



Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 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:	Karen Midkiff
LECTOR:	Pat Hartwell
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:	Josh Leicht
USHER:	Dawn Irizarry
COFFEE HOUR HOST:	Susan Romanski

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 A Cradle for a Lamb by Penelope Rodriguez

Michael Mulder

Opening Hymn On Jordan's band the Baptist's cry

Hymnal # 76

Lighting of the Advent Candle

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it [*Second Candle is lit*] and the Candle of Hope [*First Candle is lit*] again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope and our peace.

Third Candle is lit.

Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of **Love**. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's **love**. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the **love** we have in Christ.

Reader: Let us pray:

People: Lord God, your witness, John the Baptist, grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome our Lord. 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. Copyright © 1991 Celebration, Aliquippa, PA 15001. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah [35:1-10]

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:4-9 *Lauda, anima mea*

BCP 803

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

New Testament

A Reading from the Letter of James [5:7-10]

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lay Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Sequence Hymn

Herald, sound the note of judgement

Hymnal # 70

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew [11:2-11]

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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., Mary H., Judy and Family, Janet, Peg T., Kate, Annie, Mackenzie, Bill, Jennifer C., Christine, Marissa, David W., Bro, Family and friends of Alan Guthrie, Family and friends of Dottie Intrieri, those who have lost their jobs; those who have been taken and put into detention centers, especially 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 Nino of Georgia, *Missionary* (c. 332); Dorothy L. Sayers, *Apologist and Spiritual Writer* (1957); Katharina von Bora, *Church Reformer* (1552); 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 and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order,

People: its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures:

Reader: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation,

People: we may come to know you more truly,

Reader: and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose;

People: in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 Sentence

Celebrant: If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. [Matthew 5:23, 24]

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

Hymnal # 437

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

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Hymnal # 324

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

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

Watchman, tell us of the night

Hymnal # 640

Dismissal

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

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

Postlude

I take love as my watchword Anon. 15th Century

Michael Mulder



Dorothy Leigh Sayers is known as a fiction writer, as well as a theological writer, linguist, translator, and passionate advocate of the truth of the Christian faith. She graduated from Oxford in 1915. Sayers wrote her first novel, *Whose Body?*, then showing her deep Christian faith and devotion, she wrote *The Zeal for Thy House*, a play, and afterwards a BBC radio drama about the life of Jesus entitled *The Man Born to Be King*. She also took the church to task for its woeful neglect of dogma and doctrine, especially the importance of Christian laity and the centrality of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. She died in 1957 and is buried under the tower in St. Anne's Church in London.

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, Carmine S.



Upcoming Services & Events

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

January 4: *The Epiphany*; **Holy Eucharist service at 10 am**

January 11: *First Sunday after the Epiphany: Baptism of Our Lord*; **Holy Eucharist at 10 am**

January 18: *Second Sunday after the Epiphany*; **Holy Eucharist service at 10 am**

January 25: *Third Sunday after the Epiphany*; **Holy Eucharist service at 10 am**

From the Diocese of New York: Immigration Legal Support Fund

Today, we announce a new Immigration Legal Support Fund to support immigrant families in our congregations and neighborhoods throughout the Diocese of New York.

The Legal Fund will help those navigating immigration under urgent and vulnerable circumstances to access legal resources.

It will work through partnerships with local nonprofit immigration legal providers and can underwrite limited financial assistance for emergency legal support. The Fund cannot cover ongoing individual representation, except in rare urgent circumstances when no pro bono option is available.

The Fund reflects our Diocese's commitment to safety, pastoral care, and justice. We are a sanctuary diocese. As Christian community we provide safe places of belonging. Our congregations welcome everyone, every day, without regard to their immigration status. Increasingly, providing safety means offering support for our congregations and neighbors to know their rights through often confusing process. For more information or to donate to the fund, go to the link below.

<https://dioceseny.org/news/sanctuary-legal-fund/>

Christmas *Concert*



WITH THE
ST. JAMES CHOIR

★ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 4 PM ★

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