



Ante-Communion

The Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. — December 6, 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

Versus V Toni

Johann Pachelbel

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn 59

Hark a thrilling (verses 1-2, 5)

Merton PD

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding.
“Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;
“Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day.”

Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run.

The Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his 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. 211

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

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

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;

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

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.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

1 You have been gracious to your land,
O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your
people *
and blotted out all their sins.

8 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.

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

10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each
other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from
heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a

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 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 56

O come, O come (verse 1, 4)

Veni, 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

Mark 1:1-8

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord 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.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Christine Fentress-Gannon

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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God of love, you gather us in spirit when we can not meet in person. Be with Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Bonnie, our Bishop; our partner churches who worship around this diocese, our companion diocese in the Dominican Republic, and all those around the world. Teach your people to be a community of grace and witness. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your church is a place of relationship. We pray for all those who worship with us and support the ministry of St. James. We pray for our clergy, staff, and leadership, for volunteers and partners in ministry. Give us understanding, that we might care for each other with our whole hearts. Unite us in bonds of truth, peace, and faith. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation is a precious gift. Turn our hearts to use its resources wisely, rather than hoarding them for our own selfish gain. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your desire for us is peace. Be with all those newly elected, re-elected, or continuing in public service; give them the ability to see the world as it is, the humility to learn from people who differ from them, and the strength to make decisions that help build your kingdom. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your ways are goodness and life. Free all those on our prayer list from illness, hurt, anxiety, or addiction. Help them become whole parts of your creation, and fill them with your love. We especially lift up those we name now:

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your promise to us is resurrection. We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Sue Yates and Jessica Manko, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and all those good things that you see we need, in the name of the one who showed us your love, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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 Anthem

Come to us, Emmanuel Light

Tate

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 2 Prayer

God of Peace,

We must admit, there are a million things on our minds.

We would like to be as focused as John the Baptist—preparing the way,
gathering the crowd,
spreading the word of your arrival.

Maybe then we'd know peace.

However, more often than not, we are a swirling compilation of grocery lists,
text messages, e-mails, and over-referenced to-do lists.

So today, we ask for your help in preparing the way.

Could you start with our ears, and then maybe move to our hearts?

We'd like to hear you more clearly.

Maybe then we'll know peace.

Gratefully we pray,

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 436

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates (verses 1-2, 5)

Truro PD

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.

O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
to whom this King of triumph comes!

So come, my Sovereign; enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin;
thy Holy Spirit guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.

The Dismissal

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Toccatà in E minor

Johann Pachelbel

JOIN US ON ZOOM for VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

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

This Week at St. James December 6th to December 12th

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| Sun. | 11:00 a.m. | The Bridge & the Beatitudes via zoom
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86780915634 |
| Mon. | 8:00 a.m.
8:00 p.m. | Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
Compline – https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048 |
| Tue. | 8:00 a.m.
8:00 p.m. | Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
Compline – https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048 |
| Wed. | 8:00 a.m.
Noon
8:00 p.m. | Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
Bible Study - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84940791816
Compline – https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048 |
| Thur. | 8:00 a.m.
2:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m. | Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
Adult Forum - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89214149005
Compline – https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048 |
| Fri. | 8:00 a.m.
8:00 p.m. | Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
Compline – https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048 |

St. James Episcopal Church

355 West Maple Road Birmingham MI 48009

Phone 248-644-0820

website: www.stjamesbirmingham.org

email: prayer@stjamesbirmingham.org

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