

St. James Episcopal Church Batavia, NY

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord"



*Nativity
Patrick Pollen*

December 24, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Children of every age are welcome here and are invited to join in the opening and closing processions. In the front of the church, on the left side, is a "soft space" where children can "be children" and watch the service up close. Canon Johnnie invites everyone who would like to assist with the final blessing to stand in place and at the mention of the Trinity, Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to gently raise your right hand, palm up.

Please join your voice to the hymns and to the bolded portions of the liturgy taken from the Book of Common Prayer-BCP, red book in the pew.

Welcome and Announcements

We at St. James believe that no one is here by accident. You and I are here because God is working in our life. Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here – and you are welcome Regardless. Any child who wish to be part of the procession are welcome to grab a banner and join in!

Opening Hymn 83

O come, all ye faithful (verses 1-3, 6)

Blessing of the Crèche *(After the Christ Child is placed in the creche the Officiant leads the congregation in the following blessing)*

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 revelation of your loving providence in the Coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so may we share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us: We beheld God's glory, full of grace and truth.

Please be seated as able

Hymn 101

Away in a Manger

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Sentences

BCP pg. 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. 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.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

A Reading from the book of Isaiah (9:2-7)

Lily Bringenberg

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 96:1-13 (Let us read the psalm responsively by half verse)

1 Sing to the LORD a new song; *

sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations *

and his wonders among all peoples.

4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *

he is more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *

but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *

Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *

ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *

bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *

let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 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."**

11 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.

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before
the LORD when he comes, *

when he comes to judge the earth.

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

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus (2:11-14)

Lilo Townsend

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 Hymn 96

Angels we have heard on high

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior 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!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

**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.**

Presider: Let us pray for the Church and the world.

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church, that our divisions may cease and we, as a unified Christian faith, may spread God's love to all people, in all places, and at all times. **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially Kathy, our Governor, Donald, our President and all elected leaders. **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble. **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest, + *(pause for names either aloud or silently)*
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We pray for those mentioned on our parish prayer list, and for those who we hold in our hearts, *(pause for names either aloud or silently)*

Silence

Celebrant offers and concluding prayer.

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem

Gabriel's Voice

I. Hagginson

Doxology

Old 100th

**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. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

The Sanctus

Hymnal S-130

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S-154

Invitation to Communion

All who desire communion are welcome to receive, for this is God's Table, not ours. If you are not baptized and desire to be baptized, please speak to the clergy. The distribution of communion is done in both kinds, the bread and the wine (in a common cup). Feel free to only receive the bread if that is more comfortable for you. Gluten free options are available. All people will receive communion (or a blessing) from the main floor at the top of the center aisle. We do this so that everyone may receive communion together, as one family. If you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest when you come forward and the priest will bestow God's blessing to you.

Communion Hymn 110

The snow lay on the ground

Communion Hymn 115

What child is this

Communion Hymn 89

It came upon the midnight clear

Post Communion Prayer

BCP p. 365

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.

Candlelight Hymn 111

Silent night, holy night

The Blessing

Canon Johnnie invites all children present to join him for the Final Blessing by raising their right hand as he begins to speak.

Closing Hymn 100

Joy to the world!

Dismissal

Postlude

Joy to the world!

arr. C. Phillips

Please take this bulletin home with you!



***The flowers on the Altar today are for the Glory
of God and in loving honor of***

Charmaine Swartz



***May the Blessings of the Season Be with You and Yours from
Canon Johnnie, John, Bobbi Jo, the Wardens and Vestry!***

A Christmas Eve Thank you to our talented and dedicated Guest musicians:

*Brandon Luce, Trumpet
Dakota Hirsch, Trumpet
Devin Vogel, Trombone
Ray Suriani, Trombone*

Christmas Flowers are given in memory

Edward Ross	Hefferman Ross	Bessie Ross
Johnnie Allen	Armina Allen	Cynthia Elswick
Bennett Johnson	Emma Jean Johnson	William Emmerson Johnston
George Adkins	Thelma Adkins	William Temple
Henry Pierce	Margaret Findlay	Virginia Temple
Margaret Pierce	Robert Findlay	Kenneth Temple
Mary E. Pierce	Rose Cetta	Matthew Temple
Jerry Bezdek	Joseph Cetta	Carol Smith
Laura Bezdek	Concetta Findlay	Fred Belluscio
Arlene Haepling	John B. Findlay	Inez Belluscio
Cory Christiansen	James Findlay	Robert Belluscio
John Russell	John Swartz Sr.	Taylor Belluscio
William Gillons	Gertrude Swartz	Cody Belluscio
Cora Gillons	Peter Swartz	Norma Phillips
John O'Brien	John Kasmer Sr.	Betty S. Coughlin
Alexander O'Brien	Helen Kasmer	William L. Coughlin
Milton Hawkins	John Kasmer Jr.	Rolland Schuler
Katherine Hawkins	Robert C. Hawkins	Evelyn Schuler
David Hawkins	May B. Hawkins	Harold Hensel
Dorothy Hawkins	James A Fricker	Janet Hensel
Alfred Hawkins	Sandra H. Fricker	

Ethel Hawkins	Robert E. Stevens	Arthur Neider
May Hawkins	Janet Stevens	Margaret Neider
Victor Corey	Dorothy M. Hawkins	Wilbur Bartholf
Edna Corey	Margery Bartholf	Adelle Bartholf
Harold Folger	Robert Mansfield	William Sherman
Margery Folger	Carolyn Mansfield	Cecelia Sherman
Herb Hammond	Dorothy Mansfield	Dominic Barone
Lucy Hammond	Dave King	Mary Barone
Paula Hammond	Dean King	Darcia Barone
Leon Townsend	Renate S. Kauer	Steven Michael Barone
Thelma Townsend	Magdalene S. Stein	Jamie Barone
Linda Townsend DiNardo	Magdalene Salloch	Bruce Baube
Leah Townsend Markwica	Erich Salloch	Mary Grace Downie
Frank Markwica	Missi Smith	John R. Downie
Kenneth Draycott	Jane Draycott	Norman Fleming
		Joyce Fleming

St. James Calendar
Happy Birthday!

Jacen Belluscio 12-26, Gregg Ely 12-28, Jim Bestine 12-29,

Deacon Diana Leiker 12-30, Will Ely 12-31

Carol Queal 1-1, Jamie Belluscio 1-4, Kim Isaac 1-5, Beth Collee 1-6

Sun, December 28	9:00 am - 9:30 am	Zoom Service
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am – 11:15 am	Liturgy of the Word
	11:15 am	Coffee Hour

Mon, December 29	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Tue, December 30	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Wed, December 31	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Thu, January 1	Happy New Year!	Office closed
Fri, January 2		Office closed
Sun, January 4	9:00 am – 9:30 am	Zoom Service
	10:00 am – 11:15 am	Holy Eucharist
	11:15 am	Coffee Hour

Zoom meetings use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8085432266?pwd=ZIBCZEIOWDQ1Szk5TEF2dFILbm4rUT09>

Meeting ID: 808 543 2266 Passcode: zrXG3y

First time here?

We welcome you and hope you have felt that welcome! If you'd like to learn more about St. James, please contact our priest, Canon Johnnie at canonjohnnie@gmail.com, (859)285-9361, or call the office. Keep in touch, if you wish to be added to our mailing list fill out this form and place in the offering plate or hand to an usher.

Bathrooms are located up the ramp (found at the left entrance nearest the small side altar) and then to your left.

Name

Other family members

Here at St. James You are Welcome Regardless!



St. James Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross
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The Rev. Deacon Diane Cox
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Organist/Choir Director

Bobbi Jo Voelker
Administrator

Wardens:

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Vestry:

Kim Isaac, Liz Findlay,
Barb Pierce, Steve Rumery, Tim Thomas
Dorian Ely: Clerk of the Vestry
Bette Van Buskirk: Treasurer

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