

St. James United Church

Christmas Eve

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

We make room...



December 24, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

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



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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome & Acknowledging the Territory

▲ Opening Hymn – O Come, All Ye Faithful # 60

Call to Worship

There is room for you here.

If you're weary and worn,
or hopeful and patient.

If you're tired and lost, or wrapped up in hope.

If you're new to this place,
or have been here before.

Come in, come in. There is room for you here.

The angels are singing,
"Be not afraid."

The angels are singing,
"Good news and great joy!"

So come in, come in!

There is room for us here.

Lighting the Advent Candles

How does a weary world hold onto hope,
practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

How does a weary world combat cruelty?

How does a weary world shine a light
into our bleakest night?

**We do all these things with God's help.
For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.**

Tonight, Christ draws near.

Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.

Tonight, we are not alone.

God is near. Love has drawn close.

Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. Amen

Candle Lighting Song – Tune – Silent Night

Candle light, sacred light.

Mystery flames, burning bright

Hope, joy and peace are the gifts of this night.

Love poured out over all within sight.

Shine your light in our world; shine your light in our world.

Prayer of Confession (Together)

**Loving Christ,
Scripture tells us that you were born in a stable
because there was no room in the inn.
There was no room in the inn for a woman in need,
no room in the inn for an innocent baby.**

Forgive us.

**We should have learned our lesson by now,
but just as others turned their backs on you,
we continue to turn our backs on one another.
Teach us how to make room for one another.**

**Teach us how to make room for you.
Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love,
for we do not want to build hostility here.**

We want to build your promised day.

Guide us forward.

With hope and honesty we pray, amen.

Ministry of Music – Were You There That Christmas Night?

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD FOR US TODAY

Ancient Words/ Contemporary Words

Luke 2: 1-20 & The Encampment

Reflective Music

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

The Sacrament of Holy Communion – Please See Insert

Sharing Our Gifts

THRESHOLD INTO GOD’S WORLD

▲ Hymn – Meditation on Silent Night # 67

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ Joy to the World # 59

Music Takes Us into the World

*Candle Lighting Hymn – Catherine MacDonald
The Encampment – Sara Jewell*

Merry Christmas!

On behalf of everyone at St. James,
thank you for worshipping together on this holiest of nights.

December 31st @ 10:00 – Breakfast With Jesus



Our new series starts on January 14, 2024 @ 10:00 am



Atomic Church

**SMALL CHANGES
BIG IMPACT**