

Hope

**THE NIGHT
IS ALMOST OVER,
AND THE DAY IS NEAR**

- ROMANS 13:12

New St. James Presbyterian Church

A Mission Church

“Following Christ, Worshipping God, Serving Others”

December 3, 2017 - 10:30 am

First Sunday of Advent * Liturgical colour purple

Note to Visitors: Church School at New St. James starts at 10:30 am, when the children and teens meet downstairs. They join the congregation in the sanctuary for Our Church Family Together. For directions to the Lower Hall, please ask an usher.

*Please stand, if able

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Picardy)* A. Rowley (1892-1958)

* **Entry of the Bible**

* **Processional Hymn** *Come, thou long-expected Jesus (Hyfrydol)* **110**

Welcome

Call to Worship - PWS&D Liturgy - Gabor, Monica, Sylvie & Toby Sass

see insert

Congregational Introit *Holy, Holy, Holy (Nicea)* **299**

Prayer of Approach

Words of Assurance

We Hear the Word of God

Anthem *Bring Us Hope* R.E. Schram (©2017)

Bring us hope, bring us love; bring us peace from above. Bring us hope, bring us love, peace and joy from above. Bring us hope. Bring us light, take our darkness away, turn our night into day. Bring us hope to replace our hopelessness, love to refill our emptiness, peace in the midst of our distress. Oh, how we need Your joy! Bring us hope...

Unison Prayer for Illumination: From St. Peter:

“It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, we had seen His majesty for ourselves.” May the presence of the Lord Christ fill this service as we celebrate His Advent in illuminated scripture and anthems and hymns.

First Lesson Jeremiah 29:11-13

Pg 731 in O.T.

Responsive Reading Psalm 80:1-7

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

C: before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

L: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

C: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people’s prayers?

L: You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

C: You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.

L: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Gloria Patri

Epistle: Romans 15:7-13

Pg 163 in N.T.

* **Hymn** *Blessed Jesus, at your word* (Liebster Jesu)

416

Gospel Lesson Mark 13:33-37

Pg. 51 in N.T.

L: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Solo

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

trad. American;

arr. J. N. Beck (1930-1987)

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks, when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes. Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die, but crowned in glory like the sun that lights the morning sky. Then let the endless rapture begin, by prophets long foretold, when right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled. The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray, come quickly, King of Kings!

Sermon “Hope that can face anything”

The Rev. Dr. David Thompson

We respond in Faith and service

• **Hymn of Faith** Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel (Vs.1, 6) (Veni Emmanuel) **122**

• **Prayers for the World**

Offering and Offertory *Blessed Jesus At Thy Word (Liebster Jesu)*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

* **Doxology** **830**

* **Dedication of offering**

Announcements

Our Church Family Celebrates Communion

Invitation

* **Communion Hymn** *Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Picardy)* **542**

* **Apostles’ Creed** **539**

Words of Institution

Unison Prayer of Consecration

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break may be the communion of the body of Christ, and the cup we bless may be the communion of the blood of Christ as Jesus intended us remember Him. In union with Christ and the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we present our selves to you, O God. And we pray you to fulfil in us, and in all creation, the purpose of your redeeming love. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, God most holy, now and forever. Amen

The Lord’s Prayer (sung) **831**

The Distribution

Unison Prayer after Communion

“God our Help: we thank-you for this supper shared in the Spirit of Jesus who makes us new and strong, and who assures of Life everlasting. We praise You for giving us all good gifts and pledge ourselves to serve you; following your Guidance and receiving Your Protection. Amen

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| * Hymn of Discipleship | <i>Hope is a star (Moon Beams)</i> | 119 |
| * Commissioning and Benediction | <i>Threefold Amen</i> | 780 |
| Postlude | <i>Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (<u>Veni, Emmanuel</u>)</i> | M. Biery (©2000) |



COMMUNION

We gather at our Lord's Table today, remembering our Saviour Jesus Christ who died and rose from death for our sakes. Please note that the bread in the small dish is gluten-free and nut-free, and that you have the choice of red wine or white grape juice. You are invited to partake of the elements as soon as you have been served.

Liturgical Linens - Colours for Advent and Christmas

Purple is the liturgical colour associated with anticipation. The cloth on the Communion table has a stylized star/cross in white and silver representing the hope in Jesus' birth and his death. The black Alpha and Omega symbolize the beginning and the end. The pulpit fall and the minister's stole have the same stylized star/cross in white and silver. White is the liturgical colour of new beginnings, hence its use at the season of Christmas. The Communion table cloth, the pulpit fall and the minister's stole have an embroidered gold Celtic cross.

Note: The linens were the inspiration of the late Shirley McNair, former Clerk of Session. They were made of Tassilo fabric by Desmarais and Robitaille of Montreal and presented to New St. James on November 29, 2009.

WMS Christmas Lunch

December 8 at 12:00

Lunch \$15

We will meet in the Sanctuary and please bring a gift for the Pastoral Care baskets. If you have not already bought a lunch ticket, please call Cathy Reid, (519) 204-7406 by Tuesday to let her know you are coming.

Transition Committee Update

Under the guidance Interim Moderator The Rev. Dr. Andrew Fullerton, Session considered the establishment of a Search Committee and at its meeting on November 21, 2017, approved a Search Committee comprising the following members: Bruce Curtis (Clerk of Session), Steve Harris (Board of Managers), Charlene Beynon (Human Resources Committee), Frank Walsh, Susan McNair, John White, Rob McGugan, Monica Sass, Tom Dekay, and Tim Van Hees. Further work in the search process will be undertaken in the near future.

Sunday Morning Christmas Caroling: You are invited to join us in December on Sunday mornings before Christmas to enjoy caroling together before our worship service begins. The team of Eva Murray, on piano, and Bob Baron will lead us. On Dec. 10th, be advised, caroling will commence time-permitting, after the church school is finished using the sanctuary for rehearsal. On Dec. 3rd, 17th and 24th caroling is planned to be from 10 a.m. until 10:25. We're getting ready to celebrate the birth of the greatest gift ever.
How can we keep from singing?!



CHRISTMAS CAROLING IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD!

Fri. Dec. 15th 6:30

Join us for a fun evening of caroling and then back to NSJ for yummy treats and hot cocoa!

2018 CALENDARS FOR SALE TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR!

Look for youth selling Presbyterian Church calendars during coffee hour today and for the next two Sundays. Calendars are \$5.00 and 100% of the profit will be going towards our youth ministry fund (sending youth to camp, Canada Youth conference, etc.) Many thanks to Harris Funeral Home for their generous donations of the calendars, which in turn, support our youth!

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

If you are signed up for the dessert, please meet in the Sanctuary by 6:15 pm on Monday. Everyone is welcome to come to the service at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

THIS WEEK AT NEW ST. JAMES

Monday, December 4	7:00 pm	AA
	7:30 pm	Advent by Candlelight
Tuesday, December 5	10:00 am	Activity Day at NSJ
	10:30 am	Lectionary Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Amabile
Wednesday, December 6	9:30 am	Indoor Playground
Thursday, December 7	9:30 am	Mom's Group
	12:00 pm	Glengarry
	1:30 pm	Al-Anon
	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
	7:30 pm	Al-Anon
	7:30 pm	NSJ Choir Rehearsal
Friday, December 8, 2017	12:00 pm	WMS
	7:30 pm	AA
Saturday, December 9, 2017	7:00 pm	Gassi Voice Studio's Gift of Song Christmas Recital
Sunday, December 3	10:30 am	Advent of Communion
	3:30 pm	CCNC

Salvation Army Kettles – Valumart Richmond & Oxford

Can you spare 3 hours between now and Christmas? The Salvation Army Christmas Kettle campaign is underway and there are 52 shifts available at the Valumart located just a block west of NSJ. Wouldn't it be great if our church 'adopted' this location to fill as many of those slots as possible?

The commitment for you, and a friend, if you'd like, would be to be at the indoors kettle, smile, thank, & wish a Merry Christmas to those who pass by. A little bellringing for all donations would be in order as well. Shifts are 2.5 – 3 hours each, mostly in the afternoon or early evening. More information is available at

www.londonchristmaskettles.ca or see Frank Walsh who has a list of current open time slots.



White Gift Sunday – another Poem!

Along with white bags there was one red and one blue,
Each filled with goodies donated by you.
The total numbered thirty or more;
You probably saw them at the front on the floor.
In addition there were big boxes with cereal filled
And at St. Paul's Social Services, they really were thrilled
When Tim showed up with his BIG truck loaded down
To ensure a Merry Christmas for all London town!

Slippery Sidewalks: It's that time of year again with the sidewalks getting slippery. Calling one and all to help look out for each other as we traverse those slick sidewalks, streets, lane-ways and parking lots on our way to and from worship. Let's be on the alert to help keep one another safe!

The Activity Day group would like to cordially invite you to join us on our last day (for the year) for a Christmas Turkey luncheon. **Tuesday, December 12 at noon. Cost \$12.00.** Everyone welcome, but **please RSVP** your attendance to the church office (or with Joanne).

Pastoral Care:

Please let the church know of illnesses, hospitalizations, births, deaths, and confidential prayer requests, by calling the office at 519-434-1127. Please contact Mary Lou McCrimmon at 519-434-1204 to activate the prayer chain.

Stewardship:

*I believe that if children fall in love
with wildlife they will grow up
wanting to protect it.*

*-Imogen Taylor, British children's
author and illustrator*

The Stewart Library:

Copies of the December/January/February Our Daily Bread are available in the Stewart Library and in the bookcase outside New St. James Hall, at no charge.



Many thanks to those who contribute used postage stamps to the Canadian Bible Society boxes located at church entrances. 10 lbs of stamps equals approximately 5 Bibles for distribution in prisons. Keep saving those stamps!