

Christmas Eve @ 4 PM
St. James United Church



Decorating the Christmas Tree

Welcome and Introductions

Advent Candle Lighting

Tonight we gather in wonder and joy,
for the waiting is almost over.
The child promised to Mary and Joseph,
the child announced by angels,
is coming among us —
light shining in the darkness.

We light this candle for hope,
because God's promises are true.

We light this candle for peace,
because God's presence calms our fears.

We light this candle for joy,
because God's love fills our hearts.

We light this candle for love,
because God's love came down at Christmas.

And now we light the Christ candle,
for Christ is our light —
the light no darkness can overcome.

All:

**O God of light,
as these candles shine brightly,
may we be reminded
that your love still shines in us and through us.
Fill us with the joy of the angels,
the peace of the shepherds,
the wonder of the magi,
and the love of the Christ Child.
Amen.**

DECORATING THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Angel

Scripture – Luke 1: 26-33

We Sing – Angels, from the Realms of Glory VU # 36

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light: R

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: R

4. Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: R

Bell

Scripture – Luke 2: 8-14

We Sing – Joy to the World # 59

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Shepherds' Crooks

Scripture – Luke 2: 15-18, 20

We Sing – The First Nowell VU # 91 vs. 1-3

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

2. They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. R

3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. R

Star

Scripture – Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-10

We Sing – We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

Invitation to Generosity

Prayer of Dedication

Heart

Scripture – 1 John 4: 7-12

We Sing – Away in a Manger # 69

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Tinsel

Scripture – John 1: 1-5

We Sing – Silent Night # 67

1 Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

3 Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Prayers of the People

We Sing – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing # 48

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! R

3 Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. R

Blessing

Merry Christmas!

On behalf of everyone at St. James,
thank you for worshipping together on this joyous night!

Scan this code
to tell us what you thought
of the service.
Just three questions.
We promise not to spam you!





There's a Crack, a Crack
in Everything...

That's how the

Light

gets in...

The Music & Theology of
Leonard Cohen

Series Starts January 4, 2026