



## Ante-Communion

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. — December 20, 2020

Rite II

### Welcome

**We welcome** everyone to digital St. James this morning. Whether you are joining us via Zoom, on our website or on Facebook, we are delighted that you are here with us.

**The Service** is outlined from the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP). If you don't have a prayer book at home, you can find one here: <https://www.bcponline.org/>

### Prelude

Partita No. 4 in D major, BWV 828 – Sarabande

J.S. Bach

### The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### Hymn 102

Once in royal David's city (verses 1-2, 6)

*Irby*

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly,  
lived on earth our Savior holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing round,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
where his saints his throne surround:  
Christ, revealed to faithful eye,  
set at God's right hand on high.

## The Opening Acclamation

*Book of Common Prayer, p. 355*

*Presider* Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.  
**People** And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Trisagion S-100

*David Hurd*

**Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.**

## The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 212

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
**People** And also with you.  
*Presider* Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
**People**            **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26**

- 1 Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; \*  
    from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
    you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
    I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 'I will establish your line for ever, \*  
    and preserve your throne for all generations.'"
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*  
    "I have set the crown upon a warrior  
    and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant; \*  
    with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- 21 My hand will hold him fast \*  
    and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
    nor any wicked man bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him \*  
    and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
    and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend \*  
    from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*  
    my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

## The Second Lesson

Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

**People**           **Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn 56

O come, O come (verse 1, 4)

*Veni Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
free them from Satan's tyranny  
that trust thy mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!

## The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

*Reader*           The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People**           **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*Reader*           The Gospel of the Lord.

**People**           **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

The Rev. Josh Hoover

## The Apostles' Creed

BCP, p. 96

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

## The Prayers of the People

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring heaven to earth and establish justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations his scepter of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the prayers and the faces of those whom we serve, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord have mercy.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

Penny; Nev; Natalie; JoAnn; Leslie; Jerin & Micah; Dave; Richard & Sue; Erica; Ronald; Richard; Al, Greg; Matthew; Chuck & Mickie; Bill; Dee; Riley; Catherine & Charlie; Burt; Marko; Kurt; Don; Pete; Rebecca; Joey & Carol; Eric and Julie; Glenn & Paddy; Annie; Jarvis; Steve; Bill; Owen; Jodi; Pinkney, Osborne; Kim; Molly; Lindsey & Andy.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **Confession and Absolution of Sins**

*Presider* We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence is observed*

**People** Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.

*Presider* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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 the Lord be always with you.

**People** And also with you.

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## Offertory

*The Offertory is a time when we offer back to God some of what God gives to us. God gives us wheat and grapes and, through our labor, we turn them into bread and wine.*

*God gives us bodies and minds, and we use these in our life and labor to earn our daily bread. When we give a portion of our income back to God, God blesses it, and returns it to us as services provided by the church, in outreach to those in need, and in lives changed by God's spirit.*

## Offertory Hymn 437

Tell out my soul (verses 1, 3-4)

*Birmingham*

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

## The Lord's Prayer

Presider        The Lord be with you.

People         **And also with you.**

Presider        Let us pray.

**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.**

## Concluding Prayers

### Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Advent 3 Prayer**

Holy God,  
Before you could speak, you were speaking—  
Leaping in wombs, kicking, stretching, jumping for joy.  
You have always found a way to show up in our midst,  
Particularly on our fearful or lonely days.  
So today, as we crack open our Bibles,  
Fluttering through these old beloved pages,  
We ask that you would move again.  
Stir in us.  
Speak to us.  
Fill us with the Holy Spirit.  
And if we are not able to hear your Word clearly,  
Then give us Elizabeths  
Who will point out your presence in delight and joy.  
Before you could speak, you were speaking,  
So here and now, Creator God, we are listening.  
**Amen.**

### **A Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

Siblings in Christ, at this time we are rightly separated one from another and unable to gather around the Eucharistic table to break bread and drink wine. And because it is the desire of God's people to participate more fully in the life and ministry of Our Lord Jesus Christ, let us now invite Our Savior more deeply into our hearts by praying a prayer of Spiritual Communion.

**In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist has been and will be celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I explicitly ask you into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, help me see all the ways in which you are still available, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

### **General Thanksgiving**

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**



And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

## The Blessing

*Presider*        The Peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the blessing of God Almighty, who comes to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.  
**People**        Amen.

## Hymn 72

Hark the glad sound (verses 1-2, 4)

*Richmond*

Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved Name.

## The Dismissal

**People**        Thanks be to God.

## Prelude

Partita No. 4 in D major, BWV 828 – Gigue

J.S. Bach

JOIN US ON ZOOM for VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

<https://zoom.us/j/94003915550>

**This Week at St. James**  
**December 20<sup>th</sup> to December 27<sup>th</sup>**

Sun.	11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	NO CLASS TODAY The Bridge & the Beatitudes G.A.P. Xmas Party - <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85016258792">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85016258792</a>
Mon.	8:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page Compline – <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048</a>
Tue.	8:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page Compline – <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048</a>
Wed.	8:00 a.m. Noon 8:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page Bible Study - <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84940791816">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84940791816</a> Compline – <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048</a>
Thur.	8:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page Adult Forum - <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89214149005">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89214149005</a> Christmas Eve Service – on our website and Facebook pages
Fri.	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Service – St. James Facebook page
Sun.	11:00 a.m.	A Special Service with Governor Whitmer on zoom and livestreamed from the Cathedral

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“Holy God” (Trisagion) by David Hurd, © 1981, G.I.A. Publications.

“Tell out, my soul,” Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith, c. 1962 by Hope Publishing Co

# St. James Episcopal Church

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## Worship Schedule

Sundays 10:00 a.m. on [Facebook](#) and our [Website](#) and via [Zoom](#)

Weekdays Morning Prayer 8:00 a.m. on [Facebook](#)

Weekdays Compline 8:00 p.m. on [Zoom](#)

**The Rev. Joshua A. Hoover, Rector**

[josh@stjamesbirmingham.org](mailto:josh@stjamesbirmingham.org)