



Ante-Communion

The Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. — December 13, 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

Reverie, Op. 24
Theodore Wogaman, horn

Aleksandr Glazunov

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn 75

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Ascension

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the Lord our God may go!

O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,

like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away;
but the word of our God endureth,
the arm of the Lord is strong;
he stands in the midst of nations,
and he will right the wrong.
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd,
the lambs he'll gently hold;
to pastures of peace he'll lead them,
and bring them safe to his fold.

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.**

Trisagion S-100

David Hurd

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 212

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider 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.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;

to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

he has sent me to bring good news to the
oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

to provide for those who mourn in
Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint
spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his
glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their
recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant
with them.

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

The Magnificat

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, *

Their descendants shall be known among
the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has
blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments
of salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of
righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a
garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her
jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it
to spring up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness
and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

The Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 56

O come, O come (verse 1, 6)

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 Day spring from on high,
and cheer us by the drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

The Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Bonnie A. Perry

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

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring heaven to earth and establish justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations his scepter of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the prayers and the faces of those whom we serve, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord have mercy.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord have mercy.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

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, and Annette.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever.

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 Hymn 444

Blessed be the God of Israel

Thornbury, Tate

Blessed be the God of Israel,
who comes to set us free;
he visits and redeems us,
he grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill his promise
and bring his people peace.

He from the house of David
a child of grace has given;
a Savior comes among us
to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes his herald,
forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation,
the harbinger of Day.

On prisoners of darkness
the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes.
He guides the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior
with songs that never cease.

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 3 Prayer

Creator God,

Scripture is flooded with dream-like images:

the lion lying down with the lamb,

justice rolling like a mighty river,

swords being beaten into plowshares,

the prisoner being set free,

good news to the oppressed,

the whole world rejoicing.

To our human ears, there are times when these words can sound like nothing more than a far-off dream—

downplaying prophecy to fantasy.

However, what we know is that to dream is to hope,

and to hope is to imagine,

and to imagine is to wonder,

and to wonder is to believe,

and to believe is to live and breathe for your promised day.

So give us the strength to listen as we dream, O God.

For deep down, we know your words are the very thing we need. **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 67

Comfort, comfort ye my people

Psalm 42

Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain:
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that the word is never broken.

The Dismissal

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Nocturne, Op. 35 No. 10
Theodore Wogaman, horn

Reinhold Glière

JOIN US ON ZOOM for VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

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

This Week at St. James **December 13th to December 19th**

- Sun. 11:00 a.m. The Bridge & the Beatitudes via zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86780915634>
- Mon. 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
8:00 p.m. Compline – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048>
- Tue. 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
8:00 p.m. Compline – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048>
- Wed. 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
Noon Bible Study - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84940791816>
8:00 p.m. Compline – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048>
- Thur. 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
2:00 p.m. Adult Forum - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89214149005>
8:00 p.m. Compline – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048>
- Fri. 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
8:00 p.m. Compline – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048>
- Sat. 9:00 a.m. The Ordination of Patti Fraley to the Sacred Order of Deacons
Services to be livestreamed at edomi.org/ordinations
at www.facebook.com/stpaulsdetroit
and on The Cathedral Church of St. Paul's YouTube page
Your prayers and virtual presence are requested

St. James Episcopal Church

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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