

***Saint James United Church***

***December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Christmas Day***

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***Minister: Rev. Debra Baker***

***Music Director and Organist: Amy Anderson***

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

**WE GATHER**

***Prelude***

***Introit*** VU#58 – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

***Welcome***

***Call to Worship***

In the beginning ...

**In the beginning was the Word.**

God's Word.

**The word was with God ...**

And the word was God.

**Everything came into being through the Word**

and without the Word nothing came into being.

**God's Word.**

We are created by God's Word.

**The Word became flesh, and made its home among us.**

Here, in our very midst,

**God's Word.**

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***Hymn*** VU#60 – O Come All Ye Faithful

***The bulletin today has been donated  
in loving memory of James Hall  
by Joan Hall and family.***

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace, goodwill toward all!”

<sup>15</sup> So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

### ***John 1:1-14***

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of humans, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

### ***Opening Prayer***

**Loving God of Christmas, and all our days, we gather as your people to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We thank you for his birth and for his life as one of us. May this worship fill us with joy and wonder, and may Christ be born again in our hearts. Amen.**

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***Hymn***            VU#75 – While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

### ***Children’s Time***

## **WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

***Scripture***        Titus 3:4-7

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

***Scripture***        Psalm 97, VU p.817

***Hymn***             VU#71 – ‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

***Scripture***        Luke 2:1-7

***Hymn***             VU#91 – The First Nowell

***Scripture***        John 1:1-14

***Hymn***             VU#62 – Once in Royal David’s City

## WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

#### *Offertory prayer*

**Loving God, we are in awe of the great gift you gave us – your very self, in the form of a tiny baby born long ago and far away, who came to bring you ever more present in our world and in our lives. Help us to respond, not just this day but every day, by giving of our very selves, that together we might help make the world a better place for all.**

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*Scripture* Luke 8-20

*Hymn* VU#59 – Joy to the World

#### *Blessing and Sending Forth*

As the shepherds returned home – “glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen” – so we go out now, to tell the world the simple and transforming news:

**The Word of God, that created the world and declared it good, has come to live among us.**

Wherever you go, may you know that God is always with you, and loves you without reserve.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Choral Benediction* VU#43 – Go Tell It on the Mountain  
(chorus)

#### *Postlude*

#### *Titus 3:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

#### *Luke 2:1-20*

<sup>1</sup>And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup>So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

<sup>4</sup>Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup>And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup>Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup>For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: