



**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
HOLY EUCHARIST with CAROLS  
December 25, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

# WELCOME



# ME

TO ST. JAMES'S

St. James's is a vibrant, inclusive, fun-loving, child-friendly community of faith. No matter where you are in your journey, we welcome you to join us on ours.

In this service of Holy Eucharist we give thanks to God and hear the Good News of Jesus Christ proclaimed. Educational programs afford parishioners of all ages the opportunity to engage their own beliefs and practices as well as those of others.

Empowered by God we go forth into the wider world to serve others in our lives, schools, and workplaces.

**COVER ART:** The Holy Family in a humble stable, public domain, anonymous.

**Christmas flowers have been given to  
the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for**

Brayden, Kylie, & Jessie  
the St. James's Congregation  
the Sweeney grandchildren  
Millie & Channing Hooper  
the marriage of granddaughter Ivy Mitman to Drew Bailey

**In Loving Memory of**

Douglass & Eugenie Compton, Eugenie French, Charles A. Borda III,  
Mary Mack & Selma Scott, William & Nellie Thompson,  
Robert & Eleanor Mix, Diane Thompson, Marilyn Stapleton,  
Pamela Ludford, Anne, Ken & Scott Moyle, Howard & Alice Goddard,  
Tom Desmond, Herbert & Julia Nelson, David D. Thomas,  
Theodora & William Holman, Jean & John Thomas, Jan Hooper,  
James Sharp, Jim Cordeira, Hugh I. MacGillis, Charles G. Fisher,  
Kenneth Kalva, Robert Kelly, Mary Meyer, Jan Bonner, Daniel Keegan,  
Margaret & Ernest Mercer, Anna & Morris Lewis, Michael A. Lamy,  
Earl & Joan Keesling, Louise Keesling, Norman & Florence Madore,  
Charles Sherrill, William & Carol Teasdale, Ken & Liz Cloud,  
Bill Nellen, William F. Duva, Sr., Gary Lattanzio, Lucy & Tom Welch,  
Anson & Veronica Duncan, Charles & Virginia Kinney,  
John Clement & Helen Haar, Francesca Haar Nixon,  
James & Barbara Cooper.

## PRELUDE

*Improvisation on Christmas Carols*

Michelle Horsley

*All stand and sing the*

## OPENING HYMN 89

*It came upon a midnight clear*

Carol

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA (*sing verse 1 only*)

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Title: Angles we have heard on high (Gloria); Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), slt.

Music: Gloria, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

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## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray... O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The people sit*

### THE LESSON

*Isaiah 62:6-12*

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 97 *(said)*

*Dominus regnavit*

The Lord is King;

let the earth rejoice; \*

**let the multitude of the isles be glad.**

Clouds and darkness are round about him, \*

**righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.**

A fire goes before him \*

**and burns up his enemies on every side.**

His lightnings light up the world; \*

**the earth sees it and is afraid.**

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, \*  
**at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.**

The heavens declare his righteousness, \*  
**and all the peoples see his glory.**

Confounded be all who worship carved images  
and delight in false gods! \*  
**Bow down before him, all you gods.**

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, \*  
**because of your judgments, O Lord.**

For you are the Lord,  
most high over all the earth; \*  
**you are exalted far above all gods.**

The Lord loves those who hate evil; \*  
**he preserves the lives of his saints  
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.**

Light has sprung up for the righteous, \*  
**and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.**

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, \*  
**and give thanks to his holy Name.**

## THE EPISTLE

*Titus 3:4-7*

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

## THE GOSPEL

*Luke 2:1-20*

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

*People* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see~ I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The people sit*

## THE SERMON

*The Rev. Dr. Molly F. James*



## THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Leader* In peace, let us pray to God, saying *God, hear us and help us!*

God of the prophets, give your church courage to speak truth, and to tell of your love.

**God of the prophets, hear us and help us!**

God of the angels, give your church voice to sing your presence into the world. Give the world a freedom song, and help us to speak peace throughout the earth.

**God of the angels, hear us and help us!**

God of Mary and Elizabeth, give your church grace to be pregnant with hope and to bring forth new life for a barren world.

**God of our mothers, hear us and help us!**

God of Joseph and Zechariah, give your church dreams and visions, and the courage to follow them.

**God of our fathers, hear us and help us!**

God of the shepherds, give your church humility, and to all who sit in darkness, alone and afraid, a light from heaven proclaiming peace.

**God of the shepherds, hear us and help us!**

God of the magi, give your church gifts, and the will to leave home to find you among the poor.

**God of the magi, hear us and help us!**

God of the Holy Innocents, give your church power to stand against violence and to protect the powerless.

**God of the victim, hear us and help us!**

God our Sovereign, you are always coming into the world. Come to us now, soon, and forever, and let us receive you as the Child of holiness and the Wind of change, through whom, this day, we pray. *Amen.*

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*We greet one another in the name of Christ.*

*The people sit*

## WELCOME

## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY HYMN 79

*O little town of Bethlehem*

St. Louis

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.*People* **And also with you.***Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.*People* **We lift them to the Lord.***Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into

truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with James and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

*Celebrant and People*    **AMEN.**

*Celebrant* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE FRACTION

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## THE INVITATION

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## THE COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

## THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 96

*Angels we have heard on high*

Gloria

## DISMISSAL

*Priest* Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of  
the spirit.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Gunther Martin Göttsche

**PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY****CELEBRANT & PREACHER** – The Rev. Dr. Molly F. James**ORGANIST & MUSIC DIRECTOR** – Michelle Horsley**LECTOR & INTERCESSOR** – Rob Duncan**USHERS** – Chuck Kinney, Rob Duncan**ALTAR GUILD** – Chris Keesling





## SERVICE SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY EUCHARIST

8 a.m. in the chapel

9:30 a.m. in the church

### WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST

7 a.m. in the chapel

(Breakfast served in the parish  
room following the service)



Make a pledge  
to St. James's

#### CLERGY

The Rev'd Robert C. Hooper III ..... *Rector*  
 The Rev'd Canon Douglas T. Cooke ..... *Priest Associate*  
 The Rev'd Doctor Molly F. James ..... *Priest Associate*  
 The Rev'd John L.C. Mitman ..... *Priest Associate*  
 The Rev'd Doctor Borden W. Painter Jr. .... *Priest Associate*  
 The Rev'd Joan P. Phelps. .... *Priest Associate*  
 The Rev'd Jean R. Smith..... *Priest Associate*

#### STAFF

Mrs. Cheryl C. Batter ..... *Parish Administrator*  
 Mr. Leon Fraser..... *Sexton*  
 Mrs. Priscilla Hooper..... *Director of Family Ministries*  
 Ms. Michelle Horsley..... *Organist & Director of Music*  
 Mrs. Stephanie Latif ..... *Financial Secretary*

#### VOLUNTEER STAFF

Mr. Harry Meyer ..... *Assistant Treasurer*

#### VESTRY

Mr. Greg Jacobs ..... *Senior Warden*  
 Mr. Tyler Smith ..... *Junior Warden*  
 Mr. Chuck Kinney..... *Clerk*  
 Mr. Michael Sherrill ..... *Treasurer*

#### 2026

Chuck Kinney  
 Ruth Mitman  
 Bill Thompson

#### 2027

Doug Compton  
 Joey Meyer  
 Liz Normand  
 Marilyn Tomlinson

#### 2028

Susan Gutierrez  
 David Kramer  
 Jonathan Lewis  
 Susan Ritz

*We are a vibrant, inclusive, fun-loving, child-friendly community of faith.  
 No matter where you are in your journey, we welcome you to join us on ours...*

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ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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