

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

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude – What Child Is This

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 among us and peace on earth.

1: Again, we light a candle for joy  
joy in our hearts, joy for the world.

Today we remember God's love for the world, shown  
forth in God's beloved Child Jesus.

1: Because Jesus was human like us,  
we know we are all God's beloved children.

God's Love shines forth in every one of us.

2: May love shine in our hearts, as we share love and  
light with all who share this beloved world.

**God of infinite love, of all the gifts we receive in this  
season, most of all we treasure the gift of your love.  
May we treat each person, each living being, as your  
beloved- especially those who may be feeling sad or  
lonely or ill. May we respect your wondrous  
creation, as we care gently for your beloved world.  
In the name of Jesus, Love born among us. Amen.**

We Sing – Hope Is Candle On Our Journey

**Love is a candle on our journey.  
Love is the holding and the flight.  
All round this aching earth of winter,  
this tender flame of Love we'll light.**

**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

*Where are you seeing a spirit of LOVE in this season?*

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**

Living Nativity Story

▲ We Sing – I Danced in the Morning # 352

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – Luke 2: 1-7

Reflection – Lost in Translation:  
Rethinking the Birth of Jesus

Reflective Music

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ We Sing – O Little Town of Bethlehem # 64

▲ Sock It to Ya!

Invitation to Generosity

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

## THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ We Sing – The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy # 73

▲ 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.  
Love 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, Song of Dismissal – Rev. Catherine MacDonald

**THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY  
This Week at St James – Dec 21-Dec 27, 2025**

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Sanctuary	11 am
Wednesday	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary	4:00 pm
Wednesday	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary	7:00 pm

**Sock It To Ya!** Again this year, your chance to throw something at your minister! The warm socks collected today will be given to the Dartmouth Street Navigator for distribution over the winter months.

**Readers!** Can you read one of the scripture passages at the 7 pm Christmas Eve Service? It's nice to hear multiple voices. Let Rev Catherine know.

**Helpers needed** for setting up tables in the gym for our Breakfast with Jesus potluck on Dec 28 at 10 am.

**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.

**Christmas Eve Services:**

4:00 pm, Decorating the Christmas Tree, family friendly and interactive.

7:00 pm, Candles and Communion

**Note:** The emergency exit from the sanctuary (next to the piano on the front left) is not to be used. If evacuation is required, please use the main front doors or the staircase on the right leading to the new office space.



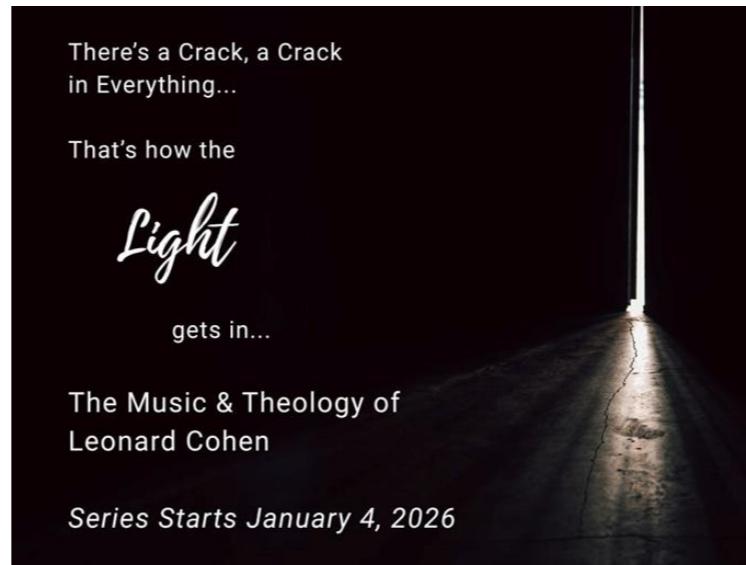
If you would like to contribute to our ministry, there are **offering plates** at the back, or you can e-transfer to [stjamesfinancials181@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesfinancials181@gmail.com). This QR code will take you directly to our Canada Helps page.  
**Thank you for your generosity!**

**Directory**

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**Facebook (Live 10am Sunday)** [St-James-United-Church](https://www.facebook.com/St-James-United-Church-101340111111111/)  
**Website:** [stjamesdartmouth.ca](http://stjamesdartmouth.ca)  
**Food Bank:** Reopens January 6, 2026

**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 – Elana Kan-MacDonald

**December 21, 2025 @ 10:00 AM**

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