



**ST. JAMES'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**The First Sunday after the Epiphany:
The Baptism of Jesus**

**January 7, 2024
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,
persons with or without disabilities, 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 after the Epiphany, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

<i>Acolytes</i>	Marian King, Jonte Folkes
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Alvin Lindo, Laverne Agard-Lynch
<i>Minister of Music</i>	Patrick Michaels
<i>Preacher and Presider</i>	The Rev. Matthew Stewart
<i>Readers</i>	Thomas DeFreitas, Dana Evelyn
<i>Ushers</i>	Alan Aukeman
<i>Videographer</i>	Steve Clark
<i>Welcomer</i>	Nancy McArdle

The Word of God

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Tolling of the Bell

1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spi - rit on you came,
 2 God called you his be - lov - ed Son, called you his ser - vant true,
 3 Straight - way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed his call
 4 Bap - tize us with your Spi - rit, Lord, your cross on us be signed,

as peace - ful as a dove and yet as ur - gent as a flame.
 sent you his king - dom to pro - claim, his ho - ly will to do.
 free - ly as Son of Man to serve and give your life for all.
 that, like - wise in God's ser - vice we may per - fect free - dom find.

Words: F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev.

Music: *Caithness*, melody from *The Psalmes of David in Prose and Meeter*, 1635;
 harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Opening Acclamation

Presider Arise, shine, for your light has come.

People And the glory of the Lord shall dawn upon you.

Collect for Purity

All then pray

Almighty God, you bring to light things hidden in darkness, and know the shadows of our hearts; cleanse and renew us by your Spirit, that we may walk in your light and glorify your name, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Song of Praise: Over My Head

Traditional

Arr. by J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1937-
and Verolga Nix, 1933-

Traditional



1. O - ver my head — I hear mu - sic in the air. — O - ver my
2. O - ver my head — I hear sing - ing in the air. — O - ver my



head — I hear mu - sic in the air. — O - ver my head —
head — I hear sing - ing in the air. — O - ver my head —



I hear mu - sic in the air, — There must be a God some - where. —
I hear sing - ing in the air, — There must be a God some - where. —

3. Over my head I see trouble in the air. . . .
4. Over my head I see Jesus in the air. . . .

The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.

People And also be with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Heavenly God, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

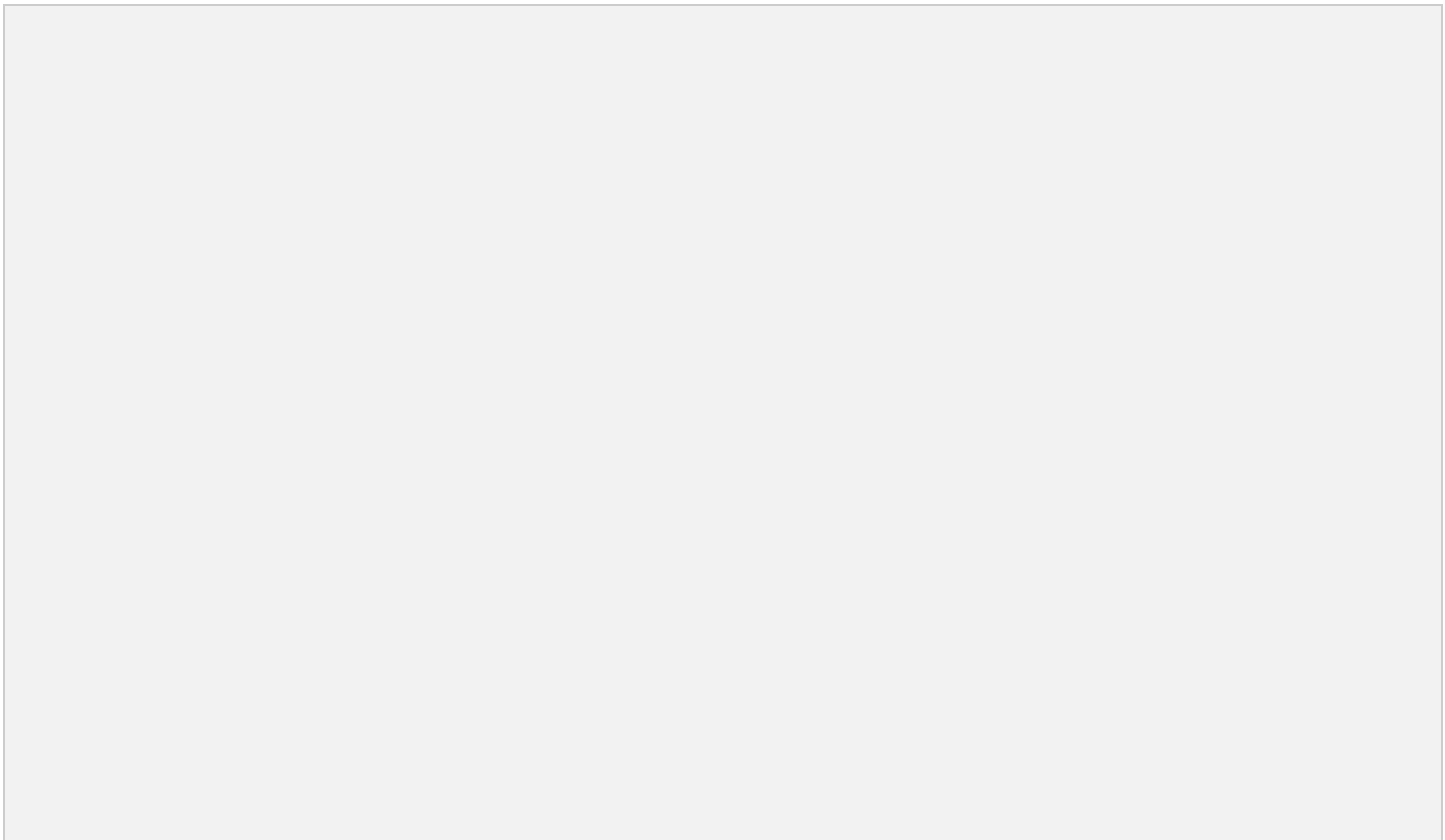
A reading from the Book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

Psalm 29

Will Messenger



Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. *Repeat refrain*

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare. *Repeat refrain.*

And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"

The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.

The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace. *Repeat refrain.*

The Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

Thomas DeFreitas

A Reading from the Book of Acts.

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: Wisdom Hymn

Text: Thomas DeFreitas

Vs. 1-2 before Gospel, Vs. 3-4 following

Praise, my soul, how Wisdom teaches,
Gently leading us to grace,
Probing heaven's farthest reaches,
Delving into inner space:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the kindness of her face.

Praise, my heart, the wit and reason
Of her bright discerning eyes;
She creates in every season,
Blesses us with fresh surprise.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Gracious light that never dies.

Praise the mellow meditations
She produces in our thought;
Praise her wholesome inspirations
Granted even when unsought.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Setting proud conceit at naught.

Sing out loud with joyful measure
What Sophia sees and knows:
Let us thank her for the treasure
Which unstinting she bestows:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Star of morning, mystic rose.

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

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

People Glory to you, O Christ.

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.” In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Matthew Stewart

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The Presider says

Dear People of God: in our baptism, we are joined to Christ who was baptized before us. In our baptism, we find that we are the beloved of God as Christ is the beloved of God. In our baptism, we are called to continue Christ’s mission of reconciliation and justice in the world. Will you commit once more to work as partners with Christ Jesus?

People I will, with God’s help.

Presider

Then, on this Feast of the Baptism of Christ, let us renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we renounce Satan and all his works, and promise to serve God faithfully in God’s holy catholic Church.

Presider Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People I do.

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Presider Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Presider Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?
People I will, with God's help.

Prayers of the People

Dana Evelyn

Reader

As the prophet Isaiah rang out, "Arise, shine; for your light has come"; empower your Church, O God, to ring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ-child; send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation, and draw the whole world to your truth. In particular, we pray at this time for peace in the Holy Land.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Like the Magi who traveled from afar to bring gifts and celebrate the Savior's birth; we pray for all the communities in which we live, that they may have eyes to see the many gifts you have given them and hearts to share those gifts generously for the common good.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus climbed the mountaintop, and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world; we pray for the sick and the distressed, the poor and the lame, and those who experience oppression or hatred.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats, and follow him; we pray for those we love and who have answered your call to follow Jesus into your Heavenly Kingdom. Give them your peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

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

(A minute is observed when all may offer their prayers for themselves and for the world.)

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy.

Amen.

Confession

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

All

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. 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 sins 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 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the divine name; *
bring offerings and come into the courts of the Lord.

At this time our gifts and offerings will be collected.

Offertory Anthem: We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace

The Adult Choir

African-American Song

1. I want to live so God can use me, vic -

to - rious in this land; I want to live so God can

use me, vic - to - rious in this land.

2. I want to walk . . . 3. I want to work . . . 4. I want to pray . . . 5. I want to sing . . .

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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 chants

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

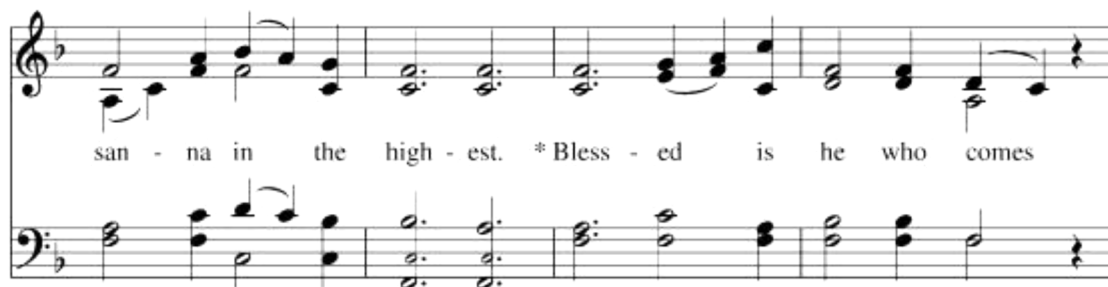
WLP 858



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



might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Arr: Marcia Pruner Harm: Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)

The Presider 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 Blessed 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, O Father,

Presider and People

**We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Presider 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, draw all things into reconciliation through your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with James, Mary, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

The Presider continues

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

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing:

Lord's Prayer (Zambian)

SJS 1

(Soloists sing the words in italics. The congregation joins in unitalicized language.)

*Hear our plea, dear Father we pray;
shower upon us your heav'nly grace
that we may be your people*

Glorifying you.

Lord, our Father, in heaven abiding,
may your name always be hallowed by us.
Your will is righteous and ever consistent,
in heaven and also on earth.

Give us this day what we really have need of.
Please forgive us the sins we've committed.
Help us forgive all the sins of our neighbor
as you have forgiven us ours.

Far from temptation we ask you to lead us.
Save us also from all that is evil.
Yours is the kingdom, the power, the glory
at this time and world without end.

*Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever.
Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever.
Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever.
Forever and ever. Amen.*

*Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever.
Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever.
Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever.
Forever and ever. Amen.*

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The Breaking of the Bread *(Silence is kept)*

Fraction Anthem: One Bread, One Body

LEVAS 151, Refrain only

One bread, — one bod - y, —

— one Lord of all, — one cup of

bles - ing which we bless. — And we, — though

man - y, — through - out the earth, We are one

bod - y in this one — Lord. —

Last time ⊕

Words: 1 Corinthians, Galatians, The Didache Music: John B. Foley Copyright ©1978 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.

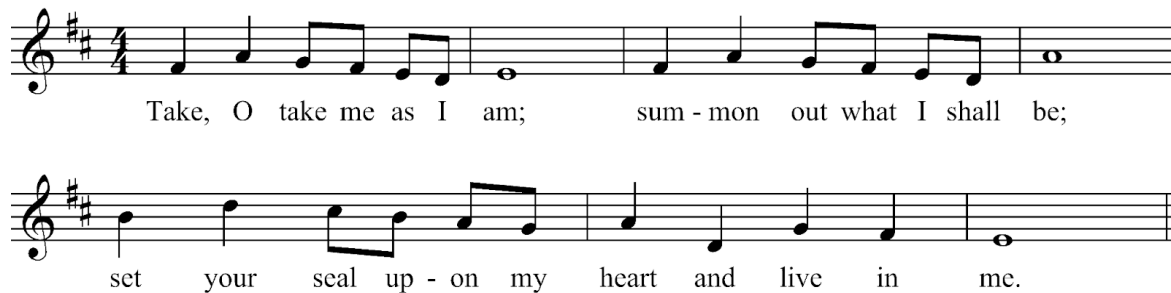
*Those that wish a contactless blessing or
a gluten-free, allergen-free wafer are welcome to ask for that.*

All are welcome and encouraged to receive Communion from God's table.

Communion Anthem: So the Day Dawn for Me Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith
The Greenleaf Choir Music: David Ashley White

Communion Hymn: Take, O take me as I am

MHSO 46



Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;
set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

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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 Jesus Christ be manifest in you,
that your lives may be a light to the world.
and the blessing of God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and those you love,
and those for whom you pray
this day and forever more. Amen.

Closing Hymn: One More Step

SJS 112

1. One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go.
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you.

*And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.*

2. Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn.
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.

*And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.*

3. As I travel through the bad and good
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know.

*And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.*

4. Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough,
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you.

*And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.*

5. You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me.
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you.

*And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.*

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Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!
People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

*Saint James's Episcopal Church
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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. 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.