

Saint James United Church

November 27th, 2016 – First Sunday of Advent

120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7M1H1

Phone: 328-6114 Fax: 324-9349 Evenings: 328-3198

Email: stjames@nb.aibn.com Minister's Office 328-3191

Minister's Cell Phone No: 323-1304

Minister: Rev. Debra Baker

Music Director and Organist: Amy Anderson

Admin. Assistant: Mary Wheelan C.D. Coordinator: Joan Hall

Ushers: John McLellan, Ken Nichols, Janet Nichols

Candlelighters: Scott and Angela Palmer Reader: Kim Sylvester



Welcome all visitors and their families who may be worshipping with us this morning. We pray that you will feel at home here at Saint James and that you will feel the presence of God's Holy Spirit, as we worship.

After the service please introduce yourself to

Rev. Debra, sign our guest book at the back of the sanctuary and join us for coffee, tea and fellowship in the Board Room..

WE GATHER

Prelude

Introit VU#10 – Prepare the Way of the Lord (sung twice)

Welcome

Call to Worship

Gather in and come together.

Today, a journey begins, an adventure awaits.

We celebrate right now the very first moments of Advent.

We take our first steps on the road to Bethlehem, the road to the manger where we hope to find a fresh new baby.

As we venture out, we notice the rush of frost and chill that the mornings bring competing with the warm hope that fills our hearts.

We notice the darkness surrounding us and lasting longer each day as we search for the light.

Yet we still walk on and prepare for what's ahead.

SNOWFLAKE TREE *This year our tree in the lobby is bearing snowflakes instead of snowmen. Please take a snowflake and purchase a gift for the child listed and sign the sheet by the number with your name and phone number. Please bring your gifts in by Dec. 11th so we can deliver them.*

FESTIVAL OF TREES

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Carleton-York are delighted to present their 19th annual "Festival of Trees" at the AYR Motor Centre's Gallery Room on Friday, Dec 2nd from 9am-9pm and Saturday, Dec 3rd from 10:30am to 6pm. More than 25 decorated trees will be on display along with many silent auction items. Opening ceremonies will be held at 7:00pm on Friday evening and silent auction will close on Saturday at 6pm. Local musicians and dance groups will be there throughout the weekend to entertain you. We hope everyone in the congregation will make time to attend this special Christmas event.

We are looking for 3 volunteers to help with the admission table and the refreshment tables.

Please contact Mary Beth at 328-2094

SPECIAL THANKS

A very special Thank You to Mac Caldwell, Andrea Dimock, Doug Lawrence, David MacNally, John McLellan, Lesley Nason, Cathy Simister, Doug Swan and Estelle Wilson for giving their time and talents to beautify our sanctuary for the Christmas season.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES AND UPDATED ADDRESSES

*During our Christmas Delivery and Mailing of our letters we have found quite a few changes. **Keeping updated through email.**--I will try to keep you updated. **Please contact the church office at 328-6114 so your addresses (residence, mailing and email) may be kept up to date. Each week I send out an email –KEEPING IN TOUCH- Tell your friends also so they can be added to our list.***

HANDEL'S MESSIAH—Fredericton Choral Society & Symphony Orchestra with Sally Dibble, Deantha Edmunds-Ramsey, Cian Horrobin and Paul Bustin.

Wilmot United Church Woodstock Baptist Church
Fredericton Woodstock
Friday, Dec. 9, 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 7:00 p.m.

See Bulletin Board for availability of Tickets

Adults \$ 20.00, Students \$ 10.00 12 & Under Free

2017 CALENDARS have arrived. Check with the church office.
Cost \$ 7.00

LENDING LIBRARY - On the bookshelf outside Mary's office are lots of Good Reading Material for Adults. Please help yourself and return so others can enjoy. Honour system only.

DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Board of Stewards will be meeting on December 15th. Any one wishing to make a request to the board for the 2017 Budget should have it in by December . Session will not meet in December. The next official board meeting will be in January 2017.

We prepare for something new, breaking forth into the world, into our lives.

Come now into the season of waiting, the season of possibilities, the season of expectancy.

Emmanuel is on the way!

(Written by Rev. Ali Smith, Fredericton, NB © 2016. Used with permission)

Advent Candle Lighting

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.

In the beginning is our hope, and hope is in God.

This Advent season begins with hope for this world.

(light candle)

This candle symbolizes our hope for this season of short days and long nights.

Sing VU#7 – Hope Is a Star (verse 1)

Hymn Advent News

Chorus:

Sing a song of praise and glory to the one who came to be.
Word and wisdom born among us, child of God to set us free.

God's dream for creation is coming to birth,
changes are happ'ning all over the earth.
Swords into ploughshares and tools out of spears,
peace breaking out both far and near.

The deserts will blossom and God's justice will grow.
At the sound of God's voice healing waters will flow.
Animals ev'rywhere will start a new trend:
those who were enemies now will be friends.

My heart bursts with praise for the God who has done
wonderful things for every one!
The proud are brought down and the humble stand tall.
Peace on earth good will to all.

(Words and music by Donald Schmidt © 2002. Used by permission.)

Prayer of Confession

O God, as Advent begins, we joyfully await the birth of Jesus into the world and our hearts. We confess, though, that sometimes what we're really waiting for are the presents at Christmas, the time off school or work, or just for the whole frantic season to be over and done with.

Help us remember that for many, this is a time of grieving, or of waiting for the next meal, or for a job opportunity, or for the end of abuse or suffering. Forgive us for being shortsighted. Fill us with your love and compassion as we wait to celebrate the birth of the Saviour. Amen.

(From The Whole People of God © Wood Lake Publishing, 2016)

Words of Assurance

The past is behind us, the future is before us, the moment of new beginnings is now! As forgiven people we are filled with hope.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem

Scriptures

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122, VU p.845
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

Message

Music for Meditation

Hymn VU#507 – Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY—Dec. 4th. *Please bring non perishable items for the Food Bank.*

ANGEL PROJECT *This year we will be decorating the hall outside the Church office with Angels in memory of loved ones. Please bring your Angel in and we will place them in memory with a place card naming your loved one. Any questions ?? ask Joan.*

ADVENT CALENDAR OF DEVOTIONS 2016

Cost \$ 3.00 Check at Church Office.

COFFEE HOUR *Each week we are looking for volunteers to look after coffee and tea after church.*

BOOK CLUB *The book club will be reading “Brooklyn” by Colm Toibin when it arrives. We will be hopefully meeting in January.*

UPPER ROOMS FOR November and December

They are located at the back of the church. Cost is \$ 3.00. We will not have large print for November and December. Will start again in January.

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and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Romans 13:11-14 (The Message)

¹¹But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. ¹²The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed. ¹³We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. ¹⁴Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Scripture readings for December 4, 2016 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Presentation of the Offering

Offertory (tune: Good King Wenceslas)

Here our gifts we offer, God, thankful for your blessings.
Take them, Spirit use them to spread the hopeful message
that Christ comes to bring to us life for all creation.
May our gifts help bring to all love and transformation.

Offertory prayer

God, you have come to us in surprising moments and surprising ways. You take care of our needs, often even before we ask. Please receive these gifts we offer as a token of appreciation for all you have done for us, and use them for your work. Amen.

(From The Whole People of God © Wood Lake Publishing, 2016)

Minute for Mission

Announcements

Hymn VU#2 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, God of peace and promise. Through the words of your prophets and the faith of your followers you prepare the way of our redemption and bring hope to birth. And though we often grow weary of waiting, your signs call us to keep watch for that day when all things shall be made new. In assurance of this hope, we join with all the company of heaven and earth to give you praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

As we gather at this table, we remember that on the night before he died, Jesus had supper with his friends. He took a loaf of bread, thanked you as we have thanked you, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: “Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me.”

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: “Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood. Each time you drink from this cup, remember me.”

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering Christ’s life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for his coming again. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Holy God, pour your Spirit on us, that we may know Christ in the breaking of bread, and that in word and deed, we may be channels of your love, peace, and justice in the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

Amen.

With Jesus, we pray together, saying: **Our Father, who art in heaven**

(breaking of bread) The bread of life.
(pouring of wine) The cup of blessing.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Prayer after Communion

Life-giving God, may we, who share Christ’s body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring new life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and all creation will live to praise your name. Amen.

Hymn VU#4 – God of All Places

Blessing and Sending Forth

Let us now go forth into the Advent Season with hope. Let us celebrate the waiting and be alert for Christ to break into our lives. And may the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

(From *Whole People of God* worship resources ©Wood Lake Publishing 2016.)

Choral Benediction MV#220 – Hope Shines as the Solitary Star

Postlude

TODAY’S SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations,

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov. 27th **First Sunday of Advent Communion 10:30 a.m.**
Sunday School
Sunshine Singers and Handbells
Soup, Rolls and Fellowship
Ecumenical Service Presbyterian Church 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 28th **Fellowship Unit at Angela Youngs 6:00 p.m.**
- Nov. 29th **Games 1:00 p.m.**
Pathfinders 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Sparks 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 30th **Advent Bible Study 10:00 a.m.**
Quilting 1:00 p.m.
Choir 7:15 p.m.
- Dec. 4th. **Second Sunday of Advent White Gift Sun. 10:30 a.m.**
Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in Board Room

PAR REMITTANCE PROGRAM

This is a great time of year to sign up for our PAR REMITTANCE PROGRAM! If you have automatic debits from your bank account to pay your bills, then you understand the PAR principle. It means regular contributions throughout the year. Even when we are away, our church has commitments every week. This is a convenient way to support both the local church and M&S. CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE DETAILS.

DONATIONS

A donation has been made to the General Fund in loving memory of Valerie Stewart by Peter and Janet Clark.