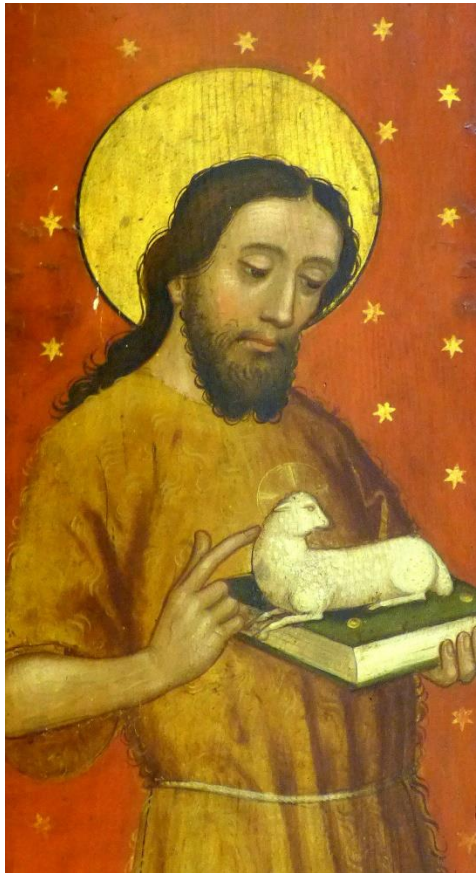


St. James Episcopal Church Batavia, NY

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



*John the Baptist
1465*

The Second Sunday of Advent December 7th, 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.

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 – *The Advent Wreath was purchased with memorial gifts given to honor the memory of Robert C. Hawkins, who died in 1989. Robert was the husband of Mae Barr Hawkins who are the parents of Lesley Carney, the person lighting the Advent Candles on this 2nd Sunday of Advent. Robert and Mae were married in this church and Lesley has been an active member for nearly 80 years. It seems only right to light these two candles in memory of Robert and Mae Hawkins, the parents of Lesley Carney.*

Today we light two advent candles, both purple, **the Candles of Hope and Peace.**

Celebrant: "Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. The first candle represents HOPE, the second candle is the candle of PEACE.

Lesley: A Reading from the Letter to the Colossians (3:15) – "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn 59

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the book of Isaiah (11:1-10)

Terry McGuire

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear

shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks Be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (Let us read the psalm responsively by half verse)

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans (15:4-13) Liz Findlay

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we

might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 65 *Prepare the way, O Zion*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew (3:1-12)
Glory to you Lord Christ

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees;

every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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.

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, + *especially* Norma and Jane (*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

Rise Up and Shine

A. Lovelace

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 597 *O day of peace that dimly shines*
Communion Hymn 60 *Creator of the stars of night*

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 67 *Comfort, comfort ye my people*

Dismissal

Postlude *People, Look East* *K. Langlois*

*****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

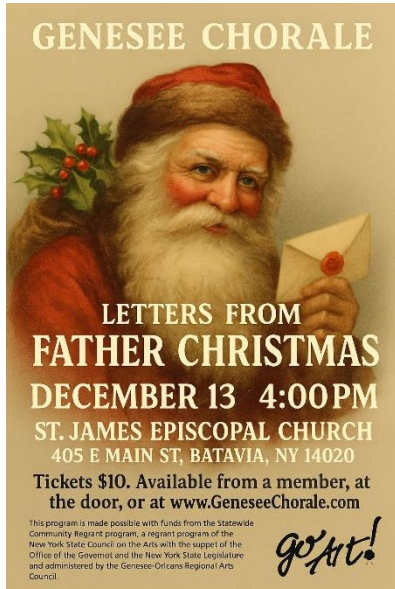
Hats and Mitten Tree

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. So remember to pick up a warm hat or mittens when you are out doing your Christmas shopping.

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

Voice students of Lauren Picarro-Hoerbelt, Instructor at Genesee Community College

7pm December 19th

Christmas at St. James- Jeffery Thompson, tenor, John Novak and friends present a program of Christmas Music

St. James Calendar **Happy Birthday**

Betty O'Brien 12-8, Lilo Townsend 12-9, Ashley Bringenberg 12-12

Sun, December 7	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

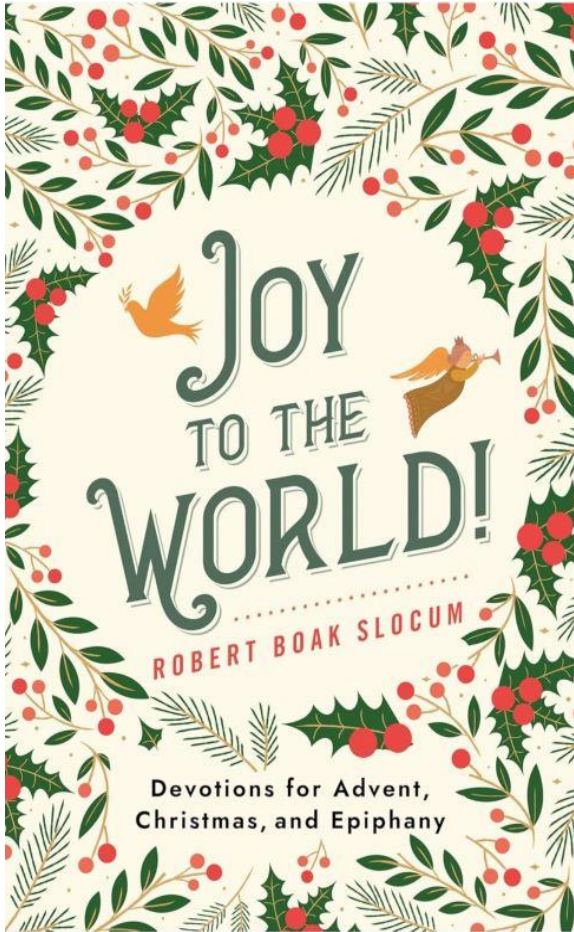
Mon, December 8	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Tue, December 9	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Wed, December 10	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
	10:00 am	Canon Johnnie in office
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thu, December 11	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Thrift store open
	5:00 pm	Advent Book Study
Fri, December 12	10:30 am	Jane Draycott Service
Sat, December 13	4:00 pm	Letters from Father Christmas Concert
Sun, December 14	9:00 am – 9:30 am	Zoom Service
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am – 11:15 am	Holy Eucharist
	11:15 am	Coffee Hour
	3:00 pm	Voice Students of GCC

Zoom meetings use the following link:

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

Meeting ID: 808 543 2266 Passcode: zrXG3y

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."

You can order the book from Amazon yourself, or we will have 12 copies available here at church. 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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<https://www.facebook.com/share/174RPsQRBD/?mibextid=wwXIfr>

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"I am not made of plaster, nor of stone, nor of bronze. I am living flesh,
throbbing, suffering.

I am among women and men and they have not recognized me. I am
poorly paid. I live in a slum. I am sick, I sleep under bridges, I am in
prison. I am oppressed. I am patronized.

I sweat (human) blood on all battlefields.

I cry out in the night and die in the solitude of battle.

And yet I said to them, "Whatever you do to (any of these,) however
humble, you do to me."

The terrible thing is they know it,
but they don't take it seriously."

*Written by Michael Quoist
In his book entitled, **Prayers***