

ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The First Sunday of Advent: Sapientia

> November 12, 2023 10:30 am

Welcome to St. James's!

We're glad that you have joined us today to enjoy the blessings of worship and to participate with us in God's mission in the world of justice and love.

However you come to this place, exhausted or energized by life, comfortable with church or not, gay or straight, trans, nonbinary, cisfemale or cismale; of color or white, neurodivergent or neurotypical, differently-abled or able-bodied, younger or older! Whoever you are, know the people of St. James's strive to love and welcome you as God does, unconditionally and completely just as you are!

10:30 am The First Sunday of Advent, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Acolytes	Jonte Folkes, Emery Mazzotta, Ivy Saltzman,
	Patrick Wilmer, Johnny Torres
Eucharistic Ministers	Marian King, Lauren Rigsby
Minister of Music	Patrick Michaels
Preacher & Presider	The Rev. Matthew Stewart
Readers	Isaac Sackton, Mary Buchinger
Ushers	Mark Yoder, Meg and Ren Aukeman, Sage Binzen
Videographer	Dave Musser, Colin Mazzotta
Welcomer	Katherine Gilliland

An Opening Rite for the Season of Advent

Words of Welcome

Opening Sentences

Presider	As our nights grow longer and our days grow short,
	we look on these earthly signs, light and green branches
People	And we remember God's promise to our world:
·	Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.

Time of Contemplation

A period of roughly five minutes is now kept either in silence or with gentle music as we seek in our souls the One who is ever coming. During this period, the candles are lit.

"Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continuously return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-torn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home unto Itself. Yielding to these persuasions, gladly committing ourselves in body and soul, utterly and completely, to the Light Within, is the beginning of true life. It is a dynamic center, a creative Life that presses to birth within us. It is a Light Within which illumines the face of God and casts new shadows and new glories upon the face of men. It is a seed stirring to life if we do not choke it. It is the Shekinah of the soul, the Presence in the midst. Here is the Slumbering Christ, stirring to be awakened, to become the soul we clothe in earthly form and action. And He is within us all."

- Quaker Mystic Thomas Kelly

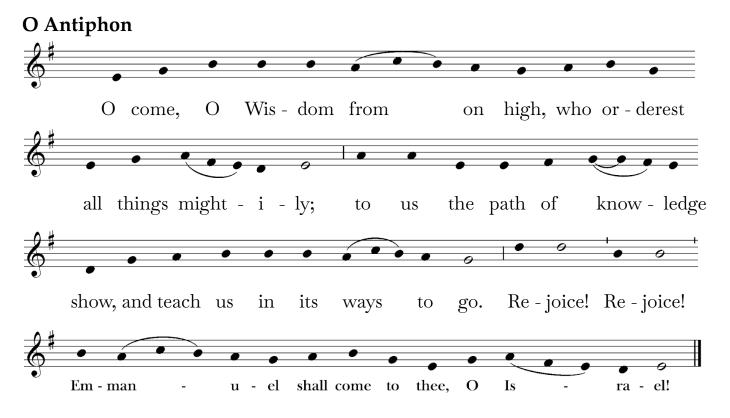
The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.

People And also be with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Eternal God, your Word of wisdom goes forth and does not return empty: Grant us such knowledge and love of you that we may perceive your presence in all creation and every creature; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**



The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

The Word of God

The First Reading: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Isaac Sackton

A reading from the Book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the

River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

ReaderHear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.PeopleThanks be to God.

Psalm 78:1-7

Margot Chamberlain



Hear my teaching, O my people; * incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable; * I will declare the mysteries of ancient times. <i>Refrain</i>
That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, * we will not hide from their children.
We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, * and the wonderful works he has done.
He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, * which he commanded them to teach their children; <i>Refrain</i>
That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; * that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
So that they might put their trust in God, * and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments. <i>Refrain</i>

The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

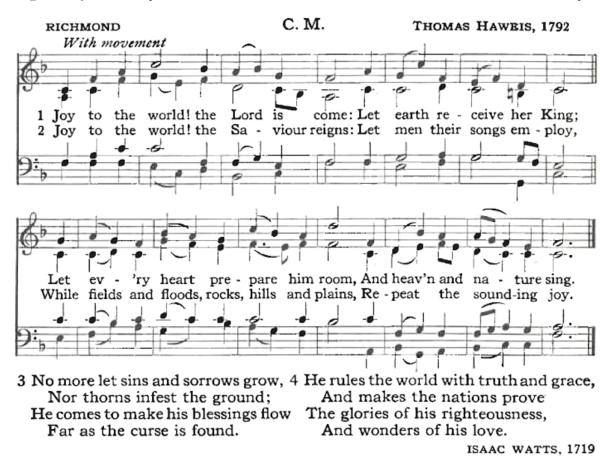
Isaac Sackton

A reading from the Book of First Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

*Reader*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*People*Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: Joy to the World



The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

GospellerThe Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.PeopleGlory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

GospellerThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise to you, O Christ.

Homily

The Rev. Matthew Stewart

Affirmation of Faith (Verse 3 is sung by high voices alone. Verse 4 by low voices) H 60

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Words: Latin, 9th century Music: Conditor alme siderum, plainsong, Mode 4, acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Today we especially pray for Erika and for Sunny, Erika's son, born twelve weeks premature; for Douglas Huber; for Curtis Fisher; for Barbara and John Butler; and for "Lulu" DeFreitas, diagnosed with a lung ailment.

I invite your prayers aloud or in silence at this time.

A time for prayer is kept.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Presider

Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom of peace; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Confession

Presider Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

All

Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift: we confess that we have failed to honor you

in the great diversity of the human family. We have desired to live in freedom,

while building walls between ourselves and others.

Forgive us, Holy God.

Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people.

Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love.

Restore us in your image, to be beloved community, united in our diversity,

even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit,

Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for ever. Amen.

A moment in silence is now kept, not to dwell in unnecessary self-criticism or self-hatred, but rather to face our brokenness with courage and honesty that we might know more deeply God's healing and forgiving love.

The Presider then says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sin through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

The Peace

PresiderThe peace of God be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

Announcements & Celebrations

The people are now invited to come forward to share announcements, birthday and anniversary blessing requests, or prayer requests. The community's prayer is then gathered as they sing together:

May God bless you; May God keep you; May God's love be with you; May God grant you peace and wisdom; May God ever be with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Presider Let us gather our gifts together and present them as an offering to God.

At this time our gifts and offerings will be collected.

Offertory Anthem: Tebye Poyem (To Thee We Sing)

Serge Rachmaninoff

MHSO 59

The Adult Choir and the Greenleaf Choir Translation: *To Thee we sing, We praise and bless Thy name, We give Thee*

humble thanks, O Lord God, hear us, hear our prayer.

Presentation Hymn: Longing for Light (vs. 1 only)



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The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

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

The Presider says

It is truly right always and everywhere to praise you, Lord God our Creator, Giver of light. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Sanctus

MHSO 37





Words: from The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of the Episcopal Church USA. Music © 1988 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland) (admin. GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 [www.giamusic.com].) All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Presider says

Life-giving God, you made all people and all things in a world of glory, and taught us to live together in love forever. And though we turned from your light and made war on one another, wasting the gifts of your creation, until we could find no way out of the darkness, even then you did not destroy or forsake us.

The People then say

You called Sarah and Abraham on a journey of promise, and brought Israel out of captivity; you made Moses your friend, and taught him to grow in the truth. And in due time the new star of glory appeared, scattering the shadows of death and leading us on the road to peace.

The Presider says

Our eyes at first were dim: we could not make him out. We wondered as he taught us the way of your kingdom; we fled in fear when he died for us, showing the fullness of love.

The People then say

But you raised him again,

and in his new dawn the truth shone plainly for all to see.

Now we have cast down our fears; we have turned our faces full to the light. And so, we join in love once more, to follow his example and share his glorious life in the breaking of bread.

The Presider says

For on the night he was handed over to suffering and death,

our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given to 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 in 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 of 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."

The People then say

Therefore, God, we offer you the bread and the wine. We offer them gladly, as Jesus told us, giving thanks for his life, his death, and his resurrection.

The Presider says

Now send us your Holy Spirit, to show that this bread and cup are the life-giving body and blood of your Son, and reveal your image in us, transforming our life to be like his and bring us at the last to his commonwealth of peace.

All then say together

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN.

The Presider then says

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Lord's Prayer

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 Breaking of the Bread (Silence is kept)

Fraction Anthem: Father, we thank thee



Words: Greek, ca. 110 tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984) rev. Music: Albright, William Albright (b. 1944)

The Invitation

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Administration of Communion

The people are invited to come forward to receive communion when directed by an usher.

Those that wish a contactless blessing or a gluten-free, allergen-free wafer are welcome to ask for that. All are welcome and encouraged to receive Communion from God's table.

Communion Hymn: We sing of an unfailing love



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Words: Psalm 103 Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) @1984 Taize, admin. GIA Publications OneLicense # A-700155

Ministry Fair

After sharing fellowship with Christ and each other in Holy Communion, the people are asked to continue that holy fellowship, by heading to the back of the church for the Ministry Fair. There we can learn more about the ministries that our friends at St. James's lead as well as if God may be calling us at this time to join those ministries.



Saint James's Episcopal Church 1991 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02140 Website: www.stjamescambridge.org Office Email: office@stjamescambridge.org Emergency Pastoral Line: 857-600-1329

Interested in speaking to a priest or asking for prayers? Email Rev. Matt at <u>matt@stjamescambridge.org</u>

Want to donate to St. James's? Visit the website or follow the QR code here:



WLP 825

St. James's Episcopal Church Welcomes You!

I am: _____ visiting just for today. I wish: _____ to be on the church mailing list. _____ seeking a new church home. _____ to receive a call or email from St. James's.

Please circle items below you'd like information about: Church School/Choir/Bible Study/Food Pantry

I'd like prayer for: _____

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Please fill this form out and place it in the offering plate or the church office.