



## Ante-Communion

The First Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. — November 29, 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

Voluntary in G maj. Op 6 No 7 - Largo

John Stanley

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### Hymn 616

Hail to the Lord's Anointed (verses 1,3,4)

*Es flog Waldvoegelein*

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth:  
before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;  
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall bow before him, and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

## The Opening Acclamation

*Book of Common Prayer, p. 355*

*Presider* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**People** And blessed be his 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. 211

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
**People** And also with you.  
*Presider* 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.**

## The First Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens  
and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at  
your presence--  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil--  
to make your name known to your  
adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your  
presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we  
did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked  
at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we  
transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is  
unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a  
filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us  
away.

There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of  
our iniquity.

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

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

## Psalm 90:1-8, 12

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph  
like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the  
cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and  
Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we  
shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our  
neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we  
shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your  
right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for  
yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we  
shall be saved.

## The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

## Hymn 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel

*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, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law,  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!

## The Holy Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

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

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

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

*Reader* 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

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:

*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 Anthem

Let all things now living

Katherine K. Davis

Soloist – Sara Carlson

## The Blessing of the Pledge Cards

### 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.**

#### A Prayer for Illumination

O Great Dreamer,

You dreamed up the stars in the sky.

You dreamed up that magic baby smell and the way cream swirls into coffee.

You dreamed up the crunch of fall leaves and jazz music.

You dreamed up wisteria and evergreen and the pure magic that is a six-foot-tall sunflower.

And in the midst of all of that, you dreamed up a dream for your people—

a dream of hope and justice,

a dream for eyes wide open, to both the world's suffering and the world's beauty.

So today, as we read scripture, we ask that you would plant that same dream in us.

Pour out your Spirit on our hearts and minds so that we may see what you see,

and dream what you dream.

Gratefully we pray, **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 665

Lo! he comes, with clouds (verses 1, 4)

*Helmsley*

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Yea, amen! let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.



## The Dismissal

People      Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

Voluntary in G maj. Op 6 No 7 - Vivace

John Stanley

JOIN US ON ZOOM for VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

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

## This Week at St. James November 29<sup>th</sup> to December 5<sup>th</sup>

- 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>

# St. James Episcopal Church

355 West Maple Road     Birmingham MI 48009  
Phone 248-644-0820

website: [www.stjamesbirmingham.org](http://www.stjamesbirmingham.org)

email: [prayer@stjamesbirmingham.org](mailto:prayer@stjamesbirmingham.org)

## 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)