

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



**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020**

**Service of Prayers, Carols and Light
*Come and Share Christ's Light!***

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

MUSICAL PRELUDE

Let There be Peace on Earth

arr. R. Popp

Richie Popp, piano

Once in Royal David's City

Alexander/Gauntlett

James Ellison, tenor

The Work of Christmas

The Genesee Chorale

Angels we have heard on high, v. 1, 2 and 3

Hymnal 96

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly thought the night,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Glorias in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Glorias in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Glorias in excelsis Deo.

Angels from the realms of glory, v 1 and 2

Hymnal 93

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with you is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Hark! the herald angels sing, v. 1 and 2

Hymnal 87

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heave adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord:
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

O little town of Bethlehem, v. 1, 2, and 5

Hymnal 79

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hope and fears of all the ears are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angles keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angles the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

O Holy Night

A. Adam

Emily Tworek-Helenbrook, soprano

Greensleeves (What Child is This)

R. Vaughan Williams

David Lange, Organ

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

God of Love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word that we may bring your life to the waiting world. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

O Come, all ye faithful v. 1, 3, 6

Hymnal 83

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Blessing of our Crèches

Many of us have crèches, cribs, manger scenes or nativity scenes in our homes. As we bless them together, please stand by your own crèche in your home.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

We beheld God's glory, full of grace and truth.

Almighty and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the Coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary: Grant that the crèches in our homes may be signs to us of your presence among us, in this season and all the year round. **Amen.**

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

We beheld God's glory, full of grace and truth.

Gloria

Hymnal S-278

**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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 *Cantate Domino*

BCP p. 725

Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
**he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Anthem

'Laudate Dominum' from Vesperea Solennes

W. A. Mozart

Emily Tworek-Helenbrook, soprano

Laudate Dominum omnes gentes
Laudate eum, omnes populi
Quoniam confirmata est
Super nos misericordia eius
Et veritas Domini manet in aeternum

Praise the Lord, all nations;
Praise Him, all people.
For He has bestowed
His mercy upon us,
And the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper
Et in saecula saeculorum
Amen

as it was in the beginning, is now, and forever,
and for generations of generations.
Amen.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her

heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon *Making Do and Making New*

Mother Bonnie Morris

No one was where they were expected to be. Mary and Joseph were on an Emperor-enforced road trip in the last days of Mary's pregnancy. The whole population was traveling as well. Jesus was in a manger, not a crib, the shepherds who should be in the fields minding their flocks were in the town. The angels were not in heaven, they were on Earth. Everybody was "someplace else". The wise men were also away from home, following a star, following a hope.

The Christmas story tells us of two courageous people who sought to follow the path of love in the face of seemingly insuperable odds. Everything they did flew in the face of sensible, safe, normal practice. Yet, they persevered. They made do with a makeshift home and away from family and friends they accepted the hospitality of strangers. In this chaos of making do, they brought into the world the Way, the Truth and the Light. As willing servants of God, they created a family, a home and place of safety and love for Jesus, God incarnate.

The old is out, up is down, and we have to figure out how to make things work. One challenge follows another, danger lurks, and uncertainty and fear are our constant companions. Everyday seems more daunting than the last. Whose life am I describing? Mary and Josephs or ours? Both.

Necessity, as they say, is the mother of invention, and "making do" can very well bring us back to the basics of what we really need. Our lives are so complicated, so filled with details, arrangements, obligations, and pressure that it is easy to let go of what we really need in our striving for what we think we are supposed to do. Jesus needed a home, so Mary and Joseph made do with what was at hand, what had been offered, what was available. Not perfect, but it was home. Our God was to dwell on Earth, with us. No person, no place, no time is perfect, but God worked with what was at hand. The simple goal was to bring God to humanity and through this upside down, out of place, chaotic time, place and people, and God accomplished it. In making do, God made new. New life, new birth, new family and a new people chosen and gathered in the universal and eternal love of God. We are made new everyday in our baptism and it all started in this family scene of making do.

In making do, let us all make new. This year I know I have reinvented my daily life about 20 times. You too? Every time I think I have a handle on things, then things change. We have all made do. We have all invented new ways to get the business of life done. In the process we have had to let go of some old ways, old expectations that we can simply no longer meet, and we have held on the essential, vital connections and sought them out in new ways. In this Christmas season, as we find ways to make do, let us join with Mary and Joseph and center our lives in the will of God, create family,

and home and be of service to others with whatever is placed in our path. In the chaos of today, let us all make do, as God makes us new. Amen.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

A light in the sky lead 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.

On this Christmas Eve like no other, we are thankful for the technology that lets us share this time together, even if we cannot be there in person.

On this Christmas Eve like no other, we remember our neighbors for whom this day is like all others, lacking in hope and lacking in security and

On this Christmas Eve like no other, we ask you for help to do the work you would have us do to take care not only of our families, but also our neighbors, and people we don't know who are struggling at this time.

On this Christmas Eve like no other, we ask for health and safety for the world, so that there will never be another Christmas Eve like no other.

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem *In the Bleak Midwinter*

G. Holst, arr. J. Bertalot

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angel and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wiseman,
I would do my part; yet what I can I give Him; give Him give my heart.

Doxology

**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.**

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.

Ave Maria

Caccini/Vavilov

Emily Tworek-Helenbrook, soprano

Ave Maria, Gratiaplena.

Dominus tecum, benediucata tu in mulieribus

Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Sancta Maria, Sancta Maria,

Ora pro nobis peccatoribus,

Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,

now and in the hour of our death.

Amen.

Silent Night, Holy Night

Hymn 111

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Christmas Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one all things both earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Joy to the World! The Lord is come v. 1, 2, & 4

Hymn 100

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us out songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Toccata on 'Angels we have heard on high'*

M. J. Carl

We Remember the Following During this Season of Christmas

Mary Pierce	William S. Flanigen, Sr.
Margaret Pierce	The Rev. John M. Flanigen, Jr.
Henry Pierce	John M. Flanigen, III
Laura Bezdek	Inez Belluscio
Jerry Bezdek	Fred Belluscio
Gary Christiansen	Robert Belluscio
John Russell	Taylor Belluscio
Dominic Barone	Cody Belluscio
Darcia Barone	Virginia E. Temple
Steven Michael Barone	William M. Temple
Bruce Baube	Kenneth W. Temple
Cecelia Sherman	Carol L. Smith
William Sherman	Betty Landers
Mary Barone	Jane King
Norman Lange	Elliot King
Ruth Lange	Caroline Mansfield
Dorothy Fox	Robert Mansfield
Charles Fox	Robert Essig
Evelyn Wellman	Richard Rung
Chauncey Wellman	Louisa Rung
Pastor Carole Grant-White	Raymond F. Rung
Charles Bradley, Jr.	Catharine Lubs
Esther Young	Ralph F. Lubs
George Young	Carol Meyers
Cora Gillions	Mary Louise Peoples
William Gillions	Anita Upson
Fay S. Rumery	Raymond Rung, Jr.
Margaret Rumery	Robert Rung
Forrest Spencer	
Erika Spencer	
J.D. LeSeur	
James J. Morris, Jr.	
Richard J. Daley	

A Christmas Eve thank you to:

The Rev. Bonnie Morris, Presider

The Ven. Diana Leiker

Judy Essig, reader

Terry McGuire, reader

Anne Iannello, reader

Lilo Townsend, reader

Emily Tworek-Helenbrook, soprano

David Lange, organ

Chantalle Falconer, soprano

Amy Celentano, alto

Peter Celentano, tenor

Dillon Hirsch, baritone and choir director

Dawn Mark, advertising

Joan Ellison, social media

Peter Celentano, video compiling and editing

Kathy Belluscio, Altar Guild

Larry Belluscio, building decoration



St. James Episcopal Church

405 East Main Street

Batavia, NY 14020

Sunday Worship Service:

10:00 a.m.

Everyone is Welcome!

The Rev. Bonnie F. Morris, Rector
rector.stjames@outlook.com

The Ven. Deacon Diana Leiker
dllart@aol.com

Choir Director: Dillon Hirsch, Organist: David Lange

Administrator: Barbara King

Wardens:

Warden: Jim Neider, (585) 409-8891, jmaneider@rochester.rr.com

Warden: Judy Essig, (585) 820-2615, jessig@gvbooces.org

Vestry:

Diane Cox, Bonnie Dvoroznak, Dorian Ely,
Amy Celentano, Barbara King, Harold Odell,
Dean Perry, Barbara Pierce, Bill Sofia

Clerk of the Vestry: Cathy Judkins

Treasurers: Peter Mark, Keith Price and Rick Iannello

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