



First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025, 10:00 AM
Join the Path Forward

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
ORGANIST and CHOIR DIRECTOR:	Michael Mulder
LAY READER:	Katherine Daniels
LECTOR:	Jeanne Farewell
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:	Roe Intrieri
USHER:	Chris Megerdichian
COFFEE HOUR HOST:	Schneck family

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:** Josh Leicht (914) 669-6743
Vestry: Margaret Eaton Robert Herzberg Michael Mulder Susan Romanski
Tom Stratman Carolyn 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 O come, O come Emmanuel arr. Penelope Rodriguez

Michael Mulder

Opening Hymn Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

Hymnal # 57

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Celebrant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the **hope** we have in Christ. God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed, because he trusted and put his **hope** in God. The Old Testament spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Savior would be born, a king in the line of King David. He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. We too believe in God's promise to send Jesus again to this world to establish his kingdom upon the earth.

One candle of the Advent Wreath is lit.

Reader: **Hope** is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the **hope** we have in Jesus Christ. Let us pray.

People:

**God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God, and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth,
to make our hearts ready and to place our **hope** in you.
Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word,
and to do your will by sharing your **hope** with others.
We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.**

Opening Sentences

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People: His mercy endures for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,

People: all desires known,

Celebrant: and from you no secrets are hid:

People: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

Celebrant: by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

People: that we may perfectly love you,

Celebrant: and worthily magnify your holy Name;

People: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord have mercy Kyrie

WLP #838

Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Music: Kevin R. Hackett (b. 1956), from *Hymn Tunes Mass*; based on *Herzliebster Jesu*, Johan Cruger (1598-1662), alt.
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Salutation and Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah [2:1-5]

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 122 *Laetatus sum*

BCP 779

1 I was glad when they said to me, *
 "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

New Testament

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans [13:11-14]

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Lay Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Sequence Hymn

Rejoice! rejoice, believers

Hymnal # 68

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew [24:36-44]

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Judy Ferguson

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 IV

BCP 388

Reader: Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Reader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Reader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Reader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Reader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, especially **Bennett, Jean H., Sheryl and family, Ginny and Maar family, Dylan and Ann Marie, Jeffrey, Marian H., Michelle B., Maureen, Rob K., Liv C., Rich W., Anne H., Nina T., Carmine S., Mary H., Charlie, Janet, Peg T., Kate, Annie, Mackenzie, Bill, Jennifer C., Charlotte H., Carolyn, Christine, Family and friends of Joan Morgan, Family and friends of Alan Guthrie, Family and friends of Dottie, those who have lost their jobs; those who have been taken and put into detention centers, especially Ketty, Ben, and Ali;** and watch over those who care for them; that they may be delivered from their distress. We pray for guidance for the **resolution of conflicts around the world, all those who suffer injustice and violence in the US and abroad, mitigation of the effects of climate change, those who suffer from mental illness, and our Community Ministries.** May those who govern, especially Donald our President, do so for the good of their people and with the respect and gentleness you show to those who are most weak and vulnerable.

Silence

Reader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled, especially Andrew, *Apostle*; Channing Moore Williams, *Bishop and Missionary* (1910); Francis Xavier, *Priest and Missionary* (1552); John of Damascus, *Priest and Theologian* (c. 760); Clement of Alexandria, *Priest and Theologian* (c. 210); Nicholas of Myra, *Bishop* (c. 342); and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Reader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess:

People: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance,

Reader: and, remembering the account which we must one day give,

People: may be faithful stewards of your bounty,

Reader: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

Celebrant: 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 O come, O come Emmanuel arr. Robert Shaw

The St. James Choir

Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

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 him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: 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 # 255

Ho - ly, Lord God of hosts.

Heav-en and earth are filled with your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in his sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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!**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for 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

Aria by J.S. Bach

Michael Mulder

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**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.**

Advent Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Jesus came, adored by angels

Hymnal #454

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Postlude

Michael Mulder



Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (c. 342): Traditional patron of seafarers and sailors, and especially of children, Nicholas became Santa Claus to Dutch colonists in New York. He suffered torture and imprisonment during the Diocletian persecution.

Continuing Prayer List

Sara, Pam P., Biran S., Kate C., Kristin and Gizzi Family, Robert and family, Morgan, Susan and Dan S., St. Luke's Haiti, Lee, Zhane, Barry, Ben, Will and family, John R., Rebecca, Teddy and Jeff, Vince, Ann B., Joyce and Douglas K., Betsy, Mike Marshall and family, John W. and Susan, Thomas, Jeanette, Dean W., Rachel D., Matilda, Walter and family, Eileen, Sister CG, Jackie A., Abdul and Mohammed, Joanne and Marie, Mazza family, Robert, Celia, Felix, Sue, Ewa, Jeannie and Margaret, Ross, Abu



- December 7:** Advent 2; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am;
Stewardship/Pledge card Sunday and Celebratory Lunch
- December 14:** Advent 3; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am
- December 20:** **Annual Christmas Concert** at 4 pm in the church
- December 21:** Advent 4; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am
- December 24:** **Christmas Eve**; Holy Eucharist service at 4 pm
- December 28:** Christmas 1: Morning Prayer II service at 10 am



Tell Out My Soul

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind,
not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance,
so that by always having enough of everything, you may share
abundantly in every good work. You will be enriched in
every way for your great generosity, which will produce
thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry
not only supplies the needs of the saints but also
overflows with many **THANKSGIVINGS TO GOD.**

ST. JAMES STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
December 7 ❖ 10 am Service ❖ Luncheon to follow

2026 Stewardship Campaign

The 2026 Stewardship Campaign is in progress. We are committed to building on our foundation of financial security. In the next two months the Vestry is creating the budget for 2026. Your generous pledge will help ensure the future of St James. To make a pledge online click go to stjamesns.com. Join us December 7 for a **Celebratory Lunch** following the service.

Christmas *Concert*

WITH THE
ST. JAMES CHOIR

★ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 4 PM ★

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
296 Titicus Road, North Salem ★ stjamesns.com