Finance and Stewardship in the Meeting Room

**Wednesday**, January 8

10:00 am Worship at the Maples

11:00 am Worship at the RK.

**Thursday**, January 9

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program

7:00 pm Choir practice

## UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

**Sunday**, January 12

11:30 am UCW gathers in the Meeting Room

**The latest issue of Connections**, our congregational newsletter, is available in print at the door and in the e-version on the website. Thanks to Brenda Rose for the editing and layout and to all the contributors for their articles.

**Annual Reports for 2024** are to be sent by *Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>*. The tentative date for the Congregational Meeting is Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Thanks to everyone who helped make the Community Christmas dinner** possible this year. Thanks to those who donated food and money, those who offered their time to set up, serve, and clean up, and special thanks to Brenda and her team for their work organizing everything.

**2025 Social Justice calendars** are now available in the narthex for those who would like to be aware of important upcoming dates in 2025 that require our reflection, prayer, and possibly, action.