



**ST. JAMES'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**The Fifth Sunday of Advent:  
*Clavis David Sunday***

**December 10, 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!*

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

<i>Acolytes</i>	Jonte Folkes, Emery Mazzotta, Ivy Saltzman, Patrick Milner, Johnny Torres
<i>Cantor</i>	Mary Caulfield
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Marian King, Lauren Rigsby
<i>Minister of Music</i>	Patrick Michaels
<i>Preacher &amp; Presider</i>	The Rev. James Weiss
<i>Readers</i>	Isaac Sackton, Susan Donnelly
<i>Ushers</i>	Mark Yoder
<i>Videographer</i>	Dave Musser, Colin Mazzotta
<i>Welcomer</i>	Katherine Gilliland

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## **An Opening Rite for the Season of Advent**

### **Words of Welcome**

### **Opening Sentences**

<i>Presider</i>	As our nights grow longer and our days grow short, we look on these earthly signs, candles and green branches
<i>People</i>	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 [God] is within us all.”

- Quaker Mystic Thomas Kelly

## O Antiphon

O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
high, and close the path to mis - er - ry. Re - joyce! Re - joyce!  
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*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 Collect of the Day

*Presider* May God be with you.

*People* And also be with you.

*Presider* Let us pray.

Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ opened wide gate of heaven, making plain the way that leads to eternal joy: Grant that we who have been buried with Christ in baptism and raised to new life may strive courageously for the freedom and peace of the world; through the same your Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and dominion for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Word of God

**The First Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-11

Isaac Sackton

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

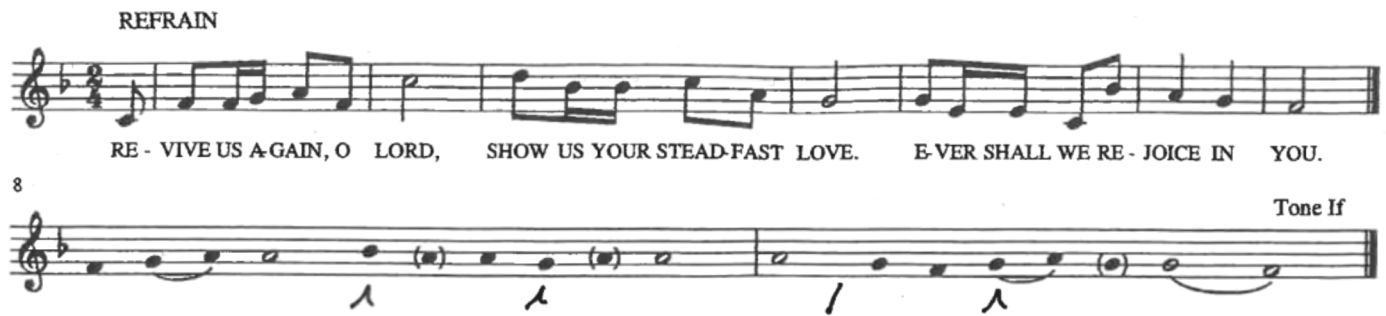
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,  
    their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
    when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
    surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
    but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
Get you up to a high mountain,  
    O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
    O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
    lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
    “Here is your God!”  
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
    and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
    and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
    he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
    and gently lead the mother sheep.

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



You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, \*  
 you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.  
 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
 and blotted out all their sins.

*Refrain*

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \*  
 for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
 and to those who turn their hearts to him.

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,  
 that his glory may dwell in our land.

*Refrain*

Mercy and truth have met together, \*  
 righteousness and peace have kissed each other.  
 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
 and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

*Refrain*

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
 and our land will yield its increase.  
 Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
 and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

*Refrain*

**The Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

Isaac Sackton

A reading from the Book of First Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and

godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

**Gospel Hymn: Isaiah the prophet has written of old**

WLP 723

1. I - sa - iah the proph - et has writ - ten of old how  
2. Yet na - tions still prey on the meek of the world. And

God's earth - ly king - dom shall come. In - stead of the thorn tree the  
con - flict turns par - ent from child. Your peo - ple de - spoil all the

fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the lamb. The  
sweet - ness of earth; the brier and the thorn grow wild. Lord,

The musical score is written in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

moun - tains and hills shall break forth in - to song, The  
 has - ten to bring in your king - dom on earth, when  
 peo - ples be led forth in peace. For the earth shall be filled with the  
 no one shall hurt or de - stroy. When wis - dom and jus - tice shall  
 knowl - edge of God as the wa - ters cov - er the seas.  
 reign in the land and your peo - ple shall go forth in joy.

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 Music: *Samantha*, American folk melody, arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw;  
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## The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
*People* Glory to you, O Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
 who will prepare your way;



the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

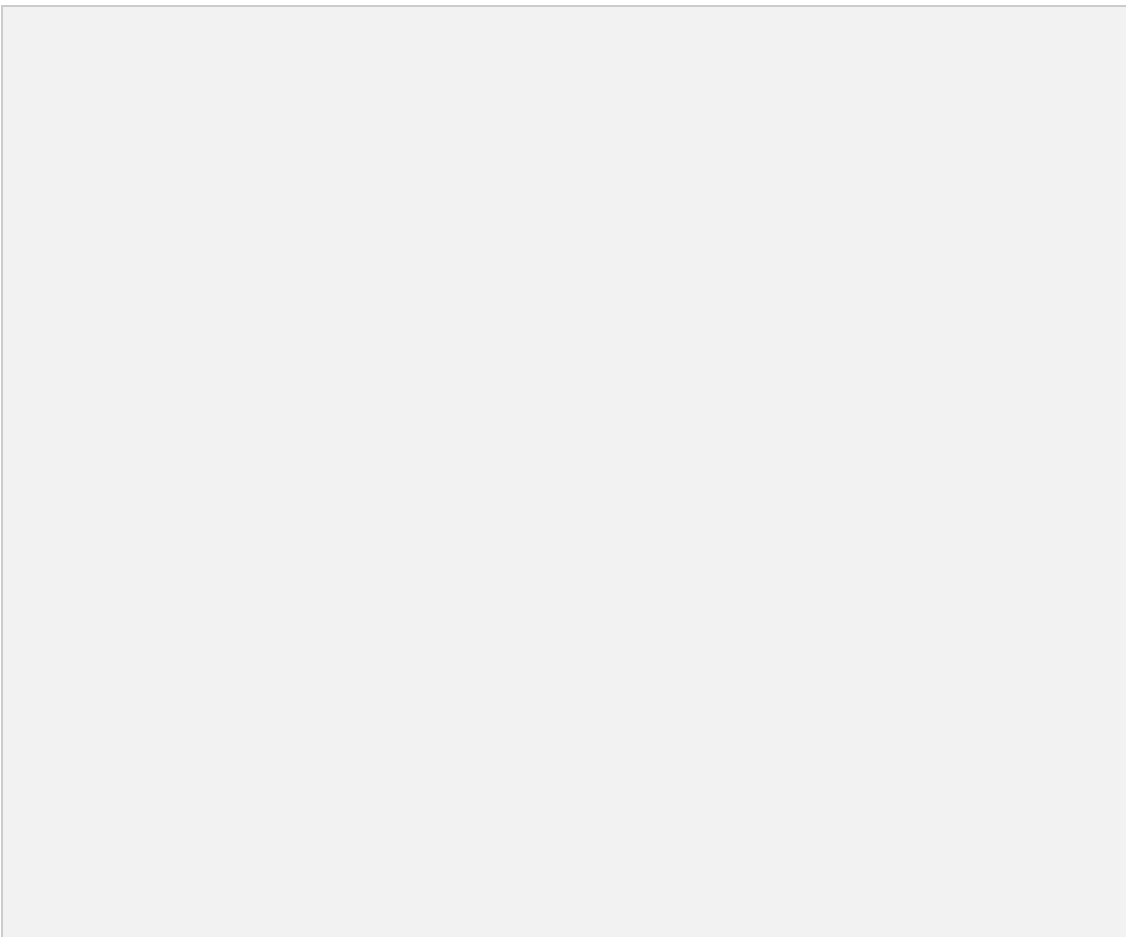
*Gospeller*    The Gospel of the Lord.

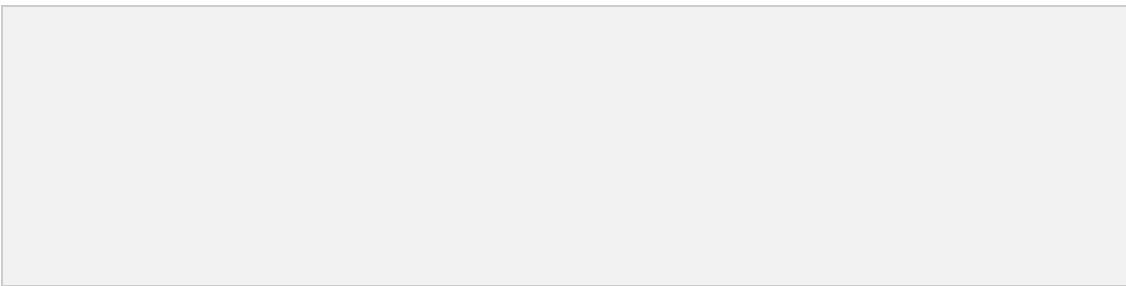
*People*        Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon**

The Rev. James Weiss

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





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

**Prayers of the People** *(The people say the responses in bold)*

Susan Donnelly

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.**

## **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

*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: Without Darkness Nothing Comes to Birth


*The Adult Choir*

*Text:* May Sarton, Sarah Williams, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Geronimo, Yousuf Karsh

*Music:* Patrick Michaels

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


MHSO 59



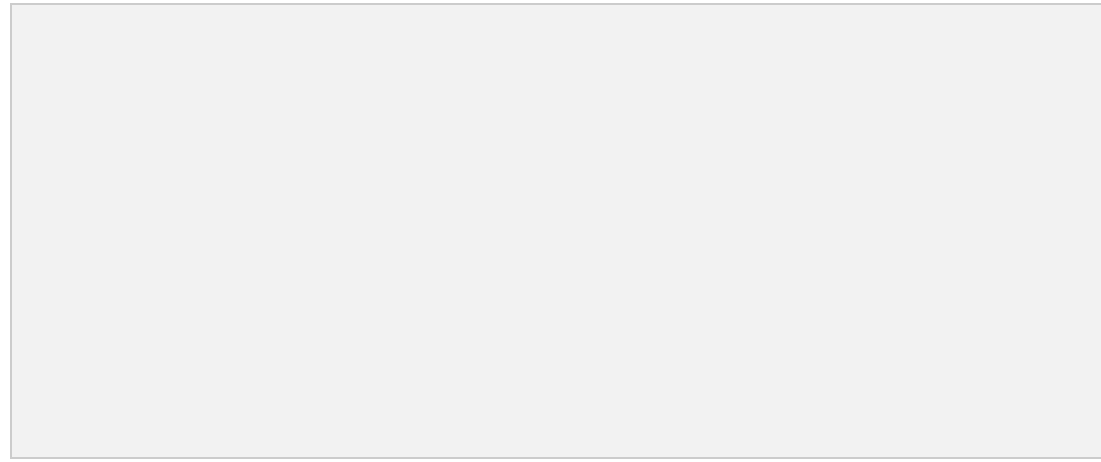
1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for  
4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less, long-ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone has  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, has  
warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see. \_\_\_\_\_  
pow - er to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice. \_\_\_\_\_  
bro - ken for o - thers, shared un - til all are fed. \_\_\_\_\_  
shel - ter - ing o - thers, wall made of liv - ing stone. \_\_\_\_\_  
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come. \_\_\_\_\_



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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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of power and might.

Ho - ly, — ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of power and might.

Heav - en earth, heav-en and earth are

Heav - en, earth, heav-en and earth are

full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the

full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

high - est. Bless - ed, bless - ed

Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed, bless - ed

is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Bless - ed, bless - ed

is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Bless - ed, bless - ed

is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the

is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Ho - san-na in the high - est.' It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the vocal line and a bass clef staff for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The tempo and mood are indicated by a quarter note followed by a fermata. The lyrics are written above the treble staff and below the bass staff. The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note Bb4. The piano accompaniment begins with a quarter note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and a quarter note Bb3. The music concludes with a double bar line.

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 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

1 Fa - ther, we thank thee  
2 Thou, Lord, didst make all  
3 Watch o'er thy Church, O  
4 As grain, once scat - tered

who hast plant - ed thy ho - ly  
for thy plea - sure, didst give us  
Lord, in mer - cy, save it from  
on the hill - sides, was in this

Name with - in our hearts. Know - ledge and  
food for all our days, giv - ing in  
e - vil, guard it still, per - fect it  
bro - ken bread made one, so from all

faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus thy  
Christ the Bread e - ter - nal; thine is the  
in thy love, u - nite it, cleansed and con -  
lands thy Church be gath - ered in - to thy

Son to us im - parts.  
power, be thine the praise.  
formed un - to thy will.  
king - dom by thy Son.

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 prayer of 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: I Will Magnify Thee**  
*The Greenleaf Choir*

Joseph Corfe

**Communion Hymn: The desert shall rejoice**

WLP 722

The des-ert shall re - joi-ce and blos-som as a rose: 1. It shall  
2. For the  
3. For the  
4. For the

blos - som a - bun - dant - ly and re - joi-ce with praise and sing - ing.  
ears of the deaf shall hear And the blind, their eyes be o - pened.  
tongue of the mute shall sing and the lame will dance with glad - ness.  
ground will be - come a pool and the dry land springs of wa - ter.

5. The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:  
as the ransomed return to God and come singing back to Zion.

6. The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:  
unto Zion we come with joy,  
for our God has come to save us.

Words: Gracia Grindal Music: Sterling, Joy F. Patterson ©1983/1990 Hope Publishing Co. OneLicense # A-700155

**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*

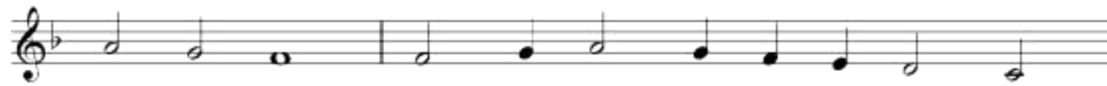
May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you  
and scatter the shadows from before your path;  
and the blessing of God, Almighty, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,  
be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn: Comfort Ye, My People

H 67



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
let the val - leys rise to meet him  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
and the hills bow down to greet him.  
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.  
Music: *Psalm 42*, melody Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)

## Dismissal

*Presider* Let us bless the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

## Postlude



*Saint James's Episcopal Church*  
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Website: [www.stjamescambridge.org](http://www.stjamescambridge.org)  
Office Email: [office@stjamescambridge.org](mailto:office@stjamescambridge.org)  
Emergency Pastoral Line: 857-600-1329

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*Email Rev. Matt at [matt@stjamescambridge.org](mailto:matt@stjamescambridge.org)*

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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): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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