

# **St. James Episcopal Church Batavia, NY**

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



*Water-Lily Pond and Weeping Willow  
Claude Monet 1840-1926*

## **The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 7, 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

*The Summons*

*J. Bell*

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 423     *Immortal, invisible, God only wise*

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.**

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.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 Deuteronomy (30:15-20)*

Jim Neider

Moses said to all Israel the words which the LORD commanded him, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God**

*Psalm 1 (Let us read the psalm responsively by half verse)*

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
**nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!**

2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, \*  
**and they meditate on his law day and night.**

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \*  
**everything they do shall prosper.**

4 It is not so with the wicked; \*  
**they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes\*  
**nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.**

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, \*  
**but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

*A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Philemon (1-21)* Anne Iannello

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as

you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn 512      *Come gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove*

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke (14:25-33)*  
**Glory to you Lord Christ**

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Canon Johnnie

*(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

Rose Rumery

*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, 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*

*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.**

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.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all our sins through the grace  
of 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.**

Offertory Sentence

Let us with gladness present the offerings and obligations of our life and labor unto the Lord.

*Please be seated.*

Offertory Anthem

*Praise ye the Lord of Hosts*

*C. Saint-Seans*

*Please stand as you are able.*

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.**

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP p. 361

The Sanctus

Hymnal S-125

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S-154

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 a clergy person. We distribute 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 main 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 to the clergy person who will bestow God's blessing.*

Communion Hymn 325

*Let us break bread together on our knees*

Communion Hymn 317

*This is the hour of banquet and of song*

**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 Blessing*

Recessional Hymn 594      *God of grace and God of glory*

Dismissal

Postlude

*Psalm XIX*

*B. Marcello*

**\*\*\*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.**

From John's Gospel: "Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to

my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord' "

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 your bulletin home!!!***

## **Announcements for June 15, 2025**

### **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

### **Welcome Back Coffee Hour**

Have you been away from St. James this summer? Come and share a conversation with your fellow parishioners while enjoying beverages and some goodies. Join us for a special coffee hour on **September 7th, following the 10:00 a.m. service**. Our choir will be back singing, and it will be the first day of Sunday School. If you haven't met Canon Johnnie and his wife, Julie, this will be a great opportunity to get to know them! Hope to see you there!

## **Happy Birthday!**

Dick Folger 9-8, Kelcey Bestine 9-9

## **St. James Calendar**

|                   |                                                                             |                                                                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun, September 7  | 9:00 am - 9:30 am<br>9:00 am<br>10:15 am<br>10:00 am – 11:15 am<br>11:15 am | Zoom Service<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>Church school<br>Holy Eucharist<br>Coffee Hour |
| Mon, September 8  | 9:00 am-2:00 pm                                                             | Office open                                                                       |
| Tue, September 9  | 9:00 am – 2:00 pm<br>3:00 pm                                                | Office open<br>ECW Meeting                                                        |
| Wed, September 10 | 9:00 am – 2:00 pm<br>10:00 am<br>7:00 pm                                    | Office open<br>Canon Johnnie in office<br>Choir Rehearsal                         |
| Thu, September 11 | 9:00 am – 2:00 pm<br>11:00 am – 2:00 pm                                     | Office open<br>Thrift store open                                                  |
| Fri, September 12 |                                                                             | Office closed                                                                     |
| Sun, September 14 | 9:00 am – 9:30 am<br>9:00 am<br>10:00 am – 11:15 am<br>11:15 am             | Zoom Service<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>Holy Eucharist<br>Coffee Hour                  |

### **Zoom meetings use the following link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8085432266?pwd=ZlBCZEI0WDQ1Szk5TEF2dFILbm4rUT09>

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](mailto: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!**

## Canon Comments on being friends: The Reverend Canon Johnnie E. Ross

JN 15:15 *"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."*

Aristotle describes friendship as "a single soul dwelling in two bodies," and it certainly seemed that way when death took my best friend and college roommate. It's been many years ago now since death visited Mike unexpectedly and suddenly. It was a Christmas Eve I will never forget. The phone message light was flashing when I got home after celebrating midnight mass. With the light blinking fiercely as if the machine was overloaded, I pushed the play button. Almost immediately I heard Lisa's voice, the sister of my college roommate with a request to call her. The remaining messages were all from her and appeared more and more frantic as she desperately hoped I would answer the phone. Finally, there was the message that caused a scream to ripple through our home like the aftershock of an earthquake. My wife and children ran into the room to find me weeping inconsolably. I remember describing how I felt that night. It was as if my soul had been torn from my body like the skin from an onion. That night left me different as death's visit had stolen my friend.

Some of the oldest pieces of literature speak of the importance of friendships. In the Epic of Gilgamesh, the great hero is brought to tears by the death of his friend Enkidu and he laments: "When I die will I not be like Enkidu? Woe has entered my belly. Fearing death I roam over steppe." In the Jewish Testament, David weeps when his friend Jonathan dies, saying: "I am greatly distressed... for greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women." (II Samuel 1:26) In John's Gospel, Jesus weeps at the tomb of Lazarus his friend. Gilgamesh, David, and Jesus all seem to indicate what I have come to experience in the death of my friend Michael. True friendships are deeply and most dearly held within the human vessel.

Friendships these days though seem to be contingent on political, social, and/or theological agreement. But the gift of friendship seems to be much greater than any social, political, or theological construct. In friendship the soul gains the intimacy it needs to mature, evolve, and become all that God hopes for it until at last it takes its rest with God. For me to grow and develop I need you, not agreement. For it seems to me that what the soul longs for is a deep and abiding intimacy with friends and the God we seek, an intimacy that is willing to sacrifice agreement simply for the sake of friendship.

The truth of intimacy can be found in the creation story. God enjoyed creation and desired to be present in it. But one day, when the humans heard God walking in the garden, they hid themselves from God. This type of game play results in the destruction of intimacy. Giving and sharing was no longer a spontaneous expression of the other's joy but something programmed into a divine and human game of hide and seek.

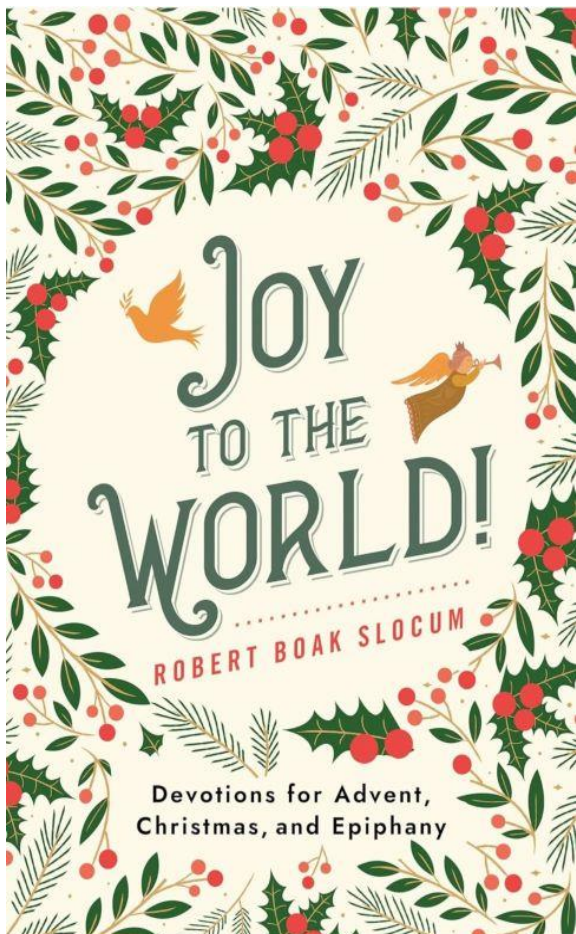
What God tells us in the creation story is that in a divine relationship "I'm OK – You're OK," and when we begin to live into that reality, not only is God perceived as being ok, but so is everyone else – those who agree with us AND those who don't.

People are created in God's image not mine, not yours. I am created in the image of God, and I do not need to be recreated in the image of anyone or anything else. The Anglican clothing I wear is

comfortable, accepting, welcoming, and worn without judgment. For me, an intimate relationship with God requires an intimate relationship with God's people – one free of fear, games and contracts, full of fun, creativity, spontaneity and welcome.

Thomas Moore writes: "The soul can reach out and make its connections through and in spite of differences of politics, opinions, convictions, and beliefs. Friendship is the container of the soul, not the process of weaving compatible thought. It is precisely where there's no effort toward homogeneity, but simply a space shaped with sensitivity to intimacy, that we find the usefulness of friendship. The soul requires many varieties of vessels and many kinds of spaces in order to work day by day with the raw material life (gives it, but) friendship is one of the most effective and precious of those containers." Count friends as gifts from God-true gifts!

As Christians, members of the Episcopal Church, as friends with Christ and with each other, we are called to a friendship where we pay attention to each other's soul, and it is in this mutual care that friendship is sustained as God's gift to each of us and to the world. AMEN.



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 to 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 passages 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 call the office where we will be placing a single order. 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 currently being discussed, but it is safe to say they will occur in the evening on either Tuesday or Thursday night, beginning on either December 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>. Specifics as to the precise date and time will be announced soon.



## **St. James Episcopal Church**

405 East Main Street  
Batavia, NY 14020

The Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross  
[canonjohnnie@gmail.com](mailto:canonjohnnie@gmail.com)

The Rev. Deacon Diane Cox  
Faith Community Nurse  
[dscox@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dscox@rochester.rr.com)

John Novak  
Organist/Choir Director

Bobbi Jo Voelker  
Administrator

### Wardens:

Jo-Ann Bestine, (585) 409-0031 [jbestine152@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jbestine152@rochester.rr.com)

Jim Ellison, (717) 503-5749 [jdellison@gmail.com](mailto:jdellison@gmail.com)

### Vestry:

Kim Isaac, Liz Findlay,  
Barb Pierce, Steve Rumery, Tim Thomas  
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](http://www.sjecbataviany.org)  
Email: [Saint.James2@sjecbataviany.org](mailto:Saint.James2@sjecbataviany.org)

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

All music is used by permission through CCLI License 742131-A