

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



## **The First Sunday after the Epiphany The Baptism of Jesus**

**January 10, 2020, 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

*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

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

### The First Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 29. Afferte Domino

BPC pg. 620

**1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, \***

**ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**

**2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; \***

**worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.**
- 4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;**
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; \*  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- 8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.**
- 9 And in the temple of the Lord \*  
all are crying, "Glory!"**
- 10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.**
- 11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; \*  
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

The Second Reading

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark

1:1-11

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight" ',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Mother Bonnie Morris

In the beginning of everything God created everything.  
In the beginning of his ministry Jesus was baptized.  
In the beginning of our lives we are baptized.

In our beginning we are created by God. Then we are claimed by God in baptism. Then we are sent on our way, to do good or to do evil, to love or to hate, to try or to give up.

Baptism is given to us for the forgiveness of sins, the scriptures say and the church teaches. Forgiveness is more than a ticket to heaven, or a "get out of jail free" card. Forgiveness opens roads that had been blocked off; it shines light on dark paths. Because baptism is not just about being cleared of sin, it is also about our origins, our belonging, our options.

We are baptized once, and most of us probably don't remember it. We certainly don't remember our birth, we don't remember being created by God. Singular events, unremembered, and yet vitally important to our understanding of who and what we are: created, blessed and claimed.

Created, blessed and claimed we move through our lives. We are not chained to our baptismal vows, we take them on willingly, as a loving burden as beloved children of God. As we are claimed as members of God's family, we claim God as our own, as our source, as our inspiration, as our goal.

We will now renew our baptismal covenant, those promises made for us and by us. Let us take them on anew each time we say them, as guideposts and supports, as encouragement and sometimes chastisement to do better. Created, blessed and claimed, let us move into the new beginnings of our lives.

The Baptismal Covenant

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 the 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.**

### The Prayers of the People

As we begin a new year, let us begin by bringing ourselves as the ultimate gift to Jesus. Take a moment of silence to open yourself up to the God who created you and loves you, and offer your whole being; your fears, your regrets, your gifts, and your hopes. (*moment of silence*)

God of all the universe, the planets, the suns and stars, and every living thing found within, forgive us for our negligence in taking care of the world you gave us to live in and love. We dominated the earth out of greed instead of understanding our need for interdependence with nature.

**Creator God, hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace between people and countries around the globe this new year. Let our actions reflect the words we say when we renew our own baptismal covenant promising to respect the dignity of every human being, and work for justice and freedom for all.

**Sustainer God, hear our prayer.**

We ask that the God of love continue to give health care providers, scientists, researchers, and front line workers the skills, energy, and protection they need to fight the pandemic that has ravaged our country and others around the world. Wrap your arms around them and give them the peace that only you can give, so they can continue one day at a time, knowing you are in the midst of the pain.

**Spirit God of healing, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those men and women who are serving to protect the lives of the innocent casualties of war and protect the freedoms we have come to enjoy in this country. Do not let us take our democracy for granted but strive to uphold it's values as a nation. **We especially remember Eric, David, Paul, Brandon, Michael, Alex, Chad, Jim, Devyn and Trevor** who have chosen to serve their country and have been put in harm's way. Lord, put your armor of protection around these brave individuals so they can continue their work for peace.

**God of humanity, hear our prayer.**

We hold up those in our own communities that have been effected by the Corona Virus. Let them feel your presence as they mourn the loss of loved ones, health, economic stability, and joy. Our prayer is that they do not feel abandoned, but know you are with them always.

**God among us, hear our prayer.**

We especially ask for intercessory prayers for the physical and mental healing of those who are dear to us. **Especially Tim, Carolyn, Douglas, Aiden, Gabriella, Carla, Venus, Beth Ann, Cathy, Wendy, Evan, Travis, Pat, Nicholas, Bob, Brian, Rita, Garth, Jessica, Mark, Steve, Bill, Joanne, Donna, Richie, Kim, Matt and Charlene.** Are there others you would like to include?

*pause.*

**Life-giver God, hear our prayers.**

Holy messengers and angels were sent to proclaim the good news of a Savior. They warned of individuals in positions of power. They called people to repentance, and they glorified and worshipped God. Continue to send messengers to us, so that we can know what your will is for this church, this diocese, and each of us as members of the body of Christ. Give us open hearts to hear your messages for us in this time and place.

**God of unending love, hear our prayers.**

Jesus, you called fishermen and ordinary people to follow your way of love, even when it was not easy. Give us ears to hear you calling each of us to follow you and the courage to respond as disciples. Help us discern the actions we need to take as individuals and as a community of followers.

**Jesus, Emmanuel, hear our prayer.**

#### Confession of Sin

*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 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

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

#### The Holy Communion

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.**

The Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

BCP pg. 365

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

**Thanks be to God.**



**A Happy Birthday!**

Sue Best 1/14

**St James Annual Parish Meeting**  
**February 14, 2020**  
**Via Zoom, after the 10 a.m. service**

**Reports:** If you are a Ministry Chairperson, a committee team leader or in charge of any group that requires a report for the annual meeting, please submit your report to the office via email January 25<sup>th</sup>. Your cooperation submitting reports for the annual meeting will be greatly appreciated.

**Vestry Member and Warden nominations and election:** Nominations will be open until the 17th of January. Soon after the 17th we will announce the nominees and issue the call for votes, either by email or snail mail. All of the votes must be received before the opening of the Annual Meeting on

February 14th. The results will be announced at the meeting. As this is the first time we have done a digital annual meeting, we are still working out the details. Please stay tuned for more information.

Eligibility to vote, to be a vestry member or to be a warden are established in our By-Laws:

**Those eligible to vote** are all persons of 18 years or more age belonging to the parish, who have been baptized and are regular attendants at its worship and contributors to its support for at least twelve months prior to an annual election or special meeting (Art. II)

**Wardens** must be 18 years or older, eligible to vote and a confirmed communicant of the parish. (Art. III, 1.)

**Vestry members** must be 18 years or older, eligible to vote and a baptized member of the parish. (Art. III, 1.)

For more information about the vestry and our By-Laws, please go to our website: <https://www.saintjamesbatavia.org/> and click on "Wardens and Vestry".

## **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 16<sup>th</sup> 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)

### **January 10<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Jan 10<sup>th</sup>**

**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

**10:45 a.m.**

#### **Our Faith Discussion Class 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

#### **Jan 11<sup>th</sup>**

**2:00 p.m.**

#### **Finance Team Meeting on Zoom**

To join Zoom go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/960235378>

**5:00 p.m.**

Blessing Box Planning Meeting on Zoom

To join Zoom go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87598242843>

#### **Jan 13<sup>th</sup>**

**12:00 p.m.**

#### **Bible Discussion Group on Zoom**

To join go to <https://zoom.us/j/579180457>

or join by phone: (646) 558-8656 and use code 579 180 457

#### **Jan 17<sup>th</sup>**

**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

**10:45 a.m.**

#### **Our Faith Discussion Class 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 Church**

405 East Main Street

Batavia, NY 14020

**Check out our website and Facebook for  
online worship opportunities**

***Everyone is Welcome!***

The Rev. Bonnie F. Morris, Rector [rector.stjames@outlook.com](mailto:rector.stjames@outlook.com)

The Rev. Deacon Diana Leiker, [dllart@aol.com](mailto:dllart@aol.com)

Choir Director: Dillon Hirsch,

Organist: David Lange

Administrator: Barbara King,

Bookkeeper: Sherry Garigen

### **Wardens:**

Warden: Jim Neider, (585) 409-8891, [jmaneider@outlook.com](mailto:jmaneider@outlook.com)

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

### **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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