

(▲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

Lighting the Advent Candles

1. Again, we light a candle for hope –  
hope for ourselves, hope for our beloved world.
  2. Today we remember that Jesus  
was called the Prince of Peace.
  1. We remember the angels’ song: Peace on Earth.
  2. We still do not have peace on earth.  
Many suffer, because of war and violence.
  1. And so, we light a candle to shine the light of  
peace: peace in our hearts,  
peace in our community, peace in the world.
  2. May that gentle and peaceful light  
spread out all through the world!
- God of all peace,  
may your light always shine bright within us.  
May we choose the paths of peace.  
May all our words and deeds and prayers  
express our longing for a peaceful world:  
a world where wounds are healed,  
where enemies become friends,  
where war is no more,  
where all can live free of fear.  
In the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace, amen.**

We Sing – Hope Is a Candle

**Peace is a candle on our journey.  
Peace is the giving and the gift.  
Over the frozen lakes of winter.  
The whispering flame of Peace we’ll lift.**

**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.**

**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.**

## SHARING OUR ADVENT MOMENTS

*Think of all the places your feet  
have traveled this past week...*

*What signs of PEACE  
did you notice along your journey?*

*What moments of awe and wonder  
did you encounter?*

Centering 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 peace is stirring...

Rest in the light of Peace beckoning...  
breathe... breathe... breathe...  
Come, Peace, come  
Stir in our souls  
Find your birthing place  
in our living...  
Encircle us...

***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 Am a Child of God MV # 157

Ministry of Music – Hope, Peace, Joy & Love

## LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – Luke 1: 26-38

Reflection – Mary Says Yes!

Reflective Music

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ We Sing – Mary, Woman of the Promise # 16  
Tune 444

▲ We Profess – A New Creed – Page # 918

Stories of Mission

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

## THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ We Sing – My Soul Cries Out MV # 120

▲ 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.  
Peace 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 – Rev. Catherine MacDonald*

*Note, our services are livestreamed and photos may be taken. You are welcome to take photos and video.*

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)

## THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

**This Week at St James – Dec 7-Dec 13, 2025**

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Sanctuary	11 am
Monday	Carillon Choir	Concert, Harris Hall	7:30 pm
Tuesday	Food Bank	Hall	8:30-11am
Wednesday	Craft Group	Parlour	1:30 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. Place your dedications and donation in the offering plate or send to the church office by December 11.

**Readers!** Rev. Catherine would LOVE to have some readers for the Legends of Mary Concert on December 14th @ 2pm. Please speak to her if you can be part of this.

**Legends of Mary**, featuring the Carillon Choir and St James Choir, join us on **Sunday Dec. 14, 2 pm.**

**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!**

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 – Joyce Wylie

**December 7, 2025 @ 10:00 AM**

181 Portland Street  
Dartmouth  
B2Y 1J5  
902-464-8852

