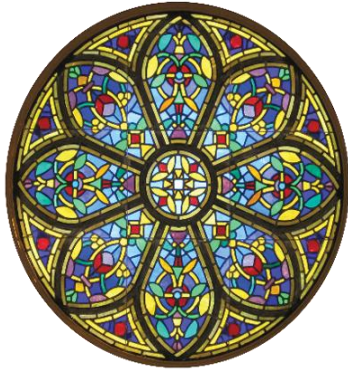




ST. JAMES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CLAYTON, GA

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026
8:00am and 10:30am

God loves YOU! No exceptions!

The Reverend Dr. Jim Shumard, Priest-in-Charge

*The mission of St. James Episcopal Church is:
To preach the Gospel,
worship God,
renew our hearts and minds and serve others.*

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

OPENING HYMN 690

CWM Rhondda

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People **Blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY (*spoken together*)

BCP 355

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 HYMN S-280 (*spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his 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.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The people are seated.

THE FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

Lector A reading from The Book of Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, **“The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”**? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. **Know that all lives are mine**; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Lector The Word of God for the people of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 25:1-8

Spoken responsively by whole verse.

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 **Let none who look to you be put to shame; ***
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 **Lead me in your truth and teach me, ***
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 **Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; ***
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 **He guides the humble in doing right ***
and teaches his way to the lowly.

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

THE SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-13

Lector A reading from The Letter to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in

humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, **who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.**

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Lector The Word of God for the people of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 574

St. Petersburg

Before Thy Throne, O God, We Keel

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

Celebrant A Reading from The Gospel according to Matthew.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with

one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Jim Shumard

Silence

Please rise as you are able, spoken in unison.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM III

BCP 387

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Leader Father, we pray for your holy catholic church;

People **That we all may be one.**

Leader We celebrate those having birthdays and anniversaries this week; especially, Pam Clemmons, Lynn Kilby, Tom Buckridge, Nanette and Rick O'Hara, and Erika Rudolph and Martin Ploharski.

People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially Pete, Becky, Chase, Dee, Lynn, Darrell, Judy, Allison, Mike, Dustin, Sandy, and Our Little Roses godchildren, Karla and Cindy.

People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest;

People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

You're invited to pray out loud or silently. The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE CONFESSION

BCP 360

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence may be kept.*

Minister and People

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 Priest, stands and says

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

You're invited to come forward for special prayers including birthdays and anniversaries. Prayers for birthday (pg. 830) and anniversary (pg. 431) can be found in the Book of Common Prayer.

THE PEACE

BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE WELCOME AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

THE PRESENTATION

1 Chronicles 29:14

Celebrant All things come of thee O Lord.

People **And of Your own have we given You.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP 367

The people stand.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is said.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS (*spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with James all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM (*spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

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

THE PEOPLE RECEIVE COMMUNION

*You are invited to come forward to receive the bread and the wine. You may pick up a small chalice to receive the wine, drink from the common cup, dip the bread in the cup, **or** cross yourself if you do not want to receive the wine. You may also cross yourself for a blessing if you don't want the bread or wine.*

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Let us pray

Celebrant and People

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

THE POST COMMUNION HYMN 450

Coronation

Al Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (vs. 1-3, 6)

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon or Priest

Let us go forth in the name of the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING TODAY'S SERVICES:

8am Service; all are welcome to join some parishioners who eat at "Sunday Diner" after the service.

10:30am Service; please join us downstairs in the Parish Hall following the service for coffee, cookies and conversation hosted by Ann Inman and Dottie O'Brien.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday, 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Email: admin@stjamesclayton.org • Phone: 706-782-6179

10:30 NURSERY We have a nursery downstairs for anyone interested. Your children are also welcome to stay with you during the service.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available in the narthex.

MORNING PRAYER Monday,—Friday **7:30am - 8am** via ZOOM ONLY.

Meeting ID: 218 094 8164 **Passcode:** 682287

HOLY CASSEROLE CONVERSATION Monday night September 28. Please come and enjoy the food, fellowship and conversation **at 5:30pm**. Sign up in the narthex to bring a casserole, bread, salad, or dessert.

BROWN BAG SUNDAY FOR OCTOBER We are collecting pet items including dog food, cat food, treats, blankets, toys, etc. for local pets in need. Please bring your food items to the basket in the Parish Hall by October 11.

GATHER & GOSPEL meets **Tuesdays at 10:00am** on Zoom and in person, led by Janine Bethel. A weekly time of fellowship, storytelling, and engaging conversation centered on the life of Jesus in the four Gospels. Together we'll explore Scripture in a relaxed and welcoming setting — asking questions, sharing insights, reflecting on what the stories mean for our lives, and even enjoying a few laughs along the way.

WELCOME VISITORS

We're glad you've joined us for worship today! We would love to know more about you and follow up with you. Please fill out a *Voice from the Pew* located in the pew back and sign the guest register in the narthex. Please call or email the church office with any questions at **706-782-6179** or admin@stjamesclayton.org.

You may also contact Fr. Jim directly at jshumie@aol.com or **912-844-7412**. Parts in bold are read by everyone.

NAME TAG HOLDER We now have name tag holders with magnetic backing. Please see an usher if you would like one.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY EVERY WEDNESDAY led by Alan White or Tom Buckridge **is at 11:00am** in the Parish Hall in person and via the ZOOM link which is sent out by email on Monday evenings. Everyone is invited as we discuss the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. ***Meeting ID: 218 094 8164***
Passcode: 682287

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR ROLAND CLEMMONS will be **Sunday, October 11 at 2:00pm**. We are requesting finger foods and desserts for the reception. Please sign up in the narthex.

BLESSING OF THE PETS will be **Sunday, October 11 at 4:00pm** by the picnic table near the playground.

RETIREES MEET AT NOON EVERY 3RD TUESDAY of each month. Next luncheon will be **October 20 at Ishy's** restaurant in Clayton. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

BOOK CLUB Everyone is invited to join us for our monthly meeting on **Thursday, October 15, at 11:00am**. Contact Becky Callahan, tbcallahan@aol.com, with any questions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to host Coffee Time after the 10:30am Sunday Services. Please sign up in the Parish Hall via the sign-up sheet above the coffee pot. Simply bring a plate of cookies and make a pot of coffee! There is always someone around if you have any questions.

CARD GROUPS If you are interested in joining one of our card groups, contact Linda Sanders linrnd8@aol.com to sign up for Canasta, or Linda Holt-Metzgar, boblindah@yahoo.com to sign up for Bridge.

PRAYER REQUESTS Please let Sam, Parish Administrator, in the office know if you, or someone you know, would like to be added to our Prayers of the People each Sunday. Names will be kept on the list for three weeks and you are invited to resubmit names for another three weeks once removed.
admin@stjamesclayton.org.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

September 27—October 4, 2026

Sunday

8:00 am Holy Communion
9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Holy Communion
7:00 pm AA

Monday

7:30 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
5:30 pm Holy Casserole
7:00 pm AA

Tuesday

7:30 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
10:00 am Gather & Gospel
5:30 pm Al-Anon
7:00 pm AA

Wednesday

7:30 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
11:00 am Lectionary Study
5:30 pm EfM
7:00 pm AA

Thursday

7:30 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
1:00 pm Canasta
5:30 pm Children of Al-Anon
7:00 pm AA

Friday

7:30 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
7:00 pm AA

Saturday

8:30 am Women's AA
7:00 pm AA

Sunday

8:00 am Holy Communion
9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Holy Communion
2:00 pm Chess Club
7:00 pm AA

DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP

The Rt. Reverend Robert Wright,
Bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta

ST JAMES STAFF

The Reverend Dr. Jim Shumard
Priest-in-Charge

jshumie@aol.com 912-844-7412

Susi Roessler

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Samantha Joedicke, Parish Administrator
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Bonnie Klinect, Office Coordinator
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Mary Lauren Keeny, Director of Music
marylaurenkeeney@gmail.com

Kathy Booker, Parish Nurse
kbooker@truvista.net

Robin Rogers, Organist

Lynn Kilby, Nursery

Melanie Dietz, Bookkeeper
stjbookkeeper20@gmail.com

TREASURER

Ed Quirk, imedquirk@gmail.com

VESTRY

Class of 2026

Ann Inman, Junior Warden
anninman07@gmail.com

Kathleen Johnson, Senior Warden
rays2ws@gmail.com

Class of 2027

Betsy Elsas, betsyelsas@gmail.com

Shelley Urban, shelleyurban@gmail.com

CLASS of 2028

15 Dave Bellaire, dbellaire0953@yahoo.com
Jim Clayton, airmaleiah@aol.com

MINISTERS SERVING TODAY

Altar Flowers: Sharyn McCabe

Bread: Frances Daniel

Altar Guild Set Up: Debbie & Nick Nicholson

8:00

10:30

VPOD or *Opener
Eucharistic Minister
Eucharistic Server
First Reading/Psalm
Second Reading/Prayers
Usher(s)

*LT Scott
LT Scott
Traci Cagle
Scotty Greene
Ginny Heckel
Traci Cagle

Shelley Urban
Matt Price
Bonnie Klinect
Bethany Weisser
Alan White
Linda White
Jim Clayton
Shelley Urban
Betty Cobb
Shelley Urban
Kathleen Johnson
Terry Klinect

Altar Guild

Debbie & Nick
Nicholson

Video
Tellers



THE ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY are given to the glory of God by Kathryn Buckley with gratitude, to honor and celebrate my sister Mary Juanita Buckley on her birthday.



Giving: You may drop your check in the plate as the ushers come down the aisle, or simply scan the QR code on your phone, and give online. You can use the St. James WIFI connection to donate, no password is required.

St. James Episcopal Church • 260 Warwoman Rd. • Clayton, GA 30525
Mailing: PO Box 69 • Office: 299 Rickman Street • 706-782-6179 • www.stjamesclayton.org