



## Ante-Communion

The Second Sunday after Christmas

10:00 a.m. — January 3, 2021

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

#### Hymn 78

O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1, 3, 5)

*Forest Green*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

## 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.**

## Song of Praise: Gloria in excelsis Deo

Glory be to God on high, to all people peace on earth.  
Angels, shepherds, drawing nigh, join to celebrate his birth.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Jesus Christ we now declare Lamb of God and Lord of Love.  
Grant us mercy, hear our prayer, give us grace from heav'n above.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Praises to the Holy One, praises sing in highest heav'n,  
to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit giv'n.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

## The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 214

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

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and  
those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;

say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

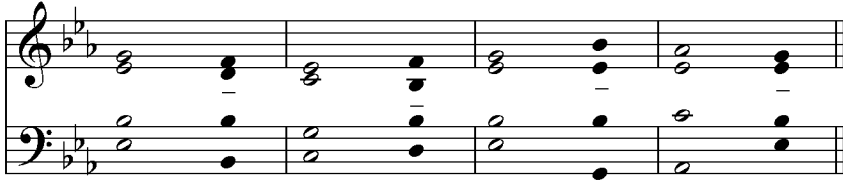
says the LORD.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

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

## Psalm 84:1-8

All:



- 1-2. How dear is your dwelling, Lord of hosts!  
My soul longs for the courts of the Lord;  
The sparrow has found a nest to lay her young;  
By the side of your altars, my King and God.
- 3-4. Happy are they who dwell in your house!  
They will always praise you.  
Happy are they whose strength is in you!  
Whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5-6. Those in the desert will find it a place of springs,  
For rains have covered it with water.  
They will climb from height to height,  
And God will show himself in Zion.
- 7-8. Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
hearken, O God of Jacob.  
Behold our defender, O God;  
and look upon the face of your A- nointed.

## The Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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

## Hymn 99

Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Go Tell It*

*Refrain:*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.[Refrain]

## The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

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

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

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

*Deacon* 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

In peace, in this holy season, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

O God, the creator of all that is, we give thanks that you have come among us, gentle and vulnerable as a baby, your son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Help us to be gentle with one another.**

O God, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and among all the nations of the world.

**Bless us and make us a blessing to the world.**

Almighty and merciful God, we remember before you the poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, those in prison, and all who have none to care for them. We pray for those on our prayer list, 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; and Rob, and we pray for all who are sick or anxious about what tomorrow may bring.

**We ask you to give hope and comfort to all who are broken in body or spirit.**

Almighty God, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children. Give us a calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up,  
**that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of Jesus Christ.**

O Lord, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer, Grant them your peace.  
**May you cradle them in your arms, as Mary cradled the Christ child in her arms.**

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**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**

Cradle Song

*John Rutter*

In Bethlehem, all in a stable, lies a newborn infant mild. By His side a virgin mother watches o'er the holy child. Jesus, lying in the manger, comes to us on earth a stranger: lullaby! O little one sleep; angels round you watch will keep. Saint Joseph stands beside the cradle, filled with wonder, awe, and love. See, the infant King lies sleeping, sent from God in heaven above. Ox and ass before Him kneeling, Mary's love His sorrows healing: lullaby! O little one sleep; angels round you watch will keep. Hosanna in the highest heaven; peace, good will to men on earth. Seraphim on high in chorus greet the Saviour's joyful birth. Mary's voice, in descant blending, joins the heavenly song unending: lullaby! O little one sleep; angels round you watch will keep.

## **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.**

### **Collect for the Care of Children**

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. **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 87

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

*Mendelssohn*

Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;

hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with man to dwell;  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!  
  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Risen with healing in his wings,  
light and life to all he brings,  
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!

## The Dismissal

People            Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

JOIN US ON ZOOM for VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

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

## This Week at St. James January 3<sup>th</sup> to January 9<sup>th</sup>

Sun.	11:00 a.m.	NO CLASS TODAY The Bridge & the Beatitudes G.A.P. Virtual Gathering via Zoom <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85996273605">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85996273605</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. 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>
Fri.	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>

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“Cradle Song,” words and music arrangement of a Flemish traditional carol, © 1978, Oxford University Press.

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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)