

**St. James Episcopal Church
Batavia, New York**



First Sunday After Christmas

December 27, 2020 10:00 am

As we are separated, please remember that you are an important part of the St. James Community and know that we are united in love and worship.

"BCP" refers to "Book of Common Prayer"

Please join your voice in responses printed in bold

The Word of God

Opening Sentences

BCP pg. 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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.**

Glory to God

BCP pg. 356

Glory to God in the highest,

And peace to his people on earth,

Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks,

We praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen

Collect of the Day

BCP pg. 212

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,

and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn,

and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
And a royal diadem in th hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147 or 147:13-21 *Laudate Dominum*

BCP p. 804

1 Hallelujah!

**How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!**

**2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.**

**3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.**

**4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.**

**5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.**

**6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

**7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.**

**8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;**

**9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.**

**10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.**

**11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;**

**12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.**

**13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;**

**14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.**

**15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**

**16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.**

**17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**

**18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?**

**19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**
**20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**
**21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.**
Hallelujah!

The Second Reading

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John

1:1-18

Glory to you, Lord Christ

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Ven. Diana Leiker

The Baptismal Covenant

BCP pg. 304

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the
prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Prayers of the People

A light in the sky led ordinary people to the feet of a baby boy. A light in the sky brought hope to a
nation weary of waiting. A light shines through the darkness and gives us hope today as we celebrate
the birth of Jesus. Let us offer our prayers of thanksgiving and intercessions on this night of hope.

We pray for the church in the world that we might provide solace and support to all those infected by
the coronavirus and other diseases especially our friends at the Kasese Community Health and
Education Foundation. May we hold them up in prayer and may we also feel called to share our
blessings with those who have so much less than we do.

O lord, let your light shine in the world.

You sent your Son to be a source of truth and love. We lift up this country and all its inhabitants, and
ask that you bring us together to do the work you have called us to do as reconcilers and healers of
your children.

**O Lord, let your light shine in the darkness and illuminate what tears us apart so we can
learn to work together.**

Dear Lord, help us to see the troubles of our community. Guide us in the right direction so that we can
offer help and healing to those who struggle with pain, health and faith, as we celebrate the birth of
our Lord.

O Lord, let your light shine on our neighbors and those in need.

The evil spirit of the pandemic has affected so many of us within our St. James family. Bless your St. James family with renewed Joy & peace, a peace we so desperately need, as we celebrate the human birth of our savior, Jesus.

O Lord let your light shine on our family.

In this season of hopefulness, let us pray for those less fortunate and remember them with generosity and thoughtfulness as we spread the joy of our newborn Savior.

O Lord, let your light shine in our hearts.

Confession of Sin

BCP pg. 360

The deacon bids us to confession:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is kept.

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.

The Presider says:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all our 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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Doxology (spoken)

**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.**

Spiritual Communion

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

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Let us now offer this prayer for Spiritual Communion together, as One Body, with our brothers and sisters near and far.

Dearest Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament, and that you fill us at all times with your holy, healing, and life-giving Presence. I love you above all else, and my desire is to always welcome you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you in consecrated bread and wine, help me to know your Presence spiritually in my heart. I embrace you, knowing that you are already here, and I unite myself wholly with you. Never let me feel separated from you or from your love. Amen.

Dismissal

BCP pg. 365

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you for joining the St. James community.



Happy Birthday!

Gregg Ely 12/28, Jim Bestine 12/29
Carol Queal 1/1

Thank you for your generous donations to our Christmas Angel Tree, Migrant Workers Ministry and Prison Ministry. Your gifts will help spread the love of Christ in our community!

A Death in the Parish Family

It is with sadness that I tell you our dear friend Marilyn Thureau passed away Monday evening. In our sure and certain hope of everlasting life we know Marilyn is living in love with our Lord and reunited with Don and Sara their daughter. I know we all join with prayers and love for Carrie, Beth and their families.

Funeral arrangements are being made.

FISH FRY MEETING VIA ZOOM

A meeting will be held on January 4th at 7:00 PM to discuss the possible options for holding the Fish Fry dinners in 2021. As of this writing, the church building is closed and the possibility of holding a major fundraising event seems dismal. However, with the plans of a vaccine on the horizon, we would like to think positively. If you have helped with Fish Frys in the past or are interested in hearing more about this wonderful ministry, please join us! The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3428423369?pwd=a1NVVDBhY2xXMGVQeEN2ZnBQT2hjZz09>

Meeting ID: 342 842 3369

Passcode: church

Dial by your location 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

BOOK STUDY VIA ZOOM

The book *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio is an easy reading book and as described by Amazon, "Kindness brings us together no matter how far apart we are. Millions of people have read the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *WONDER* and fallen in love with Auggie Pullman, an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face." A perfect read for all of us during our current times!

Wonder is available through several retailers including Amazon and Target.

Terry McGuire will lead us in an informal book discussion on Saturday, January 9th at 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Please plan to join us via Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3428423369?pwd=Q2I3eFBnUWFhK0JLOG1OcHhMRW9WQT09>

Meeting ID: 342 842 3369

Passcode: church

Dial by phone: 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Dec. 27th

10:00 a.m. Worship Service on Zoom

To join Zoom go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89810857988>

Or join by phone: (646) 558-8656, and use code 898 108 57988

Dec 28th through Jan. 3rd, the St. James Office will be closed.

Jan 3rd

10:00 a.m. Worship Service on Zoom

To join Zoom go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89810857988>

Or join by phone: (646) 558-8656, and use code 898 108 57988



**St. James Episcopal
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**Check out our website and Facebook
for online worship opportunities**

Everyone is Welcome!

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Vestry:

Diane Cox, Amy Celentano, Bonnie
Dvoroznak, Dorian Ely, Barbara King,
Dean Perry, Harold Odell, Barbara Pierce,
Bill Sofia **Clerk of the Vestry:** Cathy
Judkins

Treasurers: Peter Mark, Rick Iannello

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