

St. James United Church

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

We sing stories of hope and love...



December 17, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

181 Portland Street
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(▲ Rise in body or in spirit/Responses in bold)

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome & Acknowledging the Territory

Call to Worship

How does a weary world rejoice?

We sing songs of hope and love.

We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.

We tell the stories of what could be.

We listen for God's word.

We resist the temptation to give up or give in.

We remember Mary's song.

We gather for worship.

We hope. We love.

Against all odds, we hope.

Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.

Let us worship holy God

Lighting the Advent Candles

How does a weary world practice love?

**By sending cards,
and picking up the phone.**

By practicing empathy,
and assuming the best in others.

By learning people's stories
and finding common ground.

**By advocating for justice,
and saving a place at the table.**

There are a million ways to practice love.

So today we light the candle of love as a
reminder and a charge.

**With God's help, may we bring love into
a weary world. Amen.**

Candle Lighting Song – Tune – Silent Night

Candle light, sacred light.

Mystery flames, burning bright

We are waiting for Jesus' new birth.

Shine his love over all of the earth.

Thanks for the gift of love,

thanks for the gift of love.

Prayer of Confession (Together)

**Holy God,
More days than not, hope feels like the rain.
We try to hold onto it with cupped hands,
but eventually, it slips right on through.
Forgive us for holding hope so loosely.
Forgive us for allowing the realities of today
to define tomorrow.
We know that this world needs people of hope,
so today we pray: turn us into those people.
Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world.
With open hearts we pray, amen.**

▲ Hymn – All Earth is Waiting # 5

Ministry of Music – On a Night of Wonder

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

An Ancient Word – Luke 1: 46-55 & Luke 1: 67-80

Reflection – Sing a Song

Reflective Music

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ Hymn – Canticle of the Turning - Video

▲ Affirmation of Faith

**We believe
that hope can change the world.
We believe
that God uses ordinary people,
like an unwed teenage mother,
for extraordinary good.
And we believe
that each of these ordinary people
can make a difference.
We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound.
We know that suffering quells joy
and makes it harder to hope.**

**But we choose hope anyway.
In the face of hardship,
we hope together.
We hope with God.
We hope for a better world.
This is our song.
We believe; help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray, amen.**

Minute for Mission

Sharing Our Gifts

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community – Please See Insert

▲ Hymn – Joy to the World # 59

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ Song of Dismissal – 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.**

**Love stirs deep within us.
We actively pray.
As we await Jesus
Please show us the way.**

Music Takes Us into the World

*Liturgy – A Sanctified Art
Opening and Closing Hymns – Catherine MacDonald*

Thank you to everyone who came;
if you would like to contribute to our ministry,
there are offering plates at the back
or you can e-transfer to stjamesfinancial181@gmail.com
This QR code will take you to our Canada Helps page.

