

St. James Episcopal Church Batavia, NY

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



*Christ on the Cross Between the Two Thieves
Lucas Cranach 1472-1553*

The Last Sunday after Pentecost November 23rd, 2025

(9:00 a.m. zoom Liturgy of the Word)

10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word

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 will invite the children to assist him with the final blessing. Children/Youth will be asked to come forward or to stand where they are seated during the blessing. Anyone, young or old who wishes to be part of the procession are welcome to grab a banner from up front and enter the procession into God's presence and toward the altar of God.

Please join your voice to the hymns and to the bolded portions of the liturgy (Book of Common Prayer-BCP)

Prelude

Thanks Be to Thee

G.F. Handel

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 invites you into the Banquet of the Lamb.

Opening Hymn 290

Come, ye thankful people come

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)

Hymnal S-280

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's 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.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

(You may be seated for the lessons.)

A Reading from the book of Jeremiah (23-1-6)

Lily Bringenberg

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

Psalm 46 (Let us read the psalm responsively by half verse)

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
- 11 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."
- 12 The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold

A Reading from letter of Paul to the Colossians (1:11-20)

Terry McGuire

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers-- all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

Sequence Hymn 477 *All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine*

Please be seated

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke (23:33-43)

Glory to you Lord Christ

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching Jesus on the cross; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks Be to God

Reflection

Paula Reimann

(You are invited to stand as you are able.)

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.

The Prayers of the People

Larry Belluscio

Deacon/Presider:

Let us pray for the Church and the world.

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy catholic church, with hopes that divisions will cease and we, as a unified Christian faith, may spread 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.

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.

Especially those on our parish prayer list and others we now name

Silence

Presider:

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence

The Confession and Absolution

The Officiant says:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*Silence*)

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 officiant (still sitting or kneeling) says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord always be with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem

Songs of Thanksgiving

C. Bridewell

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.**

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.

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.

Closing Hymn 494

Crown him with many crowns

The Dismissal

Our worship has ended, our service continues. Go in Peace.

Thanks be to God

Postlude

Allegro Maestoso

Announcements

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, Jane, Pearl, Bob, Sue, James, Bill, Chad, Jeff, Shirley, Judy, Lucas, Owen, Savannah, Nancy, Greg, Grace, Celentano family, Roger, Terry, Russell, David, Kennedy, Harrison, Margaret, Lucy, Sue, Brian, Jim & Marsha, Janice, Cal, Beverly, Missy, Jolene, Mary Annette, Lois, Sharon, Melinda, Dane, Blake, Erica, Debbie, John

Parish office will be closed November 25th through December 1st

Vestry Meeting Notes

- Approved the terms of paid holidays and vacation for the Parish Administrator
- Discussed the update from the search committee
- Noted the basic assumptions included in the Draft budget for 2026 which will be approved in December 2025.
- Noted the ongoing Outreach activities as we seek to spend the existing \$5,000 budget line.
- Scheduled the next Visioning meeting for January 20, 2026
- Scheduled the annual meeting for January 25, 2026
- Approved the terms of clergy compensation under the GRI for 2026.

Jubilee Sunday November 30th

Greetings to everyone in the Genesee Deanery,

I am writing on behalf of Dean Barbara Price with an invitation to join in the celebration of the **Jubilee Service on November 30th at 11:00 a.m. at Christ Church, 26 South Main Street in Albion.** Fr. Joe Kozlowski will preside. The candle of *hope* will be lit on the Advent wreath, as we begin the season in which we ask the Lord to show us the way of *hope, peace, joy and love* in our homes, parishes and communities. A gathering for coffee, light refreshments and conversation will follow the service. Please spread the word in your parishes. Christ Church is fully handicap accessible. You may park or be dropped off in the *south* lot off of West Park Street. The entrance door leads into the parish hall, where you will find a restroom and an elevator. We look forward to beginning the season of Advent together.

Peace,

Deacon Robin Kozlowski

Sandwiches & Pie Delivery

Hope you have some extra time after today's service because we could use your help. There will be sandwich making in the kitchen to provide a meal for the unhoused in downtown Buffalo. There are also pies that need to be delivered to some of our parishioners who need to be reminded that we are thankful for them. The pies are boxed and addressed and can be found in the Parish Hall. Even if you just take one pie to deliver and say hi to a fellow parishioner who doesn't get out often it would be most helpful.

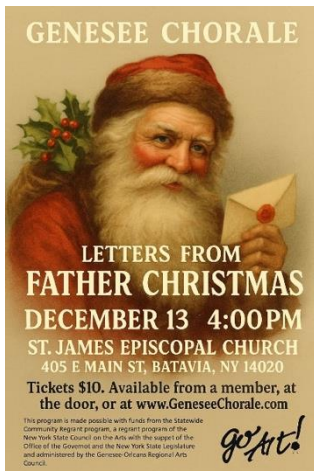
Turkeys

This time of year most supermarkets offer frozen turkeys for sale for extremely low prices. If you find such a sale but don't need a turkey for yourself it would be most welcome in the St. James freezer. Last year we used the donated turkeys and offered a turkey sandwich lunch to the community outside our doors. Many, many people came and enjoyed a lunch while enjoying some St. James hospitality. We are hoping to do the same this spring.

Advent Music Meditations

(If you would like to attend one of the performances requiring a ticket and need assistance in purchasing it, please contact the church office.)

4PM December 13th



*As is our custom, the Genesee Chorale will be our honored guests with a performance entitled: **Letters from Father Christmas**. If you would like to attend this performance and need assistance with a ticket purchase, please call the church office.*

The Genesee Chorale was organized in the fall of 1971 under the direction of Dr. Theodore Ashizawa who led the Chorale for 20 years. Dawn Mark conducted the group for four seasons, followed by Ron Bordinaro, Marcia Housel (for dinner dances), Mark Hoerbelt for 5 years, and Charles Bradley for two seasons. Ric Jones has been the director since January of 2008.

The Chorale is comprised of seventy to seventy-five singers from all walks of life and draws membership from Genesee County and seven additional counties. They are pleased to call St. James their home, and we are pleased to be their host. Please do attend and help us welcome and enjoy the Genesee Chorale.

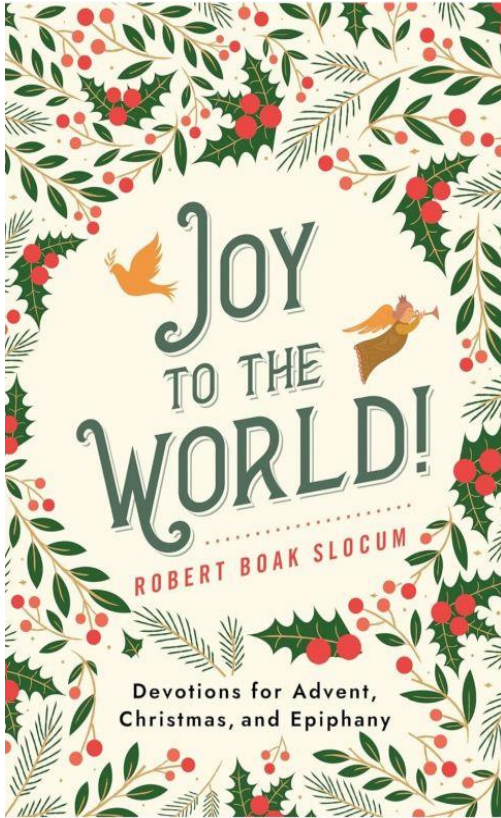
3PM December 14th

Advent Music Meditation #2 will be a concert presentation by the Voice Students of Lauren Picarro-Hoerbelt, Instructor at Genessee Community College, admission is free with a freewill offering taken.

7PM December 19th

Christmas at St. James with Jeffery Thompson, tenor, John Novak and Friends presents a program of Christmas Music. Admission is free with a freewill offering taken.

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."

We have a stack of books with a sign up sheet at the front of the Church as you come in. Please sign up and grab a book.

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.

St. James Calendar
Happy Birthday

Rose Rumery 11-27, Nancy Harrington 12-1

Sun, November 23	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, November 24	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Tue, November 25		Office closed
Wed, November 26		Office closed
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thu, November 27	Happy Thanksgiving	Office closed
		Thrift store closed
Fri, November 28		Office Closed
Sun, November 30	9:00 am – 9:30 am	Zoom Service
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00am Jubilee Sunday	At Christ Church in Albion
Upcoming dates		
Thurs, December 4	5:00 pm	Advent Book study

Zoom meetings use the following link:

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

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!

December Lay Minister Schedule

	December 7 Holy Eucharist	December 14 Holy Eucharist	December 21 Holy Eucharist	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 28 LOW
Officiant	Canon Johnnie	Canon Johnnie	Canon Johnnie	Canon Johnnie	
Chalice 1	Deacon Diane	Kim Isaac	Kim Isaac		
Chalice 2	Kim Isaac	Jim Isaac	Jim Isaac	Jim Isaac	
Acolyte	Jo-Ann Bestine	Jo-Ann Bestine	Jo-Ann Bestine	Kim Isaac	
Lesson 1 & Psalm	Terry McGuire	Joan Ellison	Liz Findlay	Lily Bringenberg	Lilo Townsend
Lesson 2	Liz Findlay	Lilo Townsend	Lily Bringenberg	Terry McGuire	Liz Findlay
Prayers of the People	Rose Rumery	Jim Neider	Anne Iannello	Larry Belluscio	Larry Belluscio
Ushers/Greeters	Nancy Harrington Jane McKeehen	Jane McKeehen Bill Coughlin	Carol Queal Bill Coughlin	Kathy & Larry Belluscio	Jane McKeehen Bill Coughlin
Building Attendant	Larry Belluscio	Larry Belluscio	Larry Belluscio	Larry Belluscio	Larry Belluscio
Opener- Closer	Liz	Jo-Ann	Dorian	Steve	Liz
Live Streamers	Kevin Skelton	Kevin Skelton	Kevin Skelton	Kevin Skelton	Kevin Skelton
Altar Guild	Bill Coughlin Carol Queal Anne Iannello	Jo-Ann Bestine Joanne Fleming Donna Kauffman	Kathy Belluscio Debbie Barone June Myers	Bill Coughlin Carol Queal Anne Iannello	Jo-Ann Bestine Joanne Fleming Donna Kauffman
Church School	Judy	***	Judy	***	***



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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