

# A *Christmas* **TO BELIEVE IN**



**Sunday, December 21, 2025  
St. James United Church of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor  
Randy Sohn, Organist      Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

*Our Mission is to help others deepen their relationship with God, become faithful followers of Christ, and to share the message of Christ's love with others.*

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring  
Choir Anthem:

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**Opening Prayer:**  
God of steadfast love,  
As we draw near to the celebration of Christ's birth, fill us with the warmth of your mercy and the wideness of your welcome. Help us to love as you have loved us—not in word only, but in action, in patience, in truth. Make room in our hearts for your Son, and shape our lives around his coming. Come Emmanuel, O come. Amen.

## **Light the First, Second and Third Advent Candles:**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we ask that you stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the ways of your only-begotten Son, that by his Advent we may serve you with purified minds, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: We await your coming, Christ the Lord. May we wait in faith, with open hearts and love for one another.**

In this dark time of year, God, we long for your coming. When darkness falls upon the world, we long for your peace. For healing, we wait. For justice, we hope. Strengthen our hearts, that we may be steadfast in hope and constant in love. In the name of Jesus Christ we light the Advent Candle of Love.

**Light the Candle of Love:**

## *A CHRISTMAS TO BELIEVE IN* **St. James Sunday School Christmas Play 2025**

*This year's play is largely a conversation between two teenage boys. One of them begins by doubting the Christmas story. As his partner tries to help him understand, the characters come forth and provide examples of Christ's true story. Let's see if they are successful.*

### **Cast:**

Narrator 1: Carson Russart

Narrator 2: Wyatt Henschel

Mary: Lexis Kuester

Joseph and Zechariah: Landin Wakefield

Angel: London Kuester

Herod: Emmett Vogel

Elizabeth: Clara Lutze

Townspeople, Shepherds, Wise Men: Jameson Binversie, Grayson Kuester,  
Andrew Nye, Emmett Vogel

Little Angels: McKenna Fitzgerald, Davie Vogel, Poppy Binversie,  
Henry Lutze, Hailey Henschel, Austin Nye

## Part One Congregation sings: Mary Did You Know

1 Ma - ry, did you know that your ba - by boy would  
2 Ma - ry, did you know that your ba - by boy would

This section of the sheet music features two staves. The top staff is in C major (Cm) and the bottom staff is in B-flat major (Bb). The lyrics are in a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

some - day walk on wa - ter? Ma - ry, did you  
give sight to a blind man? Ma - ry, did you

This section continues the musical score. The top staff changes to A-flat major (Ab) and the bottom staff changes to G major (G). The lyrics describe a blind man. The melody remains consistent with the previous section.

know that your ba - by boy would save our sons and daugh-  
know that your ba - by boy will calm a storm with his

This section continues the musical score. The top staff changes to C major (Cm) and the bottom staff changes to B-flat major (Bb). The lyrics describe a storm. The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes.

ters? Did you know that your ba - by boy has  
hand? Did you know that your ba - by boy has

This section concludes the musical score. The top staff changes to G major (G) and the bottom staff changes to A-flat major (Ab). The lyrics describe a hand. The melody concludes with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Go to the next page...

Eb      Gm7  
D

Cm

Fm7      Fm  
Eb

come to make you new?  
This child that you de - liv -  
walked where an - gels trod?  
When you kissed your lit - tle ba -

Fm6  
D

Cm  
G

| 1 G | 2 G      Gsus

- ered,      will soon de - liv - er you.  
- by,      then you kissed the face of God. The

Ab

Bb

Cm      Cm  
Bb

blind will see,      the deaf will hear,      the dead will live a -

Ab      Eb  
G      Fm7

Bb

Ab      Gm7      Fm7      Fm  
D

gain;      the lame will leap,      the dumb will speak      the prais-es of the

Go to the next page...

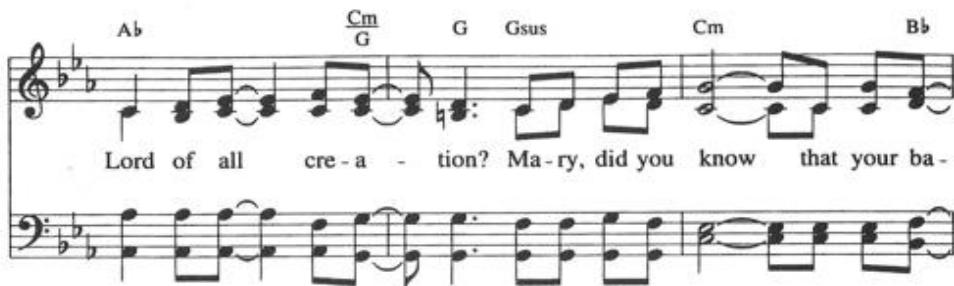
Gsus G N.C. Cm Bb

Lamb. Ma-ry, did you know that your ba - by boy is



Ab Cm G Gsus Cm Bb

Lord of all cre-a - tion? Ma-ry, did you know that your ba -



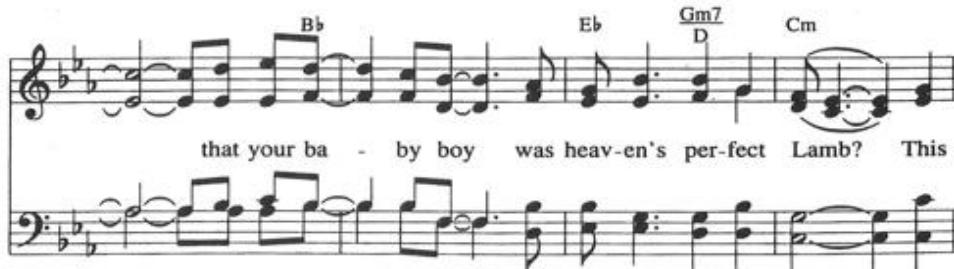
Ab Fm G Gsus Ab

- by boy will one day rule the na - tions? Did you know



Bb Eb Gm7 D Cm

that your ba - by boy was heav-en's per-fect Lamb? This



Fm Fm Eb D Cm G7 Cm

sleep-ing child you're hold-ing is the great "I AM!"



**Part Two Congregation sings: Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem**  
(#108, vs. 1 & 2)

Part Three Little Angels sing Happy Birthday

**Congregation sings: Angels We Have Heard On High (# 105, vs. 1 & 2)**

**Congregation sings: Away In a Manger (#109, vs. 1 & 2)**

Sunday School sings: We Wish You a Merry Christmas

**People's Prayer:**

Let us come together in a moment of silent prayer. Lord, hear our prayers.  
And now let us pray the prayer Jesus Christ taught the disciples:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will  
be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive  
us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but  
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

**Offertory Music:**

*Ring the Joyous Christmas Bells*  
~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

**Doxology:**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

Gracious and Loving God, we bring these gifts before you with hearts full of gratitude. They are but a portion of what you have entrusted to us, and we give them back as an act of true worship. Bless these offerings, Lord, that they may be used to bring hope to the weary, comfort to the brokenhearted, and light to places where darkness dwells. May our lives be living offerings—serving, loving, and proclaiming Your goodness in all that we do. *Amen*

**Congregation sings: Silent Night (#101, vs. 1-4)**

**Benediction:**

**Postlude:**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Communion:**

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - 4pm and 7pm

Both services are held at St. Mark's UCC

**Christmas Day Worship with Communion:**

Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> , 10:00am at St. James UCC

Visit our Church Website: <https://www.stmarksstjamesucc.org>

Worship Services are recorded weekly and uploaded to our church

YouTube channel: St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Facebook: St. Marks & St. James UCC

***COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS!***

**St. James UCC**

***1st & 3rd Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.***

***2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.***

***Sunday School at St. James 9-10am every Sunday.***

**St. Mark's UCC**

***1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.***

***2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.***



## Our Church Celebrations!

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

December 22<sup>nd</sup> - Mike Scharl

24<sup>th</sup> - Jenny Riesterer, Lee Sixel

25<sup>th</sup> - Raymond Henschel, Noel Wippermann

27<sup>th</sup> - Ethen Lutzke, Payton Faith Beck

### NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

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ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE - Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30pm.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL NEXT WEEK SUNDAY, DEC. 28<sup>TH</sup>

THE FINANCIAL BOOKS FOR 2025 FOR BOTH CHURCHES CLOSE ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>. Contact Sheila Hemb and St. James or Judy Steinbeck at St. Mark's for more information.

ST. MARK'S GREETER SIGN UP is in the entryway. You may also sign up Online at: <https://bit.ly/greeter2026>

### ANNUAL REPORT ITEMS DUE:

ST. MARK'S, YOUR REPORTS ARE DUE FRIDAY, JAN. 2<sup>ND</sup>

ST. JAMES, YOUR REPORTS ARE DUE FRIDAY, JAN. 9<sup>TH</sup>.

Email your group's annual reports to Karen at:

[stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)

### CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING DATES:

ST. MARK'S: JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>

ST. JAMES: JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>

