



Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday December 21, 2025
10:30 am

Mornington and Hamilton Streets, Stratford
(519) 271-3572

www.stjamesstratford.ca
office@stjamesstratford.ca

The Right Reverend Dr. Todd Townshend, Bishop of Huron
The Venerable Rob Lemon, Rector
The Reverend Canon Tom Patterson, Deacon
The Reverend Stephanie Donaldson, Deacon
The Reverend Allie McDougall, Vicar
The Reverend Diana Boland, Vicar
The Reverend Tianna Gocan, Curate
Ian Sadler, Organist and Director of Music

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude

Nazard – Jean Langlais

Processional Hymn #88

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

Grace

BAS p. 185

Land Acknowledgement

Celebrant We gather here today on the ancestral hunting grounds of the Anishinabek, Haudenosaunee and Attawandaron peoples, in the territory of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum and the Huron Tract Treaty.

People **From many places and peoples, we come together as one for prayer and worship.**

Celebrant We acknowledge the injustices that Indigenous Peoples have endured since colonization.

People **We commit ourselves to justice and reconciliation.**

Celebrant We honour Indigenous Peoples' wise stewardship of land and water.

People **We will strive to sustain and renew the life of the earth. Amen**

Collect for Purity

BAS p. 185

Kyrie

Pamphlet

The Collect of the Day

Children's Commissioning

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 7: 10-16 *Susan Gardiner Marklevitz*

Psalm: 80: 1-7, 16-18 *Cantor: Carrie Bockus*



Second Reading Romans 1: 1-7 *Mark Allwood*

Gradual Hymn #97 *Jesus Came, the Heaven's Adoring*

The Gospel Matthew 1: 18-25

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel:

Deacon: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Sermon *The Rev'd Tianna Gocan*

Anthem: *I Sing of a Maiden - Lennox Berkeley*

Nicene Creed *BAS p. 188*

Prayers of the People *Pam Ayres*

Response: **Lord Jesus Come Soon**

Confession *BAS p. 191*

The Peace *BAS p. 192*

Peal of the Bells *Peter Ryde*

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn #106

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Prayer over the Gifts

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer #3

BAS p. 198

Sanctus and Benedictus

Pamphlet

The Lord's Prayer

BAS p. 211

Breaking of the Bread #5

BAS p. 212

Agnus Dei

Pamphlet

The Communion

All Christians of any age are welcome to receive communion with this community of God's people. Gluten-free wafers are available. You are invited to drink from the common cup. If you are uncomfortable drinking from the cup, you may pass by the chalice bearer or stop and touch the cup or bow your head briefly. If you are not receiving communion but wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.

Communion Hymn #112

Behold! The Mountain of the Lord

Prayer After Communion

Doxology

BAS p. 214

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn #89

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Dismissal

Postlude

Overture to 'Messiah' – G.F. Handel

Join us later tonight for
~**Christmas Lessons & Carols**~
at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The flowers on the Altar today
are given to the Glory of God
in loving memory of:
~ **our Parents who so loved Christmas.**
And in recognition of our wonderful Family & Friends ~
Best wishes to all for a Joyful Christmas and
A New Year full of Hope, Peace & Love.
(From Peter & Karin Mussen)

NOTICES FOR DECEMBER 14th

Amalgamation Name Suggestion Forms Due Today!

Please submit your suggestion forms to the box in the back of the church by Sunday December 21st.

Liturgy Committee

Hi everyone, as we begin to work towards amalgamated life, I want to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to join the liturgy committee for the 9:30am Contemporary Service. We are hoping to have our first meeting on Tuesday, January 6th at 9:30am in the Club Room at St. James. If you're interested and/or want to learn more, please contact Mother Tianna at tiannagocan@diohuron.org or at 226-791-0150. See you then!

Pastoral Visits

If you would like a pastoral visit (either in person or by phone), please contact The Ven. Rob Lemon at: 519-271-3572 (ext,102), home phone 519-305-2338 or roblemon@stjamesstratford.ca. You can also contact Mother Tianna for a visit at 519-271-3572 (ext. 104), 226-791-0150 or tiannagocan@stjamesstratford.ca

Food Bank Wish List

This week our wish isn't for groceries, but for grocery shoppers. Almost every week, we go to the grocery store for canned goods, pasta, peanut butter and jam, margarine, rice, coffee, sugar, toilet paper, etc., etc. We need more helpers to do the shopping and put it away in the pantry.

- Expectation is to shop once a month; monthly shopping duty is scheduled in advance
- Shopping list is provided.
- Shopping expense is reimbursed by e-transfer after shopping; cash advance is an option.
- Vehicle is required.
- Hours: at your convenience
- Wages: treasure in heaven!

If you might be up for this, please contact Robin Rutherford, robinrutherford2@icloud.com, or Tom Patterson, tompatterson@stjamesstratford.ca .

Sunday School Returns!

From now until the first week of January we are happy to offer Sunday school during our 10:30am service. The children are welcome to come up during the "Children's Commissioning" after the Collect of the day.

If you come late, that's okay too! Please feel free to join in the Sunday School Room downstairs whenever you arrive. The children will then rejoin us for communion.

Upcoming Readings – Sunday December 28th

Isaiah 63: 7-9

Psalms 148

Hebrews 2: 10-18

Matthew 2: 13-23

Chancel Team #4

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 21 - *Christmas Lessons & Carols at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- Dec. 23 - *St. James Community Foodbank – 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Upper Hall
- Dec. 24 - *Wednesday Morning 10:00 a.m. BCP Service
*Jazz Vespers Gathering at the Creche Service at 4:00 p.m.
*Choir Practice at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
*Holy Eucharist Service at 7:00 p.m.
*Holy Eucharist Service at 10:30 p.m.
- Dec. 25 - *Holy Communion Service at 10:30 a.m.
*St. James Christmas Community Meal at 12:00 p.m. in the Lower Hall
- Dec. 26 - *The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation at 12:00 p.m.
- Dec. 28 - *Holy Communion BCP Service at 8:30 a.m.
*Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.

**The St. James Parish Office close on Dec. 24th
at 12pm and will open again at 9am on
Monday Jan. 5th.
Merry Christmas!**

Advent & Christmas Services

Christmas Eve - December 24th, 2025

4:00 p.m. - Christmas Jazz Vespers

7:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist

10:30 p.m. - Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day - December 25th, 2025

10:30 a.m. - Holy Communion (BCP)

First Sunday after Christmas - December 28th, 2025

8:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist



Deadline for Tax Deductions for 2025 Donations to St. James

Your Finance Team at St. James again wishes to ensure that you receive your income tax benefits for this year on time. To assure CRA compliance for the receipt of 2025 creditable donations, please have your contributions delivered to the church not later than on Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

As the Church Office will be closed between December 25, 2025 and January 2, 2026, options for ensuring that your 2025 donations are received on time are:

- Submit them in person to the Church Office by end of business (12:00 Noon) on Wednesday, December 24,
- Place them on the collection plate on December 25 or December 28,
- Place them in the secure mailbox at the Hamilton Street door not later than on December 31, or
- Submit them by e-transfer to the Treasurer (treasurer@stjamesstratford.ca) not later than on December 31 (to ensure arrival on time for 2025, please send by December 30, 2025).

Donations received after December 31 will be credited to the 2026 tax year. Thank you, as always, for your generous support of St. James and its mission.

