



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Pageant Readings
December 22, 2024, 10:00 AM



Our Mission as St. James Episcopal Church; 1750 – Today

We are a welcoming community that invites all to share God's light and beauty through music, liturgy and action; to seek the sacred and to walk in love with all creation.



Service Participants

CELEBRANT:	Rev. Judy Ferguson
DEACON-IN-TRAINING:	Pam Pooley
ORGANIST and CHOIR DIRECTOR:	Michael Mulder
LAY READER:	Katherine Daniels
LECTOR:	Pat Hartwell
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:	Karen Midkiff
READERS:	Janis & Jackie Cecil, Dawn & Sophia Irizarry, Carolynn Young, Jen & Rob Schneck, Sarah & Bennett D'Agostino
USHER:	Suzanne Volpe
COFFEE HOUR:	Joan Guthrie and Joanne Williams

St. James Episcopal Church

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Services live streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/stjamesnorthsalemny/videos>

Sr. Steward: Janet Keyes (845) 269-0289 **Jr. Steward:** Michelle Stratman (914) 874-3464
Vestry: Robert Herzberg Josh Leicht Mike Mulder Susan Romanski Tom Stratman Carolynn Young

Music Director: Michael Mulder (914) 485-1128
Pledge Recorders: Kristin Delli Carpini (845) 669-6146 Josh Leicht (914) 669-6743
Treasurer: Kipp Good (646) 641-9286

HOLY EUCHARIST: Rite II

WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Prelude in G minor by J.S. Bach

Michael Mulder

Opening Hymn

Once he came in blessing

Hymnal # 53

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Lay Reader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Lay Reader: Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Love. We light it and the Candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

Fourth candle is lit.

Person Lighting Candle: Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him. From hope, peace and love grows joy.

Lay Reader: Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

Lay Reader: Let us pray.

People: Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Kyrie *Lord, have mercy*

WLP # 838

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: 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.**

Magnificat *The Song of Mary* Luke 1:46-55

BCP 91

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *

to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Sequence Hymn

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Hymnal # 66

Christmas Pageant Readings

A Reading from the Gospel of John [1:1-14]

Janis & Jackie Cecil

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians [1:15-20]

Sarah & Bennett D'Agostino

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the

beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke [1:26-56]

Dawn & Sophia Irizarry

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. In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew [1:18-24]

Carolynn Young

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke [2:1-20]

Jen & Rob Schneck

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark [1:14-15]

Sarah & Bennett D'Agostino

When he grew to adulthood, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Sermon

Rev. Judy Ferguson

Moment of Silence

Profession of Faith (South Indian), *said together, standing*

**We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.**

**We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world
and who suffers with it.**

**And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.**

We believe in everlasting life in God.

And we believe in the hope that one day

God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

Prayers of the People, Form V

BCP 389

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy." For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For Sean our Presiding Bishop; for Matt, Allen and Mary our own Bishops and for all bishops; for Judy our Interim Priest; for Pam our Deacon-in-training and other ministers; and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all who respect and are in awe of God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those in positions of public trust, especially Joe our President and Donald our President-elect, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For this congregation for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For our enemies and those who wish us harm; and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all who have commended themselves to our prayers, especially **Bennett, Jean H., Renee, Jackie A., Linda, Richie, Matilda, John W. and Susan, Dean W., Sheryl and family, Ginny and Maar family, Louis G., Nicole H., Thomas, Walter and family, Tommy and family, Wendy G., Caroline and family, Dylan and family, Eileen and family, Dorothy, Matt W. and family, Julia, Jeffrey, Neil and Cita, Mike Marshall and family, Shayna and family, Bill, Marian H., Abu, Susan T., Olivia and family, Jim G., Jesse, Paul, Wendy, Tracey, Michelle B.;** for all our

families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: We pray for guidance for **Lucy's mission of Truth, Ukraine, the resolution of conflicts in the Middle East, those seeking asylum, victims of gun violence, all who suffer injustice and violence through ignorance and fear, effects of climate change, those suffering from mental illness, our Community Ministries, and for the leaders of all nations, let them know that with power and honor come responsibility and accountability. May those who govern do so for the good of their people and with the respect and gentleness you show to those who are most weak and vulnerable.**

Leader: For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary; St. Stephen, *Deacon and Martyr*; St. John, *Apostle and Evangelist*; the Holy Innocents; and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To you, O Lord our God.

Prayer for the Election of a New Priest

BCP 818

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a new priest for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

Deacon-in-training: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: 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 *All stand.*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant: O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

[Revelation 4:11]

Offertory Anthem

Coventry Carol traditional

St. James Choir

Doxology

Hymnal # 380 Verse 3

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus *Holy, holy, holy*

LEVAS II # 254



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



God of pow - er and might,



Heav - en 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.

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 the Virgin 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,

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

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, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, Saint James and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus

Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN!**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!

People: Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Music

Ye who claim the faith of Jesus

St. James Choir

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 366

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Advent Blessing

Celebrant: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Hymnal # 437

Dismissal

Deacon-in-training: Let us go forth in the name of Christ! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Song of the Shepherd by Gustav Merkel

Michael Mulder



Continuing Prayer List

Deb D. and family, Sara, Pam P., Biran S., Kate C., Kristin and Gizzi Family, Charlie, Robert and family, Morgan, Susan and Dan S., St. Luke's Haiti, Gar, Lee, Zhane, Barry, Ben, Will and family, John R., Rebecca, Teddy and Jeff, Vince, Richard, Adrienne A., Family of Charles Crumlett, Ritchie family, Ann B., Richie, Eileen, Joyce and Douglas K., Dick and Mabel S., Abdul and his uncle, Dottie, Joan Z., Mary H., Betsy, Sue, Robert



Black Coffee and Prayer meets every Sunday at 8:30 AM in the Village Hall.

December 24: Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 PM

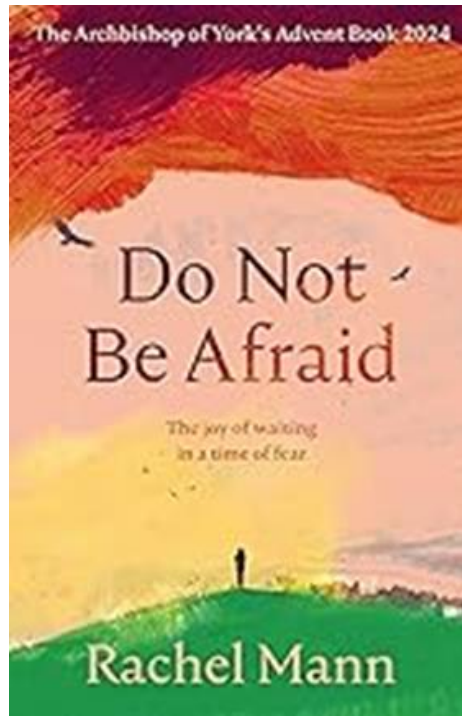
December 29: Christmas 1 Holy Eucharist Service at 10:00 AM

January 5: Epiphany Holy Eucharist Service at 10:00 AM

January 12: Holy Eucharist Service at 10:00 AM

January 19: Holy Eucharist Service at 10:00 AM

January 26: Holy Eucharist Service at 10:00 AM



During Advent the sermons will refer to the book *Do Not Be Afraid* by Rachel Mann. It is available on Amazon.