Order of Service

St. James United Church

10:30 am, SUNDAY, November 29, 2026

Advent 1

National Day of Remembrance
and Action on Violence Against Women

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.

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GATHERING

Bold *indicates words said by* ***All***
❖*Indicates when one may stand in body or spirit*

PRELUDE	Christmas-Time (by Franz Behr)	Adrian Marchuk – organ
GATHERING SONG	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus	VU 2, v. 1, 3
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS		Albert Conforzi
CALL TO WORSHIP		
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT		
PASSING OF THE PEACE	Here We Come A-Wassailing	
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING		Klufas family
CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	A Candle Is Burning	VU 6, v. 1
OPENING PRAYER		
❖**GATHERING HYMN**	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	VU 1, v. 1, 2, 6, 7

DISCERNING

COMMUNION HYMN	As We Gather at Your Table	VU 457
COMMUNION		
THE PRAYER OF JESUS (SAID)		
ANTHEM	O Come, Emmanuel (Words and music by Don Besig & Nancy Price)	Senior Choir Ro Rogalsky - cello
SCRIPTURE READING	Matthew 13:24-37	Albert Conforzi
FAITH TALK	"Recognizing the Signs of Hope"	Rev. Richard C. Choe

RESPONDING

HYMN OF RESPONSE	Christ Has No Body Now but Yours	MV 171
CALL FOR OFFERING		
SONG OF THANKS	Hope (by Jason Robert Brown)	Adrian Marchuk
❖OFFERTORY RESPONSE	As with Gladness Men of Old	VU 81, v. 3
❖OFFERTORY PRAYER		
LITURGY OF CANDLES		
SUNG RESPONSE	I Am Sending You Light	TLUS 99 Kit Cooney - voice
❖CLOSING HYMN	People, Look East	VU 9

SCATTERING

❖BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH		
❖CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING	Prayer of Dedication	
POSTLUDE	O Come, Emmanuel	Adrian Marchuk - organ

Giving leadership in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Richard C. Choe
Presider: Albert Conforzi
Music Director: Adrian Marchuk
St. James Senior Choir
Section Leads/Soloists: Kit Cooney, Gabe Vaillant, Ro Rogalsky, Kate Etienne
Guest Musician: Ro Rogalsky
Reader: Albert Conforzi
Advent Candle Lighting: Klufas family
Sunday School Director: Karen Forgrave
Tech Support: David DeCarolis, Mary Paras
Greeters: James Ankrah, Regina Ankrah
Ushers: Tony Gray (Captain), James Ankrah, Regina Ankrah
Hospitality: Jennifer Gray (L), Jean Spencer, Elizabeth Leigh, Nila Hazarika

NEXT SERVICES:

Sunday, December 6, 2026, 10:30 AM – 2nd Sunday of Advent – PEACE.
All-Member Christmas Pageant Sunday.

Sunday, December 13, 2026, 10:30 AM – 3rd Sunday of Advent – JOY.
Candlelight Carol Service (7:30 pm)

Sunday, December 20, 2026, 10:30 AM – 4th Sunday of Advent – LOVE.
Christmas Service.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each week, the Shining Waters Regional Council asks that we pray for each other's congregations in support of our ministries: Dalston-Crown Hill United Church, Barrie; Heritage United Church, Markham; Eglinton St. George's United Church, Toronto.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOVIE: Today after church, everyone is invited to stay and watch the Animated Movie "DAVID" that was released last Christmas. This is a family-friendly event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. It is great as we have been learning about David this fall in Sunday School (from David being anointed by Samuel to David and Goliath to David writing Psalm 23 - The Lord is my Shepherd!). The movie has received positive reviews! It is an hour and 49 minutes. (We will aim to start by 12 noon so we can be done around 1:45pm). After church - feel free to grab a tea/coffee/juice from Fellowship Hall, and then head into the lounge where we will have cheese pizza ordered and available. In order to know how much pizza to order (roughly) it would be helpful to know how many people are planning on staying. If you are able to RSVP and let me know how many people are coming, that would be great: karen_forgrave@hotmail.com (And if you don't know yet, that's okay too - you'll still be welcome to stay and enjoy the show!).

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Exam care packages for post-secondary students! The CD Committee is creating some small care packages for our post-secondary students to let them know we are thinking of them at exam time - and that we hope to see them over the Christmas season! ☺ If you have a post-secondary student who

would like to receive greetings from St. James, please fill in the information card on the hall table and drop it into the CD mailbox in the hall. Deadline to submit is TODAY, November 29th. Thank you!

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December 6 is our All-Ages, Congregational, No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant! Be sure to be here a few minutes before the church service starts in order to select (or be given) a costume or simple prop, so that you can be part of our retelling of the birth of Jesus! A great day to invite friends and family to participate! There are no speaking lines - you just come up with others when your part is called!

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Candlelight Carol Service: Join us for a special musical evening as the St. James United Choir sings their way through the Christmas Story. **December 13 at 7:30 pm**, here at St. James United Church. All ages are welcome, and refreshments will be served.

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Poinsettias: Once again poinsettias are being offered for you to purchase in memoriam.
To contribute

a) e-Transfer $10 to *stjames_uc@rogers.com*
   Leave the name you are memorializing in the message
   Question: "What is this contribution for?"
   Answer: "poinsettias"
b) Mail or drop off to the church office $10 with the name you wish to remember and your own name.

Or come to the church office this Sunday, November 29th. We will be receiving donations until December 10th. The list of donors will be published on December 13th. The poinsettias will be distributed on Dec. 20th to those on the Pastoral Care List. Please consider helping to deliver the plants if you are in church on that date.

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Stewardship Information Letters: Please place your completed forms in the green box located at the bottom of the stairs leading to the sanctuary.

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Egg Carton donations: St. James Food Basket urgently needs egg cartons. Please leave any cartons in the church office or in the kitchen.

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Yoga: Wednesdays at 11 am till 12 noon in the Lounge, $25/class for drop in.

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Saturday morning yoga: 10 am in the Lounge**,** $25 per class.

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We are pleased to announce that hands on Reiki is available by donation on Monday afternoons from 1-3 pm, as well as Tuesday nights at 7 pm. Sign-up sheets are in the binder in the Well-Being waiting room or call the office at 416-622-4113 and book with our office.