

(▲Rise in body or in spirit/Responses in bold)

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome & Introductions

Theme Conversation & Acknowledging the Territory

## CROSSING THE THRESHOLD OF ADVENT

Lighting the Advent Candles

- 1: As the days grow shorter and colder,  
we hope for warmth and light.
- 2: We hope for warmth and light within our hearts.
  - 1: We hope that warmth and light  
may spread out all around our land,  
and all around the world –  
especially where hope is hard to find.
  - 2: And so we light a candle, because we want hope  
to shine bright here and everywhere.

**All: God of all hope, we too hope for a better world.**

Even when our hearts are heavy,  
even when the troubles of the world  
make us sad and worried,  
may hope still stay alive within us.  
May hope shine through us,  
and light the way for others,  
wherever we go.  
In the name of Jesus,  
Light of the World. Amen.

▲We Sing – Hope Is a Candle on a Journey

Hope is a candle on our journey.  
Hope is the travel and the end.  
All through the frosty fields of winter.  
This dancing flame of Hope we'll tend.

For we are a people of a story.  
Of stars that sing and love that cries.  
And though these nights are getting longer.  
The path is lit before our eyes.  
(Go back to verse)

## SHARING OUR ADVENT MOMENTS

What signs of **HOPE** did you notice this week?

Opening Prayer

Christ is at home in your heart  
Place your hand over your heart  
Close your eyes  
and see the candle's light in your mind's eye.  
Sit quietly and notice where hope is stirring.... (pause)

Rest in the light of Hope beckoning...  
breathe... breathe... breathe... (pause)  
Come, Hope, come... Stir in our souls  
Find your birthing place in our living.  
Shine forth like a star.  
Come, Hope, come.

**Silent prayer...**

We turn to you,  
knowing that you understand us,  
forgive us, and love us like a Mother,  
and so we pray with confidence and faith,

Our Father, who art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
On earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil:  
for thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen

Living Nativity Story

▲We Sing – O Come, O Come Emmanuel

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – John 1:1-6, 14

Reflection – Light is Returning

Reflective Music

Ministry of Music – Hope, Come Make your Home with Us

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Passing of the Peace

▲We Sing – For Everyone Born

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

God of creation and light,  
in the beginning your voice moved over the darkness,  
and hope was born with the stars.  
**You shaped life from the dust,  
and called your people to live in love and freedom.**

When we lost our way,  
you did not turn from us.

**You spoke through prophets and poets,  
and in time, your Word became flesh —  
a child of promise,  
a light for all people.**

We give you thanks,  
for in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
you dwell among us still.

**Through him we see what hope looks like:  
healing and welcome,  
courage and compassion,  
the steadfast light that shines in the darkness.**

And so, with all who journey toward Bethlehem —  
with the angels and shepherds,  
with the magi watching the stars,  
with those who have gone before us  
and those yet to come —  
we join our voices in praise:

**Holy, holy, holy God,  
God of light and love,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Telling the Story

And so, remembering all your acts of hope and love,  
we offer our lives again in gratitude and faith,  
proclaiming the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Prayers of the People

Prayer for the Spirit

Pour out your Spirit, O God,  
on us and on these gifts of bread and cup.  
May they become for us the body and life of Christ —  
food for the journey,

light for our path,

hope for a weary world.

**As we share this meal,  
may we become bearers of hope,  
stars of kindness in a shadowed world,  
signs of your incarnation among us still.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

You are invited to come forward, place your star on the  
path before receiving the bread and cup;  
a symbolic act of 'bringing your hope to the table.'

*Our bread is gluten free.*

*As we share in the gifts of bread and wine,  
we will sing Eat This Bread # 466*

*Eat this bread; drink this cup;  
come to me and never be hungry.*

*Eat this bread; drink this cup;  
trust in me and you will not thirst.*

Prayer After Communion

**God of promise and light,  
we give you thanks for this holy meal,  
where hope has been rekindled and hearts renewed.  
Send us out now to follow the star of your love —  
to be bearers of your hope in the world,  
to make room for light's indwelling  
in all we do and all we are.  
In Jesus' name, we pray.  
Amen.**

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ We Sing – May the God of Hope Go with Us # 424

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ We Sing – We're Seeking Your Presence

**We're seeking your presence, help us find it today.  
We wonder and ponder, in so many ways.  
Hope stirs deep within us, we actively pray.  
As we await Jesus, please show us the way.**

Liturgy adapted from Rev. Dr. Shawn Redden & Rev. Janice MacLean  
Words to O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – Juanita Lynn Austin  
We're Seeking Your Presence – Rev. Catherine MacDonald

St. James United Church

United in Faith  
Strengthened by Friendship  
Building a Community  
of Love and Justice



Worship Leader – Rev. Catherine MacDonald  
Music Director – Dean Bradshaw  
Reader – Dianne Cleveland

November 30, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

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