

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

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude – The Angels and the Shepherds

Welcome & Introductions

Theme Conversation & Acknowledging the Territory

## CROSSING THE THRESHOLD OF ADVENT

Lighting the Advent Candles

1. Again, we light a candle for hope  
- hope for ourselves,  
hope for God's beloved world.
2. Again, we light a candle for peace  
- peace in our hearts and peace on earth.
1. And now we remember how the angels told the  
shepherds news of great joy.
2. God's beloved was born among us,  
so that we could all have joy deep in our hearts.
1. This joy is deeper than sorrow, stronger than fear.  
This joy surprises us even on the coldest,  
darkest winter day.
2. We light a candle for joy. May joy shine bright in  
our hearts and in every human heart.

**God of deep joy, we do not always feel happy.**  
**Sometimes we feel sad. Sometimes we are worried.**  
**Sometimes we feel lonely. But your joy runs deeper**  
**than our every sorrow. May it bubble up within us,**  
**so that we can bring light and joy to all we meet.**

**In the name of Jesus, Joy to the world! Amen.**

We Sing – Hope Is a Candle

**Joy is a candle on our journey.**  
**Joy is the swinging and the leap!**  
**Under the clouded skies of winter,**  
**this laughing flame of joy we'll keep.**

**For we are a people of a Story,**  
**Of stars that sing and Love that cries.**  
**And though these nights were getting longer,**  
**The path was lit before our eyes.**

**Hope is a candle on our journey.**  
**Hope is the travel and the end.**  
**All thro' the frosty fields of winter,**  
**this dancing flame of Hope we'll tend.**

Sharing Our Advent Moments

*What JOY moments are you celebrating today?*

Centering Prayer

**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**

Nativity Story – Jackie Clark

▲We Sing – Once In Royal David's City # 62

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – Luke 2: 8-20 (CEB)

Reflection – Connected to Heaven and Earth

Reflective Music

Ministry of Music – Advent Tidings

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲We Sing – It Came Upon a Midnight Clear # 44

▲We Profess – A New Creed – Page 918

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

## THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲We Sing – Joy to the World # 59

▲Commissioning & Blessing

▲We Sing – We're Seeking Your Presence  
(Tune – Away in a Manger)

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

*Series based on one created by Rev. Dr. Shawn Redden  
Candle Lighting Liturgy – Rev. Jane Doull  
Opening Prayer – Lori Megley Best, adapted by Shawn Redden  
Photo Rev. Catherine MacDonald  
Song of Dismissal – the Rev. Catherine MacDonald*

**THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY**  
**This Week at St James – Dec 14-Dec 20, 2025**

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Sanctuary	11 am
Sunday	Legends of Mary	Sanctuary	2:00 pm
Tuesday	Food Bank	Hall	8:30-11am
Wednesday	Blue Christmas	Mattatall's	7:00 pm

**The Christmas Poinsettia Project:** This lovely tradition was started by the St James UCW. Two large plants grace the sanctuary in memory or celebration of those we love.

**Legends of Mary**, featuring the Carillon Choir and St James Choir, join us this afternoon, 2 pm. (Service in person only).

**Blue Christmas Service:** The holiday season can be a challenging time for many. Join us for a reflective, inclusive service that offers solace and a sense of connection. In partnership with Mattatall's Funeral home at their location, 217 Portland St, Wednesday, Dec 17 at 7pm.

**Sock It To Ya!** Again this year, your chance to throw something at your minister! On Sunday, December 21, you are invited to bring in new, warm socks that will be given to the Dartmouth Street Navigator for distribution over the winter months. Please purchase good quality socks, ones that can withstand our winter weather. During worship, you can throw them at Rev. Catherine and see how many she can catch in a laundry basket!

**Food Bank Christmas 2025:** On Dec.16 we will give our registered singles and families hygiene gift bags and a grocery gift card, courtesy of Feed Nova Scotia, the Kin Club and St James, so that they can buy something special for the holiday meal.

**Christmas Eve Services:**

4:00 pm, Decorating the Christmas Tree  
7:00 pm, Candles and Communion

**In the Community**

**Accents Music invites you to Merry and Bright**, a holiday concert on Saturday Dec. 20 at St. James, concerts at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 pm. Join them for an afternoon of holiday music.

**Note: The emergency exit from the sanctuary (next to the piano on the front left) is not to be used** until the work outside with the new washroom sanitation system is completed. If evacuation is required, please use the main front doors or the staircase on the right leading to the new office space (formerly the Choir Room).



If you would like to contribute to our ministry, there are **offering plates** at the back, or you can e-transfer to [stjamesfinancials181@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesfinancials181@gmail.com). This QR code will take you directly to our Canada Helps page.  
**Thank you for your generosity!**

If you would like to be on our weekly email distribution list, please email [st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com](mailto:st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com)

**Directory**

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**Facebook (Live 10am Sunday)** [St-James-United-Church](https://www.facebook.com/St-James-United-Church)  
**Website:** [stjamesdartmouth.ca](http://stjamesdartmouth.ca)  
**Food Bank:** December 16

**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 – Cathy McLeod

**December 14, 2025 @ 10:00 AM**

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