



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)

Christmas Eve December 24th 2025
St. James United Church Family & Visitors
Family Candle-Light Service
Choir Cantata– **“This is Christmas”**
“Spiritual Growth, Compassionate Living”

AWAITING THE CHRIST CHILD - WE GATHER

Prelude Music:

A CHRISTMAS EVE WELCOME!

Call to Worship: - (Responsive)

Leader: Welcome to each one of you on this Blessed
Holy Night of Music and Anticipation!

**ALL: We come from our busyness, our routines and
obligations, to celebrate a miracle, to
acknowledge that in the midst of our ordinary
times, there are miracles.**

**We come to celebrate a birth, as ordinary as it
gets;**

And recognize that we all began this way.

Leader: But what is more miraculous, more jaw-dropping,
More Wow, than the birth of a child?
What is more miraculous, more God blessed, more
divine?

**ALL: Tonight we prepare more room in our lives for
a little magic and yet another miracle of God's
Love!**

Hymn of Wonder: **VU #36 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”**
(verses 1&2 only)

Prayer of Gathering (unison)

In a spirit of hope, peace, joy, and love, we come, Holy God,
on this eve of Christmas. For a child has been born for us, a
baby given to us. You have put a new song within us, and
shown us the way of peace and righteousness. Prepare our
hearts, we pray, to receive this blessed Infant - Jesus. Amen.

“The Spirit-filled Wonder of Christmas”
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent
VU#6 “**A Candle Is Burning**” (verse 1 only)

Respond in Unison :

Tonight we light all of the candles on this Advent Wreath.
This first candle reminds us of our Hope in knowing Jesus as our
Wonderful Counselor. * Light 1st - HOPE!

This second candle grants us comfort in knowing that Jesus is
Our Prince of Peace! ** Light 2nd - PEACE!

This third candle reminds us of our JOY in proclaiming Jesus, as our
Lord and Savior! *** Light 3rd - JOY!

This fourth candle reminds us of Christ's continuing presence,
as our blessing of unconditional Love! **** Light 4th - LOVE!

Tonight, as the light from these candles brings light and warmth to
this sacred space, we light the Christ Candle and celebrate Jesus'
Birth;

God is with us on this sacred night and always!
NOW WE LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE!
Advent Carol: VU#6 “A Candle Is Burning” verse 5 only

IN A SPIRIT OF WONDER - WE RESPOND

Presentation and Dedication of the Offering

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Gracious God, on this night of many gifts, when the awesome Gift of Jesus, is both given and received; receive these gifts that we have offered here. Bless each and every one who will be blessed by "Your Love." This is our prayer and hope, in Jesus' name, Savior and Lord. Amen.

Lighting of The Blue Candle for those who are dealing with a sense of loss and sadness this Christmas.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Sacred Silence

HEARING GOD'S WORD . . . WE LISTEN AND WATCH

Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:1-20 "Jesus' Birth"

Hymn: VU#74 **"What Child is This"** (verses 1&2 only)

Choir Cantata: **"THIS IS CHRISTMAS"**

"Celebrating the Heart of Christmas" by Mary MacDonald

Vesper Carol #67 **"Silent Night, Holy Night"**
(With Handheld Candles Lit)

Commissioning and Benediction

A special word of thanks to the St. James Choir and guests for sharing in the ministry of music this night. Thank you also to volunteers for their participation in this evening's service.

Poinsettias have been placed in the church in
loving memory of:



Chester & Winona McNall and
Vernon & Marion Giberson from
John, Ann & family

Kay & Len Easdown, Dolores & Ed
Mitchell, Nellie Sickelsteel
remembered by Bill & Nancy
Easdown

- ★ Helen & George Becker and Edna & Mervin
Stephens from Jim & Betty Jane Stephens
- ★ Beloved and Treasured mother, E. Harriett
Costigan with aching hearts Richard and Barbara
Robinson
- ★ Mary Elmes, Karl Bosma, Rosemary Bosma, from
Don Elmes
- ★ Vic Gibbons from Lenore and family