

St James United Church

400 Burnhamthorpe Road, Etobicoke M9B 2A8 416-622-4113

www.stjamesunitedchurch.com

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

10:30 am

*First Sunday of Advent ~ Hope
The Sacrament of Communion*

Welcome!

*We are glad you have joined us in worship.
May you feel the warmth of God's presence.*

Our Mission:

To live God's love through our actions: Seek, Serve, Challenge.

Reflection Question: "What does it mean to hope?"

WE GATHER AND APPROACH GOD

***Bold indicates words said by all**

PRELUDE

Hope (arr. Joel Raney)
J.-C. Coolen, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Maw

GATHERING MUSIC

Hope Shines as the Solitary Star

MV 220

(Sung twice: Cantor alone, then congregation & cantor)

Cantor: Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

Hope shines as the solitary star,

faith is the inner light.
 You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
 and illumine the pathway home.

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ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

We enter in this season of expectancy with Hope.

**When we light this candle, we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit,
 who urges us to keep awake!**

See? Spirit-God moves in and through this season. Behold!

We enter in the radiance with reluctance.

**Why should we celebrate when we can only spend time
 with the few in our bubble, when some of us are alone?**

We celebrate in anticipation of a new dawn, a birthing of possibilities -
 strange but wondrous, uncertain yet full of renewed life.

**You have slowed us down and caused us to breathe deeply
 in protected spaces.**

Prepare us to receive your gift. Prepare us to welcome you anew.

For you will come again... O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

OPENING HYMN	<i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>	VU 1
	Cantor: Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist	<i>v.1, 2 & 5</i>
	Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister	

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel
 that mourns in lowly exile here
 until the Son of God appear.
 *Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.*

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
 who orders all things mightily;
 to us the path of knowledge show,
 and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

Words: from the Latin antiphons for Advent, ca. 9th century; trans. John Mason Neale, et al. © The Church Pension Fund. Reproduced under One License #A-622413.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF WONDER

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19

from Psalms for All Seasons

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbours;
our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Shepherd of your flock, restore your wayward people;
lead us again to green pastures and renew us beside the waters of comfort.
Because of your faithful care we worship and praise your holy name. **Amen.**

MUSICAL OFFERING *Shine on Us* (arr. Robert Sterling)
 Renee Fajardo, mezzo-soprano
 J.-C. Coolen, piano

READING Mark 13.24-37

HOMILY Keep Awake Maya Douglas

RESPONDING TO GOD

COMMUNION HYMN *I Come with Joy* **VU 477**
 Cantor: Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist *v. 1, 2, 3, 4*
 Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
 forgiven, loved and free,
 the life of Jesus to recall
 in love laid down for me,
 in love laid down for me.

- 2 I come with Christians far and near
 to find, as all are fed,
 the new community of love
 in Christ's communion bread,
 in Christ's communion bread.

- 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
 each proud division ends.
 The love that made us, makes us one,
 and strangers now are friends,
 and strangers now are friends.

- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
 unseen, but ever near,
 is in such friendship better known,
 alive among us here,
 alive among us here.

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THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Friends, Jesus invites us to share in this feast of remembrance!

All are welcome, whether you worship here regularly, or you are new,
or you are just visiting, all are welcome at Christ's Table.

...

We are the body of Christ.

At this table, we bear witness to our faith.

At this table, God brings wholeness out of brokenness,
and healing to the Earth.

We are not alone.

God is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift up our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed, good to give God thanks and praise,

...

In the fullness of time, you send us your greatest gift,
the embodiment of you in Jesus, the Christ,
our Prince of Peace, our Herald of Hope.

And though we often grow weary of waiting,
your signs call us to keep watch, and
as we wait, we proclaim your goodness, singing:

O holy, holy holy God, O God of time and space.

**All earth and sea and sky above bear witness
to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n,
creation sings your praise.**

**And blessed is the One who comes and bears
your name always!**

MV 203

At this time, we also remember all with whom
you would have us share this feast.

We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain...
 all who are ill or alone...
 all who live with fear, oppression, or hunger...
 for all whom the world counts as last and least...
 We pray for the church and its many ministries...
 for nations as they strive for peace and justice...
 for the Earth, and the fragile web of life we share...
 We join our voices now in the prayer of Jesus, your Son,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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,
 and the power, and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.**

Gracious God, as we come to this table,
 we remember especially all the grace-filled meals

...

Where Jesus took the bread, gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying:
 "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this to remember me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and passed it among them, saying:
 "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood.

Do this to remember me.”

Remembering Jesus, we wait for his return
by bringing peace and justice to our lives,
in our homes, in our communities and to the Earth.
In this way, and in all our ways, O God,
help us to proclaim the mystery of faith:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again! MV 204
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Gracious God, raise your Holy Spirit within each of us,
join us together by blowing through our spaces and
inspire us by what we are about to do together today.
Send out your Holy Spirit upon our gifts,
so that all who share in this bread and in this cup
will be assured of being a part of the body of Christ:
our Life, our Hope, our Love in the world.

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen! MV 205
Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

More Voices 203, 204 and 205 Words: William S. Kervin and Paul Stott.
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SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ, bread for the journey.
The blood of Christ, a cup of blessing.

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, God, for the gifts you have given us:
for the bread of our being loved,
for the wine of your joy,
for the hope we find in our life together as your people
ready to do your work in the simplest and
most significant of ways.

**In this Advent season, we pray that,
 having been refreshed at this table,
 we may be bread and wine for each other and the world.
 Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* **VU 2**
 Cantor: Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist
 Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
 born to set thy people free:
 from our fears and sins release us,
 let us find our rest in thee.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
 hope of all the earth thou art,
 dear desire of every nation,
 joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver;
 born a child and yet a king;
 born to reign in us for ever;
 now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit
 rule in all our hearts alone;
 by thine all-sufficient merit
 raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley. Public Domain.

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL COMMISSIONING *People, Look East* **VU 9, v.1**
 Cantor: Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist
 Piano: J.- C. Coolen, Music Minister

1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon. Public Domain.

POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Fount/Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (arr. Joel Raney)
J.-C. Coolen, piano

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Giving leadership in today's service: (*in alphabetical order*)

J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

Rev. Maya Douglas, Minister of Pastoral Care, Word and Sacrament

Renee Fajardo, Alto Choral Lead/Soloist

Rev. Linda Maw, Volunteer Retired Minister

We are also thankful for those serving as tech support:

Gord Burrell, Don Munday, Karen Munday, and River Rideout.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please join Rev. Maya in praying for the members and adherents in our Directory for an ongoing cycle. We hold these members of our faith community in prayer this week:

Charlotte Allen, and Kristen Munday and Rebecca Allen; Jennifer and Scott Allin Heltcher; Laura Lee and Emmanuel Ankrah, and Sarah, Nova, Nigel; Regina and James Ankrah and James, Dinah, Denis; Helen Arnold; Marg and Bill Arscott; Joanne Atkins; Carol and Wally Baerg; Michael Barlow; Catherine and Jeffrey Barrett, Meaghan; and Janice Basili. *We join in prayer for healing and transformation with:*

Elda Dunham, Betty and Bernie Ginger, and Joe Tyler (Nancy Cormier's dad).

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NEXT WEEK: 2nd Sunday of Advent – Peace

Scripture Readings: Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13, Isaiah 40.1-11, Mark 1.1-8, and 2 Peter 3.8-15a.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday to our St. James family members who celebrate their birthdays this coming week. We are glad you were born and give God thanks for your lives: Philomena Sirur December 3. Please note: anyone submitting the names of people celebrating birthdays needs the permission of those individuals first.

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We are pleased to welcome CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH ALLEN into the Christian Church and pray for God's blessings on her, and her parents: Rebecca Allen and Kristen Munday.

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Our Advent Outreach Offering will be received during the month of December to support the Red Door Shelter. Since 1982 the Red Door Family Shelter has provided emergency shelter and support for women and children affected by domestic abuse, families experiencing a housing crisis, and refugee claimants with nowhere else to turn. Please give generously. Thank you.

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Christmas Poinsettias: to contribute to the purchase of memorial poinsettias this Christmas:

1. Put \$10 in an envelope with the name of the person you wish to remember, and your own name.

Mail it or put it through the front door slot of the church.

OR

2. E-transfer \$10 to *stjames_uc@rogers.com*

Leave the name you are memorializing in the message

Security Question: "What is this contribution for?"

Answer: "poinsettias"



Poinsettias will be used to decorate the church, then they will be delivered to those on the Pastoral Care List before Christmas.

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Worship Service Coffee Hour: To join Rev. Maya after worship at 12:30 p.m. on Sundays in lieu of "meet and greet", please use one of the following options.

Using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81414121724?pwd=S1lJakFPSnM5UEx1UWVUNHI5MktSUT>

09Using Zoom:

Meeting ID: 814 1412 1724

Passcode: 555637

OR

If you wish to phone in, please use the following information.

Dial by your location

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

Meeting ID: 814 1412 1724

Passcode: 555637

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Sharing Christmas Joy Sessions:

Candy Cane Time with Karen Forgrave: Saturday, December 5, at 7 p.m. Make the **Simplest-Ever Candy-Cane Shortbread Cookies** and the sharing of a beautiful story “The Candymaker’s Gift: The Inspirational Legend of the Candy Cane”. Family-Friendly, for all ages! **Ingredients you will need:** 1/2 cup butter, softened (take out of fridge a few hours before), 1/4 cup icing sugar, scant 1 cup of flour, red food colouring.

Christmas Carols on the Guitar or Ukelele with Bob Harris and Gord Burrell: Saturday, December 12, at 2 p.m. A selection of simple Christmas carols will be provided to play and sing-along. All levels welcomed, beginner to advanced! Learn some tunes to impress your family this Christmas! You will need: a guitar or ukulele to play. Music will be available by email or can be picked up (hard copy) at the church the week before. Please practice your basic chords and tune your instrument before coming, especially if it has been a while since your instrument was out!

Please use this Zoom link to participate in any of the activities:

Topic: Sharing Christmas Joy

Time: Please check the schedule for times

Join Zoom Meeting (same link every time)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81267637326?pwd=T21kYktYM1dQU3FxWUs2Ujd3Vi9XUT0>

9

Meeting ID: 812 6763 7326

Passcode: 015803

Sunday School via Zoom, Sundays at 1:30 p.m. If you have a child/grandchild from JK to Grade 9 who would like to participate please contact Karen at karen_forgrave@hotmail.com so that she can be sure that you are included in the mailing list, and she can send you the Zoom Link.

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Our Bible Study group will be held over ZOOM every Monday at 1p.m. Please confirm your interest in joining by contacting Rev. Maya at revmaya.douglas@gmail.com and she will send you the log-in information. We will read through the four lectionary readings for the week and discuss each one as well as how they may impact our lives and the world. An evening session will also be made available if a growing interest is shared with Maya. Newcomers are always welcome!

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The SJUC Junior and Youth Choir meets on Thursdays from 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. We are excited to announce the introduction of our very own Vocal Training Academy, for ages 5-17. For details see the e-flyer on St James' website. To register, please complete the short survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WZTN8YF>

There is no deadline for registration. Singers may join at any time. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Choir Director Wendy Simone at wcsimone@gmail.com.

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Senior Choir rehearsals are virtually over Zoom, on alternate Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. To participate in the Senior Choir, and for Zoom rehearsal meeting information, please contact J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister, at (905) 683-5757 or jccoolen@sympatico.ca.

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Egg Cartons – Our Food Basket is currently in need of empty, clean, egg cartons. If you have any to donate, please feel free to drop them off at the church anytime during the week during our office hours (Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.). Thank you.

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FUTURE SERVICES:

Sunday, December 6 is the 2nd Sunday of Advent (PEACE). Day of Remembrance (École Polytechnique) – Blue Christmas.

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Sunday, December 13 is the 3rd Sunday of Advent (JOY). Christmas Pageant.

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Sunday, December 20 is the 4th Sunday of Advent (LOVE).

Sunday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m., Candlelight Carol Service. Our Candlelight Carol Service will feature congregational carols, Senior and Junior virtual choir numbers, vocal solos and small ensembles and keyboard music, all surrounding a reading of the Christmas story. We will be livestreaming the service on our YouTube channel.

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Thursday, December 24 at 7:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Communion Service.

Our Communion Service will be livestreamed over Zoom. Link details are forthcoming.

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