

## **Saint James United Church**

**December 18<sup>th</sup> , 2016 – Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Sunday School Concert**

**120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7M1H1**

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**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: Jolene Caverhill, Carla Opie, Jeff Wright, Conrad Anderson**

**Candle Lighters: Tom and Emily Essensa**



*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 in the C. E. Centre for the Family Christmas Pot Luck.*

### **Prelude**

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

### **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

The time is at hand: a child is about to be born.

**A voice is calling, calling in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord.**

Our God is like a shepherd, who lovingly cares for us all.

**A voice is calling, calling in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord.**

Our God has not forgotten us, but has come to be with us, in one whom we call Emmanuel, meaning "God with us."

**A voice is calling, calling in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord.**

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

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday School Concert Family Christmas Pot Luck in C.E. Centre	10:30 a.m.
Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Advent Bible Study Blue Christmas Service	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve Family Service & Communion	7:00 p.m..
Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Morning Service	10:30 a.m.
Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017	New Year Day Service	10:30 a.m.

**JUST A REMINDER** Due to many people suffering from allergies, we have tried to maintain a Scent Free Environment within Saint James United Church. We would like to remind everyone to please consider this request.

## **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.*

**The bulletin today has dedicated by Phyllis Robinson in appreciation of the professionalism of Amy, the Choir, Handbells, and the Sunshine Singers, which it is very much appreciated.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

*Wednesday, December 21, 2017 at 7 p.m.*

*This will be a quiet service for those who struggle with the joy surrounding us at this time of year. It is open to everyone and is an opportunity for those who are grieving any type of loss - a loved one, a job, a relationship, health, etc. - to acknowledge that loss and the difficulty that the Christmas season presents. We will have special music as well as a candlelighting ceremony. There will be no offering so please feel free to join us.*

**OBSERVER SUBSCRIPTION** : *Now is the time for renewal of your Observer Subscription for 2017. The cost is \$ 25.00. If you are not receiving a copy and would like to subscribe, please contact Mary at the church office.*

**CHURCH CALENDARS 2017** *Have arrived. Check at the office if you wish to purchase one. Cost \$ 7.00*

### **UPPER ROOMS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.**

*Small copies have arrived and located at the back of the church. The Large copies are to be here for the first of January. Cost is \$ 3.00.*

**ANNUAL REPORTS** *are due for 2016 are due by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for preparation for the Annual Meeting scheduled February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.*

**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.*

### ***Advent Candle Lighting***

As morning sun separates the horizon, night from day, light from shadows,

**we assemble to hear the ancient story told again this year, a story of God's love burning brightly into a waiting world; a spark of new life that unites us with God's love.**

*(light three blue candles and one pink candle)*

### ***Sing VU#7 – Hope Is a Star (verse 4)***

**Sunshine Singers**      The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

**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.)

*(light three blue candles and one pink candle)*

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION**

### ***Recitations***

***Handbells --- Feliz Navidad***

### ***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 joyful message  
that Christ comes to bring to us life for all creation.  
May our gifts help bring to all love and transformation.

### ***Offertory prayer***

**Thank you loving Creator, for the many ways you give us love. As we bring these offerings to you, use them to bring love for a better world to every corner of our world. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

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

### ***Minute for Mission***

### ***Announcements***

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION**

### ***Around the Manger***

#### ***Part I***

***Hymn VU#69 - Away in a Manger***

#### ***Part II***

***Hymn VU#36 - Angels from the Realms of Glory***  
***(Vs.1&4)***

#### ***Part III***

#### ***Part IV***

***Twinkle Twinkle Little Star***

***Hymn VU #67 Silent Night***

### ***Blessing and Sending Forth***

*God has given us a sign –*

***A child born for us and for our salvation.***

*Go with anticipation and longing.*

***We go with joy and hope, trusting in the promises of God.***

(From *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2016* ©2015 Abingdon Press.)

***Choral Benediction MV#220 – Love Shines as a the Solitary Star***

### ***Postlude***

## **DONATION**

***A donation of More Voices Hymn Books has been donated in loving memory of R. Arthur Green, son of the late Donald and Jean Green, by Pauline Yerxa and family.***

### **E-MAIL ADDRESSES AND UPDATED ADDRESSES**

***Keeping updated through email. I will try to keep you updated.***

***Please contact the church office at 328-6114 so our addresses may be kept up to date. Tell your friends also so they can***

***be added to our list.***