

St. James Episcopal Church Batavia, NY

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



The Light of the World
Wesley Frank 1923-2002

The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21st, 2025
(9:00 a.m. zoom Liturgy of the Word)
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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.

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

arr. L. Dengler

Welcome and Announcements

None of us are here by accident. God has called us into this space and at this time, because God is working in our lives – individually and corporately. Please know that God loves you regardless, just as you are, and that love is practiced here at St. James. Also know that it is God who invites you into the Banquet of the Lamb – A God who welcome us all!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Today we light four candles, first two purple, **the candles of Hope and Peace** and the third pink **candle of Joy** and the fourth candle is for **Love**

Celebrant: Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is **HOPE**, the second candle is **PEACE**, the third candle is **JOY** and the fourth candle is **Love**.

The candle of love tells what we are worth: God loves us so much that God came to be one of us! An angel brought news of a child who would be the one who would save us and set us all free. **Amen**.

Opening Hymn 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel (verses 1,4-7)

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Sentences

BCP p. 355

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's 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 Gloria (*spoken at 9 am, sung at 10*)

And in despair I bowed my head "There is no peace on Earth," I said For hate is strong and mocks the song Of peace on Earth,

**good will to men; Then rang the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep The wrong shall fail, the right
prevail With peace on Earth, good will to men
Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the book of Isaiah (7:10-16)

Liz Findlay

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks Be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7,16-18 (Let us read the psalm responsively by half verse)

- 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.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (1:1-7) Lily Bringenberg

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 66 *Come, thou long expected Jesus*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew (1:18-25)

Glory to you Lord Christ

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Canon Johnnie E. Ross

The Nicene Creed (*You are invited to stand as you are able.*) 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.

The Prayers of the People

Rose Rumery

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 Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 Absolution

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you!

And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem

Keep Your Lamps

V. Johnson

Doxology

Old 100th

Please stand as you are able.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures, here below. Praise God 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 265

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Communion Hymn 53

Once he came in blessing

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.

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 72

Hark! The glad sound, the Savior comes

Dismissal

Postlude

Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates arr. W. Held

*****Those attending the Zoom service please continue here.*****

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures, here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

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, forever and ever. Amen.**

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

We will observe a moment of silence. If you have consecrated wafers, please consume one now. If you don't, please know that as others receive the sacrament, so do you!

Closing Prayer

Let us pray.

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with the spiritual food of common prayer. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Please take this bulletin home with you!

Please pray for those on our parish prayer List

Ed, Debbie, Anne & Don, Paul, Peggy, James, Wayne, Angelique, Charlene, Bill, Pat, Patrick, Judi, Kim, Devon, Tim, Jean, Diane, Tom, Rich, Pearl, Bob, Sue, James, Bill, Chad, Jeff, Shirley, Judy, Lucas, Owen, Savannah, Nancy, Greg, Grace, Roger, Terry, Russell, Kennedy, Harrison, Margaret, Lucy, Sue, Brian, Jim, Marsha, Janice, Cal, Beverly, Missy, Jolene, Mary Annette, Lois, Sharon, Melinda, Dane, Blake, Erica, Debbie, John, Matt and Missy

Vestry Highlights:

- Approved a process to pursue a part-time Priest-in-Charge
- Approved a policy for use of the Discretionary Fund
- Approved a \$2000 increase in the Property budget to replace the garage door in the current year maintenance budget.
- Planned the Jan 20, 2026 Visioning Meeting to focus on the next priest in charge – our hopes and dreams
- Approved Feb 8th, 2026 as the Annual Meeting, Barbara Price will be with us
- Approved Outreach expenses that will spend our budgeted total of \$5000 for 2025 and approved an outreach budget for 2026 of \$10,000

New Committee for 2026 - Outreach

If you are interested in serving on this committee or know someone who would be a good disciple for this work, please let Canon Johnnie, Jim E, or Jo-Ann B know. Among the responsibilities will be to manage a budget of \$10,000 and work with others to identify, fund, and follow-up on various community needs that would be in line with the teachings, ministry and mission of Jesus.

Christmas Cookies

We have put together tins of cookies for some of our parishioners who can't make it to church anymore. If you have a little time today following the service, and would like to help with the delivery, please pick up a cookie tin and drop it off on your way home with a Merry Christmas to remind these people that we are thinking of them.

Blessing Box

Looking for a way to donate to those in need of food this Christmas season? The Blessing Box can always use your food donations or gift cards. Unsure of what to buy? There's always a need for peanut butter and tuna fish. Canned soup would make a good, hot meal during this cold time of year.

Hats and Mitten Tree

We will be continuing our long tradition of collecting warm winter wear for the children who need it. Donate hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves in all sizes. There is a tree in church on which to hang them. We have very cold winters and not all children are dressed to battle our cold season. The items collected will be delivered to an elementary school and our neighboring Middle School. Please remember to pick up a warm hat or a pair of mittens when you are out doing your Christmas shopping.

Christmas Memorial Poinsettias



In Memory/Honor of:

Given By: _____

Phone Number: _____

Contributions for Christmas Memorial Poinsettias in honor and memory of our loved ones are now being accepted. Contributions will be donated to the Bricks and Mortar fund. Please fill out this form and attach it to your contribution. They may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to or dropped off at the church office. All names must be received on or before **Monday, December 22nd**.

St. James Calendar
Happy Birthday

Peg Abrams & Wayne Judkins 12-23, Jacen Belluscio 12-26

Sun, December 21	9:00 am - 9:30 am	Zoom Service
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am – 11:15 am	Holy Eucharist
	10:15 am	Sunday School
	11:15 am	Coffee Hour

Mon, December 22	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Tue, December 23	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Wed, December 24		Office closed
	5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Christmas Eve service
Thu, December 25	Merry Christmas	Office closed
	10:00 am	Christmas service
Fri, December 26		Office closed
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

Zoom meetings use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8085432266?pwd=ZIBCZEI0WDQ1Szk5TEF2dFILbm4rUT09>

Meeting ID: 808 543 2266 Passcode: zrXG3y

CHRISTMAS IN THE GENESEE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Christ Church, Albion:

Christmas Eve – Holy Eucharist at 4:00 p.m. (joined by St. Paul's, Holley)
Sunday, December 28 at 11:00 a.m. – Festival of Lessons & Carols

St. James, Batavia:

Christmas Eve – Holy Eucharist at 5:30 p.m.
Christmas Morning – Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m. in St. Michael's Chapel

St. Paul's, Holley:

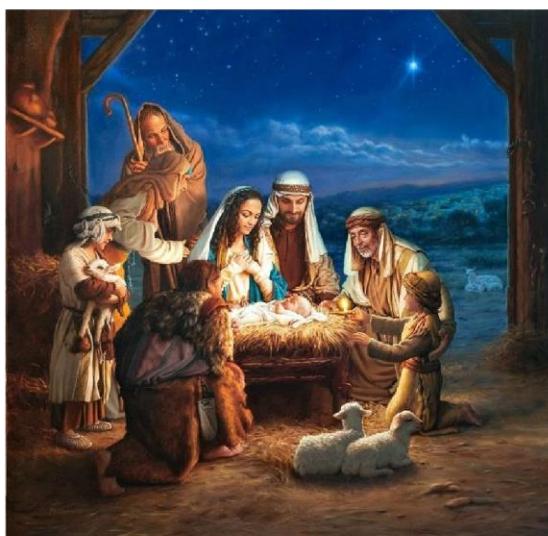
No Service for Christmas; joining with Christ Church, Albion on Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 28 – Holy Eucharist at 9:00 a.m. (*please note the change from 5:00 p.m.*)

St. John's, Medina:

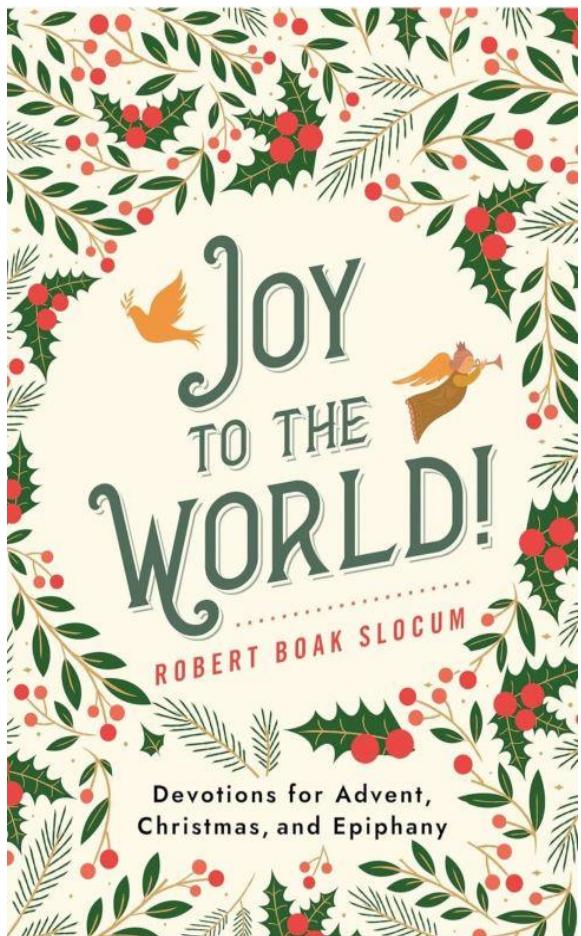
Christmas Eve – Festival of Lessons & Carols at 4:00 p.m.

St. Paul's, Stafford:

Christmas Eve – Festival of Lessons & Carols at 4:30 p.m.



Book Study from Advent through Epiphany



From Advent through Epiphany, Canon Johnnie will lead a book study with us using this beautifully designed devotional by the Reverend Robert B. Slocum. Father Slocum is an Episcopal Priest who will offer us heartwarming devotions for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

Our study will take us from the miraculous conception of Jesus through the visit of the Magi, as we experience Joy to the World! in the wonders of the God's coming to us. We will explore ways of how we can embrace the Incarnation and make it meaningful in our everyday life.

"Each devotion offers a passage from scripture, thought-provoking questions, and soulful prayers to help us contemplate God's

steadfast presence and love in our lives."

This study will also be made available via Zoom for those who might find winter night driving a challenge.

Funds are available for book scholarships, so please don't feel like you must be able to afford the book to attend the study. Dates and times are will be Thursday evenings at 5PM, with the last meeting being January 15th. I have also arranged for you to meet the author and ask questions of him. This will take place by Zoom. Please join the group. I bet you will not regret it.

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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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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