



Picture submitted by Kim Hamill

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH

150 Colborne St. S., Simcoe, ON N3Y 4H6

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STAFF:

Minister: Rev. Barrie Bain, BA, M.Div.

Volunteer Associate Minister: Rev. Michael Beacom, BA, BD

Music Director: Diane Stewart (226) 567-5875

Office Administrator/Treasurer: Ann McNall 519-428-2611

Janitor: John McNall (519) 428-2611

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday (9 to noon)

1st Sunday of Advent - November 30th 2025
10:30am St. James United Church Family Gathers
Worship Theme: "Being Hopeful in this Advent Season!"
"Spiritual Growth, Compassionate Living"

SEEKING THE PATHWAY OF JESUS - WE JOURNEY TOGETHER

Prelude Music:

GOOD MORNING! Words of Welcome, Greetings and Announcements. Persons wishing to remain seated for this service are welcome to do so with our blessing. Your presence and Spirit of Advent waiting will bless our journey of faith with companionship! We invite you to worship with a sense of praise, Advent music and the Sacrament of Advent Communion. You are invited to join together for a time of refreshments and visiting following the benediction. This social time will take place in the Muriel Bridge Room.

Call to Worship: - (Responsive)

Leader: We come together on this First Sunday of Advent,
to celebrate being together and learning about
changes!

People: A change of the weather and a change in the
seasons!

Leader: From Fall to Winter and from the season of Advent to
the Season of celebration and gatherings at
Christmas!

ALL: This busy Season of Christmas which includes:
the planning, the shopping, the baking and the
visiting, which helps us to remember to stop and
listen, look and see!

Leader: Together, we can find our faith in the old story of these first-time new parents; Mary and Joseph about to have a little baby, after their long journey to Bethlehem.

ALL: **Journey now with us Lord, as we too chart our own unique course through this Season of Promise.**

Hymn of Praise: **VU #2 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

Prayer of Approach (unison)

God of Advent surprises, awaken us to the possibilities forming by Your Spirit within; awaken us to those challenges that become opportunities in faith; awaken us to vulnerability and humility as the soil out of which joy blossoms; awaken us to the hope of Good News that transforms fear into self-giving; awaken us, O God to faith alive and faith at work! Amen

DESIRING CHRISTIAN GROWTH - WE LISTEN

Advent 1 Candle Lighting Response:

Leader: As we begin our Advent Journey together, our time of Eager Anticipation, our time of Waiting . . . For the arrival of The One Who will redeem us from the brokenness within our lives, our families, our communities and our world. We open our hearts and minds to Divine Hope as we pray together saying:

All: **Loving God, our source of Hope, we light this first candle trusting that Your Rays of Hope will come to guide us into wholeness, even in our most broken hours. Amen.**

Light the First Candle – HOPE

Hymn **VU#6 “A Candle Is Burning”** verse 1

Psalter VU# 845 Psalm 122 "With joy to God's house"

Family Focus: Rev. Barrie

Scripture Lessons:

Isaiah 2:1-5 Swords into ploughshares

Matthew 24:36-44 "Be ready for the unexpected arrival"

Lay Reader: Zeke Gulabsingh

Music Selection: Diane Stewart

Message: "Rays of Hope - Warm the Soul!"

Reverend Barrie Bain Preaching

Hymn: VU# 5 "All Earth Is Waiting"

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS - WE RESPOND

Presentation and Dedication of the Offering

Offertory Response: VU #540 "Grant Us, God, the Grace"

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Great God, You have given us new life and hope! In expectant waiting, we offer to You, our gifts of time, talent and money. We pray that this "Expression of HOPE" may be shared with others throughout the world. This we do in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

THE SACRAMENT OF ADVENT COMMUNION

Words of Invitation: Worship Leader – Rev. Barrie

Response to Invitation

Leader: May God be with us.
People: God is here among us
Leader: Let us open our heart to God.
People: We open them to God and to one another.
Leader: Let us give thanks to God.
People: It is right to give God our thanks and sing our praise!

Hymn: **VU # 457 (verse 1*) "As We Gather at Your Table"**

Gathering Prayer: (leader) We praise you loving God, for creating --

Remembering Jesus at the Table

"Serving of the Bread"

Leader: The body of Christ broken for you.
People: Thanks be to God for the bread of life!

"Serving of the Wine"

Leader: Jesus Christ the true vine.
People: Thanks be to God for this cup of blessing!

Hymn: **VU # 457 (verse 2) "Turn our worship into witness"**

Post Communion Prayer (unison)

For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted, for the life-blessing we have received, we thank you God. Grant that what we have done and have been given here, may so put its mark upon us, that it may remain always in our hearts. Grant that we may grow in Christian love and understanding, and that ours may be lives of clearer vision and faithful actions. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: **VU # 424 "May the God of Hope go With Us"**

Benediction:

Postlude:

THE VOLUNTEERS FROM THE NOVEMBER HOUSE INVITE YOU

to The Muriel Bridge Room for refreshments and fellowship following the service.

ENVELOPES FOR 2026 For those needing envelopes for 2026 they can be picked up at the office. You will need to put your name and envelope number on each envelope in the box so that you will receive credit for your donation.

FOR SALE: We have the 2026 Calendars for sale \$10. They will be available to purchase after church from Jody Mahoney.

Upcoming Events:

POT LUCK - December 28

Bring your favourite dish to share with others following morning worship. Refreshments will be provided.

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY - December 7

Place **unwrapped** White Gift item(s) under the Christmas tree. Donation of a **special gift** for a child, teen or adult is appreciated. Gift boxes of Chocolate and candy is also needed.

ATTENTION LADIES - all women of the church are invited to a potluck dinner Tuesday, Dec. 9th at 6:00 followed by entertainment. RSVP to Jody Mahoney

Concert - December 13

Christmas Concert at 2 pm featuring Low Notes High Hopes Saxophone Quartet with special guests. Freewill Offering

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - December 24 at 7:00. All welcome

Bible Reading - November 30/25
Reader: November House - Zeke Gulabsingh

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Bible Reading - November 30/25
Reader: November House - Zeke Gulabsingh

Matthew 24:36-44

‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.