

*Love*

God  
So Loved  
The World

*-John 3:16*

# New St. James Presbyterian Church

A Mission Church

“Following Christ, Worshipping God, Serving Others”

December 24, 2017 - 10:30 am

Fourth Advent Sunday of Love \* Liturgical colour purple

\*Please stand, if able

**A Note for Visitors:** The service today includes the Church School children. Our church family will remain together in the sanctuary for the whole service. The nursery is open as usual.

## We Gather to Worship God

**Prelude** *Saviour Of The Nations Come (Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland)*

R. Dinda (©1996)

\* **Entry of the Bible**

\* **Processional Hymn** *The Angel Gabriel from heaven (Gabriel's message)* **156**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship - PWS&D Liturgy** - Susan McNair, Ed MacNeil, Maggie & Clara  
see insert

**Lighting of the candle of Joy** *Hope is a star (Moon Beams)* **119**

Love is a flame that burns in our heart. Jesus has come and will never depart. When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

**Introit** *Love Came Down At Christmas* M. Sirett (©1998)

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas, stars and angels gave the sign. Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine; worship we our Jesus: wherewith for sacred sign? Love be our token, Love be yours, Love be mine, Love to God and Love to all, Love for plea, and gift and sign. [text: C. Rossetti (1830-1894)]

**Prayer of Approach**

**Words of Assurance**

## We Hear the Word of God

**Anthem**                      Rosa Mystica    S. Elery Rogers (©2017)

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. *Alleluia!* [Praise the Lord!] In this rose from heaven above came a babe, the King of all Kings! *Alleluia!* For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space. *Res miranda!* [a miraculous thing!] By that sweet rose we may well see there be one God in persons three: *Pares forma!* [Of the same form!] The angels and the shepherds too: sing "*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*" [Glory to God in the highest] Leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth! *Transeamus!* [Let us go!]  
[text: 15<sup>th</sup> Century manuscript (Trinity Roll) alt.]

### **Unison Prayer for Illumination:**

"How rich are the depths of God - how deep His wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate His motives or understand His methods. Who could ever know the mind of the Lord, who ever could be His counsellor?" Loving God reveal Yourself to us and instruct us how to love You and each other. Illumine us from within. Amen.

**First Lesson**

Romans 12:9-17

**Pg 162 in N.T.**

**Responsive Reading**    Psalm 139:7-18

L: Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

**C: If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

L: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

**C: even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

L: If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night',

**C: even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

L: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**C: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**

L: My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

**C: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.**

L: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

**C: I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.**

**Gloria Patri**

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 2:1-14 **Pg 58 in N.T.**

**L:** This is the nativity of our Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God**

**Anthem** *Oh What A Glorious Night!*

Monica Sass ... including the reading leading in to the song by Isla Harris

**Musicians:** Harris Family, Sass Family, Telly, Rodolfo, Carol

The shepherds came to see the baby, stood by his mother's side

Here laid the Savior inside a manger, oh what a glorious night!

I hear the angels singing halleluiah, let the earth receive her king

I know that love has come, sing it out, Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds wondered, they couldn't hide it, told everyone in sight

All were amazed when they heard how God came down on the glorious night!

Glorious, glorious, what a glorious night!

All is calm now, all is quiet, a star shining in the sky

Below in Bethlehem, the king is sleeping, oh What a Glorious Night!

**Sermon** **“Does unconditional love work in the real world?”**

The Rev. Dr. David Thompson

**We Respond in Faith and Service**

\* **Hymn of Faith** *It came upon the midnight clear (Carol)* **148**

**Prayers for the World**

**Offering and Offertory** *'Twas In The Moon Of Wintertime (Une Jeune Pucelle)*

M. Biery (©2001)

\* **Doxology** **830**

\* **Dedication of offering**

**Our Church Family Together**

**Announcements**

**Story**

## Prayers for New St. James

### The Lord's Prayer

Inside cover of Book of Praise

\* **Hymn of Discipleship**      *Unto us a child is born (Puer Nobis Nascitur)*      **160**

\* **Commissioning and Benediction**      *Sing Amen*      **264**

**Postlude**      *Saviour Of The Nations Come (Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland)*

P. Manz (©1970)



### 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. More information on back page of PCC Calendar.

**Notes:** 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.

The beautiful large gold and white wreath is in memory of Mrs. Chris Hunter, mother of Jim Hunter.

### New Office Administrator

The Session and the Human Resources Committee are very pleased to announce that Judi Le Blanc will be joining us on January 2, 2018 as our new Office Administrator. Ms Le Blanc has worked in both the private and public sectors and comes with a wealth of experience that will serve New St James very well. Judi will be working a flexible 19.5 hour work week, Monday to Thursday.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Bonnie Marcaccio, who in addition to providing vacation coverage for the past 17 years, has served as our interim Office Administrator since September 18, 2017. We are most fortunate that Bonnie will be with us until January 11, 2018 and will also be returning to provide vacation coverage.

Please join us in thanking Bonnie for serving NSJ so well and welcoming Judi as our new Office Administrator. (Charlene Beynon, on behalf of the Human Resources)

### THIS WEEK AT NEW ST. JAMES

<b>Monday, December 25</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> —Office closed 7:00 pm AA
<b>Tuesday, December 26</b>	<b>BOXING DAY</b> —Office closed. 3:00 pm McDonald Christmas
<b>Thursday, December 28</b>	1:30 pm Al-Anon 2:00 pm Service at Manor Village 7:30 pm Al-Anon 7:30 pm NSJ Choir Rehearsal
<b>Friday, December 29</b>	7:30 pm AA
<b>Sunday, December 31</b>	<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> 10:30 am Worship Service 3:30 pm CCNC

**Note:** There will be no regular Sunday School classes on December 24 or December 31. Children will remain in the sanctuary with their family.

### Newsletter



**Exciting Volunteer Position:** Cathy Urquhart has done the New Connection newsletter for so many years and due to the many changes in her life, it has been decided that this would be a good time for someone else to step in. We hope there is someone out there who would like to try their hand at this new adventure. Please contact the office to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Thank you!! I've been overwhelmed with your gracious prayers, cards, warm visitors, happy conversations, hugs, driving me to church and many appointments etc during the last few months. Your faithful, kind encouragements brought hope and patience to my recovery!

*Matthew 10:8 says "freely I have received, freely give" so thanks from my family, my friends and you my church family I'm sending a "freely give" donation to Gift of Change to the Presbyterian Church in Canada as soon as possible.*

With hope, joy, peace and love, Merry Christmas to you and yours. In appreciation,

Susan V.

**Serving You Today**

Worship Leader: *The Rev. Dr. David Thompson*

Director of Music: *Torin Chiles*

Reader: *Charlene Beynon*

Welcome Team: *Bruce & Liz Emmerton, Lyn Hill, Brian & Donna Hunter, Mary Leitch, John White*

Counters: *Jim Hoskin, Ann McClatchey, Ian McCrimmon*

Hall Shepherd: *Cathy Taylor*

Stewart Library: *Open every day*

**Program Start-up Dates for January**

Creative Hands	----	Mon. Jan. 8	1:30-3:00
Boys Basketball (grade 7 and up)	----	Mon. Jan. 8	6:30-8:00
Activity Day	----	Tues. Jan. 9	10:00-3:00
Indoor Playground	---	Wed. Jan. 10	9:30-11:30
Junior Youth (grade 5-8)	----	Wed. Jan. 10	6:00-8:00
Mom's Day Out	----	Thurs. Jan. 11	9:30-11:30
Senior Youth	---	Wed. Jan. 17	6:00-8:00



**Gifts that make a difference**

As we reflect on giving and receiving gifts this Christmas, let us give thanks for Presbyterians across Canada who are making a difference through their gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing!* Together, we are supporting inner city missions, equipping congregations, encouraging children and youth, enabling congregational renewal and development, supporting theological education, maintaining international partnerships, sending mission staff – and so much more! Together, we are making mission and ministry happen in Canada and around the world. This Christmas Eve, we anticipate celebrating the greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ our Lord – whose example of giving inspires our own.

*Presbyterians Sharing is making a real difference in so many lives*

**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:**

A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.  
-Proverbs 18:16

**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.

## New St. James Presbyterian Church

<b>Interim Moderator</b>	The Rev. Dr. Andrew Fullerton
<b>Interim Minister</b>	The Rev. Dr. David Thompson minister@newstjames.com
<b>Clerk of Session</b>	Bruce Curtis
<b>Minister Emeritus</b>	Rev. Dr. Leslie R. Files
<b>Associate for Congregational Life</b>	Joanne MacPherson - jmacpherson@newstjames.com
<b>Director of Music</b>	Torin W. Chiles - tchiles@uwo.ca
<b>Choristers</b>	Ariel Harwood-Jones, soprano; Alyssa Woolhether, soprano; Laura Nielsen, soprano; Máiri Demings, alto; Conlan Gassi, tenor; David Stainton, baritone
<b>Office Administrator</b>	Bonnie Marcaccio - admin@newstjames.com 9:00 am to 3:00 pm - Monday to Thursday
<b>Custodian</b>	Mark McDonald - 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
<b>Address</b>	280 Oxford St. E., London, Ontario, N6A 1V4
<b>Phone</b>	519-434-1127; <b>Fax</b> 519-434-7209
<b>New St. James</b>	www.newstjames.com
<b>Presbytery of London</b>	www.presbylondon.ca
<b>National Church</b>	www.presbyterian.ca 1-800-619-7301