

# ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Radix Jesse Sunday

> December 3, 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Acolytes Marian King, Jonte Folkes

Eucharistic Ministers Alvin Lindo, Laverne Agard-Lynch

*Instrumentalists* Beth and Matthew Abbate

Minister of Music Patrick Michaels

Preacher JT Kittredge

Presider The Rev. Matthew Stewart Readers Linda Luikel, Susan Rice

Ushers Alan Aukeman Videographer Steve Clark

Welcomer Sylvia Weston

# 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, candles 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.

Beth Abbate, violin; Matthew Abbate, recorder

"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 [God] is within us all."

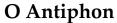
- Quaker Mystic Thomas Kelly

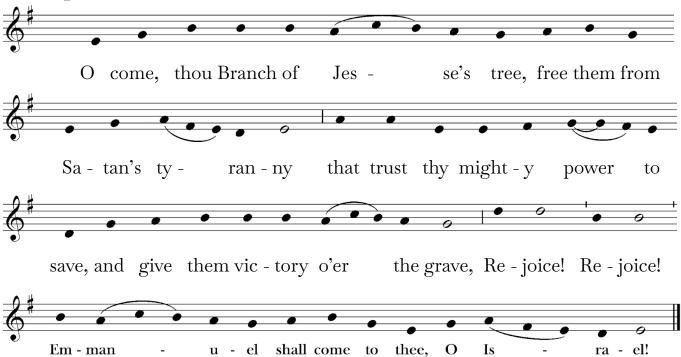
# The Collect of the Day

May God be with you. Presider People And also be with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, you brought forth a royal branch from the ancient stock of Jesse's line: Grant that we who have been grafted into this heritage may bear fruit worthy of Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. 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: Isaiah 64:1-9

Linda Luikel

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--

to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80 Leslie Sterling



## The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Linda Luikel

A reading from the Book of First Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of

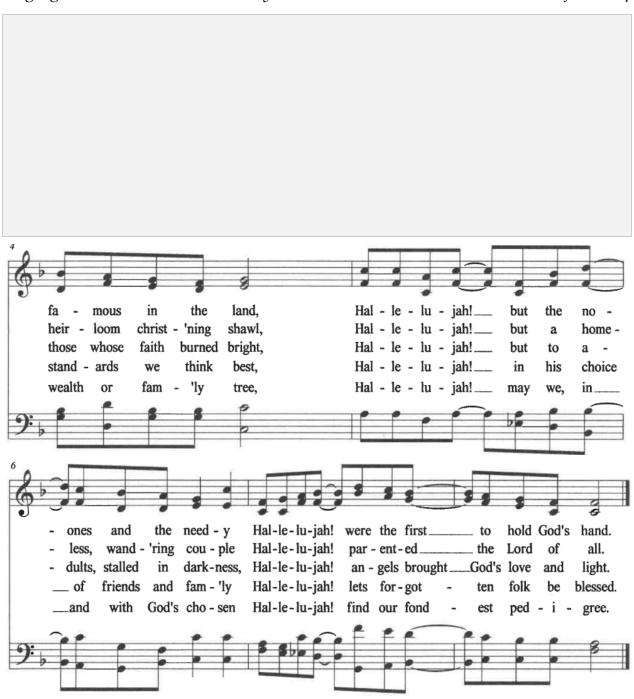
our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Hymn: Not the Powerful, Not the Privileged

Singing directions V. 1: Choir only Vss. 2 and 3: All Vss. 4 and 5: All after Gospel reading



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949; © 1992, WGRG, c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Music: Patrick Michaels, © 2019. All rights reserved.

## The Holy Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

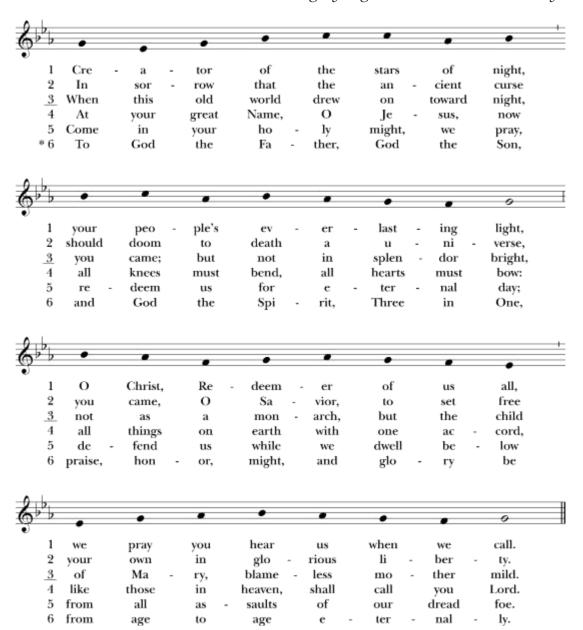
Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord. People Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon** JT Kittredge



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

Susan Rice

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 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.** 

## A Prayer for the Stewardship Ingathering

The Stewardship Committee leads as all the people say:

Generous and loving God, we come to you in thanksgiving, knowing that all we are and all that we have is a gift from you. In faith and love, help us to do your will. We are listening. Speak your words into the depth of our souls, that we may hear you clearly.

We offer to you this day all the facets of our lives, whether it be at home, at work, or at school. We seek to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy. Give us the wisdom and insight to understand your will for us and the fervor to carry out your intentions for us.

We offer our gifts of time, talent and treasure and we make our pledges to you as a true act of faith, to reflect our love for you and our neighbors. Help us to reach out to others as you have reached out to us. Amen.

## **Ingathering Hymn:** Take my life, and let it be

H 707

During the singing of the hymn, all that wish to do so are invited to bring forward a slip of paper representing a pledge they are making to God for the upcoming year. It could be a financial pledge they are making to St. James's church, a pledge of action to a cause or of service to a neighbor, a commitment to one's family, or any other pledge they want to make ritually to God at this time.





Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879), alt. Music: *Hollingside*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

#### The Peace

Presider The peace of God be always with you.

*People* And 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: Cantate Domino

Giovanni Croce

The Adult Choir

Translation: O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. (Psalm 96:1-3)

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

MHSO 59



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#### The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

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#### 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,

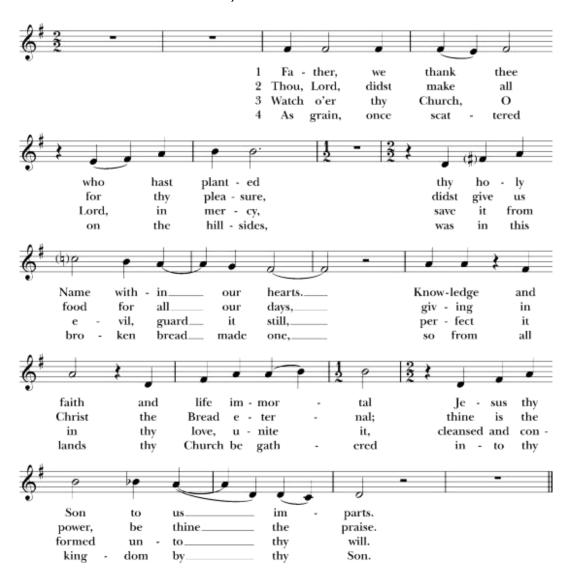
but deliver us from evil.

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

H 303, v. 1 only



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 Anthem: Deep River

African-American Spiritual

The Greenleaf Choir

## **Communion Hymn:** Prepare the Way of the Lord

MHSO 61







Words: based on *Luke 3:4, 6,* adapt. The Taizė Community.

Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) © 1984 by Les Presses de Taizė (France). (Words and Music admin. GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 [www.giamusic.com].) All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# **Post Communion Prayer** (Please stand as you are able)

Presider 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.

## **Blessing**

Presider

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the shadows from before your path; and the blessing of God, Almighty, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** 





Tune: Salve Regina Coelitum Music: Choralemelodien zu heilien Genangem; arr. Hal Hopeson Words Hope Pub. OneLicense #A700155

#### **Postlude**

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 matt@stjamescambridge.org

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



St. James's Episcopal Church Welcomes You!		
I am: visiting just for today. seeking a new church hom		_ to be on the church mailing list. _ to receive a call or email from St. James's.
Please circle items below you'd like int Church School/Choir/Bible Study/Foo		:
I'd like prayer for:		
Name(s):		
Address:		
City:		
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Email address:		

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