

ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

October 29, 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 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Acolytes Marian King, Jonte Folkes

Eucharistic Ministers Lauren Rigsby, Laverne Agard-Lynch

Living Epistoler Kate Sackton

Minister of Music Patrick Michaels

Preacher & Presider The Rev. Matthew Stewart

Readers Michael Anthony, Donna Thompson

Ushers Mark Yoder

VideographerMichael AnthonyWelcomerNancy McArdle

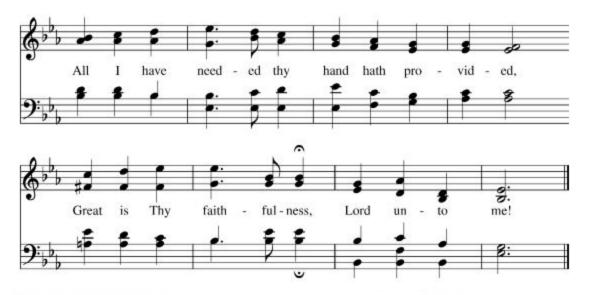
The Word of God

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Tolling of the Bell





Words: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960) Music: William M. Runyan (1870-1957)

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Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

People Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

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: Healing River of the Spirit



VF 96



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The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.

People And also be with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

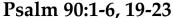
Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD's command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

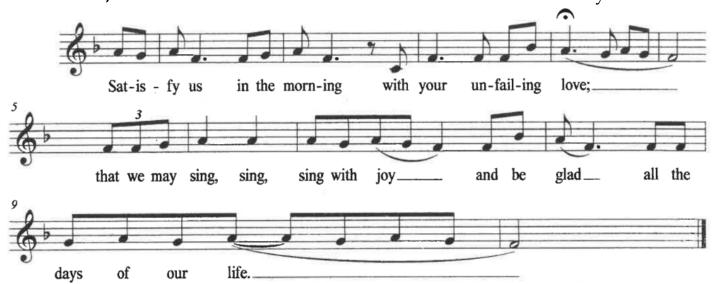
Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

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

People Thanks be to God.



Sylvia Weston



Lord, you have been our refuge * from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, * from age to age you are God.

You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth." *Refrain*

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past * and like a watch in the night.

You sweep us away like a dream; * we fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes; * in the evening it is dried up and withered.

Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? * be gracious to your servants. *Refrain*

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us * and the years in which we suffered adversity.

Show your servants your works * and your splendor to their children.

May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; * prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork. *Refrain*

Living Epistle Kate Sackton

Gospel Hymn: Beloved People, It is True (Vs. 1-3 sung before Gospel, Vs. 4-5 after)



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The Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

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

People Glory to you, O Christ.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet"'?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Matthew Stewart

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:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.

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, 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 (The people say the responses in bold) Donna Thompson

Moved with compassion for all who are on life's journey, let us lift up our hearts and prayers.

For the Church: especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Alan and Carol, our bishops, that through our ministries, God will help us be signs of God's presence in loving deeds and our compassion for all who are in need.

Let us pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For this church family, that we may allow the pain and suffering of others to move our hearts and spirits to a loving response.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

For peace and justice in the world, that God will heal long standing disputes and guide adversaries to new understanding and trust.

Let us pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For all who care for those in need, especially those working in food pantries, soup kitchens, outreach ministries, and refugee centers, that they may continue to bring God's love and compassion to those whom they serve.

Let us pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For the scourge of violence especially from all war in the Middle East and across the earth, for those affected by natural disasters, for the victims of the racism and transphobia in this country, and for all the sick and the suffering that they may know the tender embrace of God.

We pray especially this week for Erika, John Butler, Katia Udall, Vida Carrington, Douglas Huber; for Curtis Fisher; for Barbara Pilgrim and her family who are grieving multiple losses, for "Lulu" DeFreitas, diagnosed with a lung ailment; and for Nora, Anne Shumway's grandniece, who is struggling with mental illness.

I invite your prayers at this time, aloud or in silence, for those in danger or in need. (*A time for prayers is kept.*)

Let us pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For all the departed that they may share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. (*A time for prayers is kept.*)

Let us pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the God-bearer and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord our God.

Presider

Heavenly God, through the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you have destroyed all death enabling your people to live lives free from fear. We can laugh at all Ghoulies and Ghosties and Long-legged Beasties and Things that Go Bump in the Night because we have been raised with Christ. Now grant that we may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory. **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.

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 You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may proclaim the excellence of the One who called you out of darkness into the marvelous light.

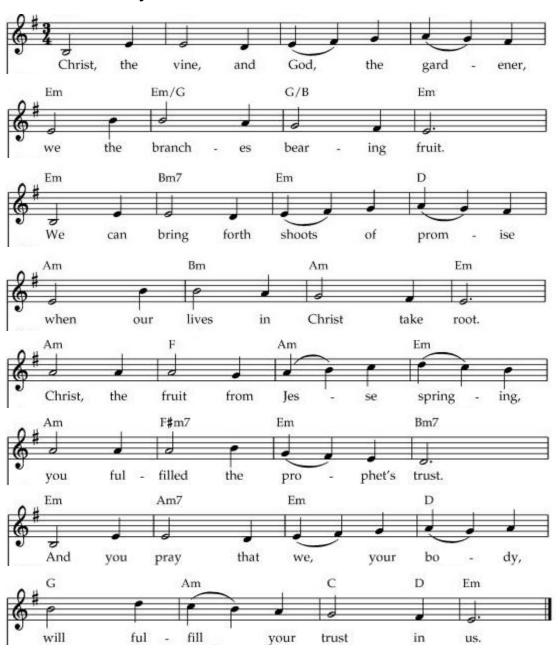
At this time our gifts and offerings will be collected.

Offertory Anthem: Shehecheyanu Text: Jewish Liturgy; Music: Ben Steinberg The Adult Choir

Text: Praise be our God, ruler of the universe, ruler of the world, for giving us life, sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this day.

Presentation Hymn: Christ the Vine

VF 141



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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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. 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 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

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 for ever. **AMEN**.

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

Lord's Prayer (Zambian)

(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



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: Walking in Our Own Shoes

Patrick Michaels

The Greenleaf Choir

Communion Hymn: Gabi, gabi

SIS 58

Praise the Father Liberator Lord;

Praise the Father Liberator Lord;

He frees all the captives

And gives the hungry bread;

He frees all the captives

And gives the hungry bread.

Gabi, Gabi
 Bash' abazalwan'
 Siyoshiywa khona
 Sidal' ubuzulwan'.

South African song @1984 Utryck. Used by permission of Walton Music Corporation. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #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

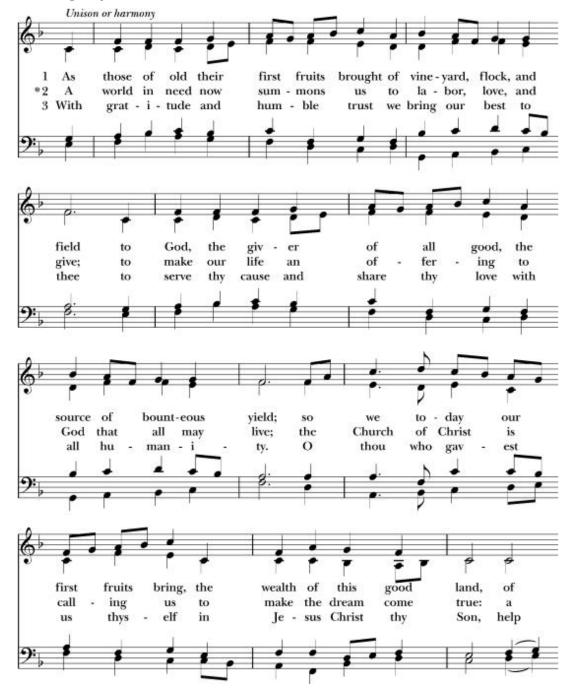
Presider

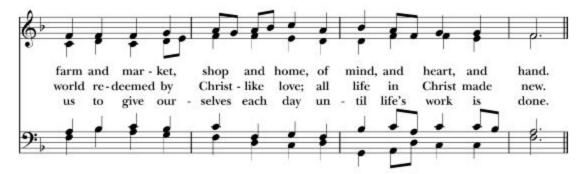
Send us anywhere you would have us go, only go there with us. Place upon us any burden you desire, only stand by us to sustain us. Break any tie that binds us, except the tie that binds us to you.

And the blessing of God; the Creator, who made and knows us; the Savior, who redeems and befriends us; and the Spirit, who enlightens and sustains us, be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: As those of old

H 705





Words: Frank von Christierson (b. 1900) Words: Forest Green, English Melody, adapt. Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

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



Following the service, youth will perform a dramatic retelling of the "Valley of the Dry Bones" story from the Book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may

live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

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:



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