

St. James Episcopal Church Batavia, NY

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



*Christ Instructing Nicodemus
Jacob Jordaens 1593-1678*

The Second Sunday in Lent

March 1st, 2026

(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 as the Church. 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! So come, let us worship the Lord our God.

Opening Hymn 147

Now let us all with one accord

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Sentences

BCP p 355

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

Jesus said; Blessed are the poor in spirit,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,

for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,

for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,

for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,

for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?
It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

You are the light of the world.
A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

As children of God, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

*-The Beatitudes, Matthew 5:3-16 (ESV)
adapted from Christ-Centered Worship by Bryan Chapell*

The Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins to God, our neighbor and ourselves.

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 Trisagion (spoken at 9 am, sung at 10)

Hymnal S-100

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy upon us.

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Let us pray

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the book of Genesis (12:1-4)

Anne Iannello

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks Be to God

Psalm 121 (Let us read the Psalm in unison with the reader beginning...)

I lift up my eyes to the hills; **from where is my help to come?**
My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The LORD himself watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.

The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (4:1-5, 13-17) Liz Findlay

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn 440

Blessed Jesus, at thy word

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John (3:1-17)

Glory to you, Lord Christ

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ

Sermon

The Reverend Canon Johnnie E. Ross

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 Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem

O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

Please stand as you are able

**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 D

BCP p. 372

The Sanctus

Hymnal S-124

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S-161

Invitation to Communion

These are the gifts of God for us, the beloved of God: Come to the Table of the Lord and be fed.

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 489

The great Creator of the worlds

Communion Hymn 333

Now the silence

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 Lenten Blessing

Canon Johnnie invites all children present to join him for the Blessing

Closing Hymn 636

How firm a foundation

Dismissal

Postlude

Prelude in F Major

J.S. Bach

*****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 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, 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.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the fellowship of love your Son taught us, making us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever 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, Jane, 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, Kathy, Peter, Meagan, and Christina

It's time to update our Parish Prayer list

Please let Bobbi Jo know if you would like your person to remain on the list.

Did you know?

Any money in the collection plate on the first Sunday of the month that is not towards your annual pledge goes in the priest's discretionary fund.

Lunch at the 400 Towers

We will be going over to the Towers for lunch with our friends following today's service. Please join us for some delicious soup and good conversation with our neighbors.

What is that big wooden bin in the back of the Church?

"Sleep in Heavenly Peace" is a program which provides twin beds, linens and comforters to families in need of such basic things. I know from personal experience that Social Services won't allow families to have children in their homes overnight unless there is a bed for each child. First Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a group who are making the twin beds (and bunk beds) and now they need the rest of the items. We at St. James, have contributed the cost of beds and mattresses for six beds so far through our Outreach ministry. Now we need your individual help in supplying the linens. In most need are new twin sheets, pillowcases and blankets. We are told that in particular ones that boys would like are in short supply. If you can afford to purchase such items, please just put

them in the bin. Should you rather make a monetary donation of any amount, please give it to Kim Isaac or Jo-Ann Bestine or me.
May we all sleep in heavenly peace knowing we are doing God's work!

Terry McGuire

Outreach Committee

Your Outreach Committee sent \$1,000 on behalf of our parish:
In support of the people of Minneapolis, St. James sent funds to St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Richfield, Minnesota (a Minneapolis suburb) for their Casa Maria Food Shelf/Food Share. Casa Maria serves much of the Hispanic immigrant population and is a safe place for neighbors to gather, receive groceries and clothing, and network with others about health care options, employment, and housing. From their website: *Due to the current crisis in our community, we are quickly adapting our operations to include food delivery and we are rapidly expanding our capacity. To do so, we are in urgent need of financial donations.*

Lenten & Holy Week Schedule

Ash Wednesday - February 18 7am – 9am

Holy Week is March 29 - April 5

Mark your calendar for:

Palm Sunday, March 29th

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 5:30PM

Good Friday - Stations of the Cross & A Good Friday Service is being planned. Watch this space!

Lenten Book Study - *"The False White Gospel,"* by Jim Wallis

beginning Thursday, February 26 - March 26, 2026, 5PM

Jim Wallis, author of *The False White Gospel*, says it's time to call out a genuine faith to reject and help dismantle a false gospel that propagates white supremacy and autocracy. In doing so, Wallis turns our attention to six iconic texts at the heart of what a genuine biblical faith really means and what Jesus, in the gospels, calls his followers to do - both then and now. Perhaps the same question asked of Martha about the resurrection, Jesus asks us: "Do you believe this?" Yet unlike Martha, we are not so quick to say, "Yes Lord I believe..."

With all this Christian talk one would imagine this book to be written exclusively for Christians and yet it is not! *The False White Gospel* is a book for people of all faith traditions and even those with no faith at all. When we see a civic promotion of fear, hate, and violence for the trajectory of our politics, we need a civic faith of love, healing, and hope in order to defeat it - which is this very prescription offered by the Gospel of Jesus.

Yet this antidote of love, healing and hope, while offered by "the Christ" is not particularly "Christian." At the time it was offered Jesus was a faithful Jew - worshipping and teaching in the synagogue. Therefore, the antidote offered by "the Christ" must involve all of us – "for thus is the Kingdom of God" – religious or not.

Wallis writes that "learning to practice a politics of neighborly love will be central to the future of democracy in America. And more than ever, the words of Jesus ring, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Come join in the fun... and if you need a book, please call the office and let Bobbi Jo know that.



Gethsemane Prayer Garden

Coming to Saint James with your help...

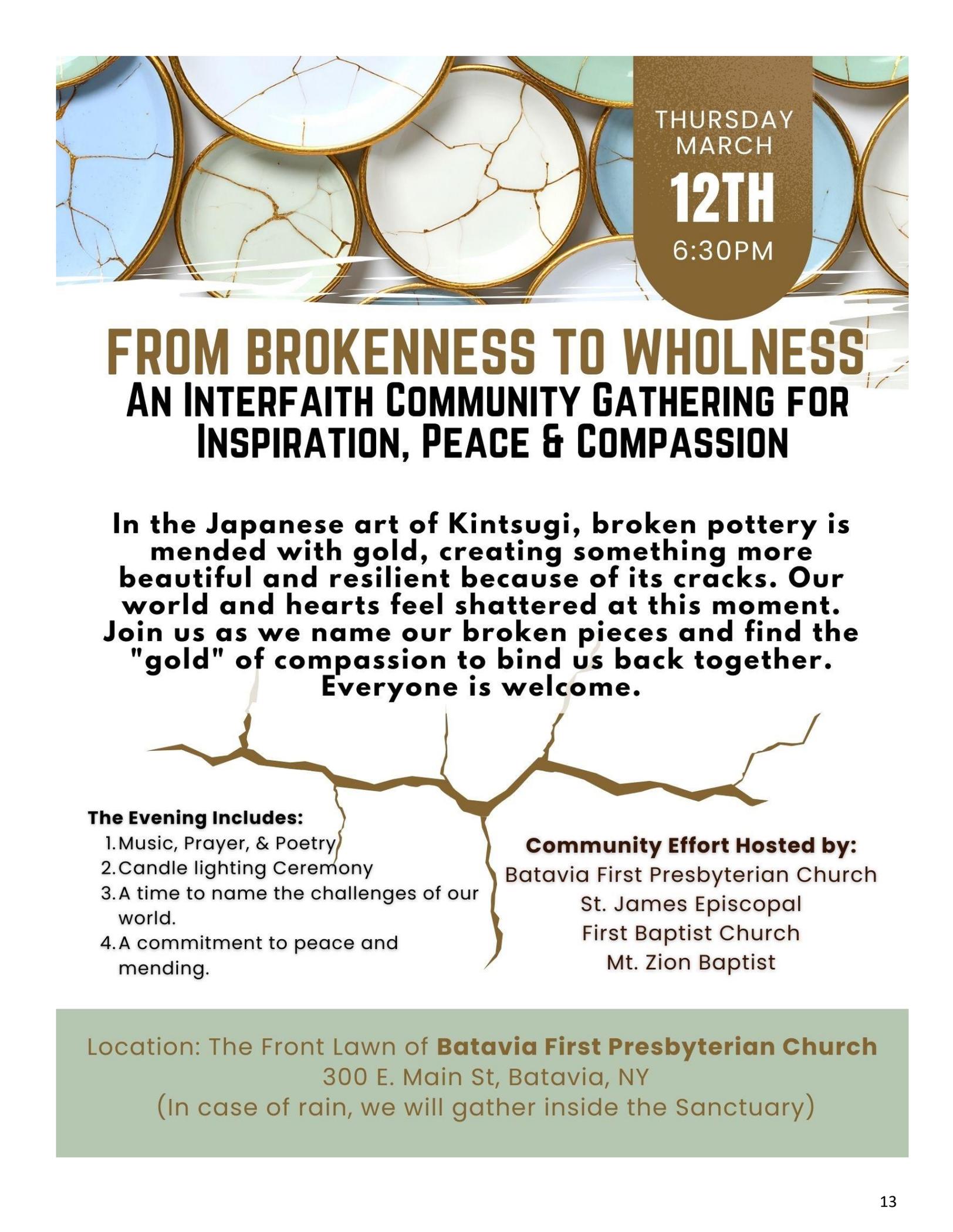
For the next couple of weeks we are asking for your help in transforming St. Michael's Chapel into an indoor garden of house plants. Gregg has already changed out the lighting to grow lights in order to properly care for the plants during the daytime and Canon Johnnie will care for their watering and feeding needs until they are picked up after Easter.

Please consider loaning us a houseplant or two for this garden. Once the Gethsemane Prayer Garden is all set up, (the target date is Sunday, March 14th) you will be invited to spend some time there on your own or with family and friends. You are also invited to attend the Maundy Thursday Service, April 2nd, where we will eat the Passover Meal, share in Communion, visit the Garden, and Strip the Altar.

I can promise a powerful experience for those in attendance. The Presbyterian Church will be joining us on Maundy Thursday and they have estimated 30-40 people attending, so we need to have a good showing as well.

If you are inclined to share one of your house plants, please drop it by the office and leave them on the table outside Bobbi Jo's office, or if it's a large plant, just set it on the floor outside of Canon Johnnie's Office.

Thank you!



THURSDAY
MARCH

12TH

6:30PM

FROM BROKENNESS TO WHOLNESS

AN INTERFAITH COMMUNITY GATHERING FOR INSPIRATION, PEACE & COMPASSION

In the Japanese art of Kintsugi, broken pottery is mended with gold, creating something more beautiful and resilient because of its cracks. Our world and hearts feel shattered at this moment. Join us as we name our broken pieces and find the "gold" of compassion to bind us back together. Everyone is welcome.

The Evening Includes:

1. Music, Prayer, & Poetry
2. Candle lighting Ceremony
3. A time to name the challenges of our world.
4. A commitment to peace and mending.

Community Effort Hosted by:

Batavia First Presbyterian Church
St. James Episcopal
First Baptist Church
Mt. Zion Baptist

Location: The Front Lawn of **Batavia First Presbyterian Church**
300 E. Main St, Batavia, NY
(In case of rain, we will gather inside the Sanctuary)



An Observance & Experience of Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2 at 5:30 PM



Join us as we remember the night of the New Commandment of Jesus through three distinct movements of worship.

I. The Meal: A family-style Potluck Passover Supper with Scripture and Holy Communion. **Please bring a Mediterranean-inspired side dish or fruit to share.**

II. The Betrayal: A transition to St. Michael's Chapel for prayer and Gospel readings in the Gethsemane Garden.

III. The Shadows: A final move to the nave for the Stripping of the Altar, preparing our hearts for Good Friday.

Location:

St. James Episcopal: 405 E. Main Street, Batavia

Hosted by:



St. James
Episcopal



BATAVIA
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

St. James Calendar
Happy Birthday

Jo-Ann Bestine 3-2, Diane Lapp 3-5, Theia Collee 3-8

Sun, March 1	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

Mon, March 2	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Tue, March 3	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Wed, March 4	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thu, March 5	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Thrift store open
Fri, March 6		Office closed
Sun, March 8	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

Zoom meetings use the following link:

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

Meeting ID: 808 543 2266 Passcode: zrXG3y

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.



St. James Episcopal Church

405 East Main Street
Batavia, NY 14020

The Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross
canonjohnnie@gmail.com

The Rev. Deacon Diane Cox
Faith Community Nurse
dscox@rochester.rr.com

John Novak
Organist/Choir Director

Bobbi Jo Voelker
Administrator

Wardens:

Jo-Ann Bestine, (585) 409-0031 jbestine152@rochester.rr.com
Tim Thomas, (585) 754-6449 tthomas2522@gmail.com

Vestry:

Kim Isaac, Liz Findlay,
Steve Rumery, Terry McGuire, Tom Bringenberg
Dorian Ely: Clerk of the Vestry
Bette Van Buskirk: Treasurer

Office Phone: 585-343-6802
Johnnie's cell phone: 859-285-9361
Website: www.sjecbataviany.org
Email: Saint.James2@sjecbataviany.org

<https://www.facebook.com/share/174RPsQRBD/?mibextid=wwXifr>

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