

Lent  ST. JAMES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CLAYTON, GA

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

8:00am and 10:30am

The mission of St. James is:
To preach the Gospel,
Worship God,
Renew our hearts and minds,
And serve others.

God loves YOU! No exceptions!

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

The Reverend Scott Kidd, Celebrant

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE

THE DECALOGUE

BCP 317-318

LITANY OF PENITENCE AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 320

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (*spoken together*)

Celebrant The Lord be with you

People And also with you!

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated for the lessons.

THE FIRST READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

Lector: A Reading from The Letter to the Ephesians.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. **Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.** Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 23

Please read responsively by whole verse at 8:00, sung by Donna Parrott at 10:30.

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
 - 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.**
 - 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
 - 4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
 - 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
 - 6 **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**
- 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 SEQUENCE HYMN 490

Houston

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Celebrant The Holy Gospel according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His

parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Reverend Scott Kidd

Officiant and People together, all standing

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth;
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. 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, Ken Klimasewski, Susan Staiger, Lola Shahan, and
 Paulette Williams.

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, Ingrid, Cindy, Karen G., Melanie, Pam, Bruce, Ed, Mike, Kay B. and Lee W.

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

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest; especially Al Wiggers and Pam, sister of Lee Burson.

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.

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 332

The people standing, the Celebrant may say

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Bernadette Farrell

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE PRESENTATION

Celebrant All things come of Thee O Lord!

People **And of thine own have we given You.** *1 Chronicles 29:14*

This is a Celtic invitation used by the Iona community from time to time.

“This is the table, not of the church but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love Him and for those who want to love Him more. So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little, you who have been here often, and you who have not been here long; you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you; it is His will that those who want Him should meet Him here.”

THE HOLY COMMUNION: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP 366

The people stand. The Celebrant faces them and says

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 him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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 say this hymn to proclaim the

glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People (spoken)

**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.

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;**

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 and 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 pray.

Celebrant and People

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

Celebrant and People (8:00am spoken; 10:30am sung) Hymnal S-164

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world;
Give us your peace, give us your peace.**

THE PEOPLE RECEIVE COMMUNION

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM

arr. Vicki Hancock Wright

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

THE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION HYMN 671

New Britain

Amazing Grace

FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING TODAY'S SERVICE:



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

10:30 service; please join us downstairs in the Parish Hall following the service for coffee, cookies and conversation hosted by Marian Martin and Erika Rudolf

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to host Coffee Time after the 10:30am Sunday Services. We especially need people in **April**. Please sign up in the Parish Hall via the sign-up sheet over 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.

THE LOAVES & FISHES PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE is up and running. If you'd like to help those in our parish with a meal or with local errands, please sign up in the Parish Hall or contact Dee McElroy (deemce50@gmail.com 706-244-0128) or Karen Bellaire (Karenbellaire3@gmail.com 404-218-4359). Join us!!

CARD GROUPS. If you are interested in joining one of our card groups, you may contact Linda Sanders linsnd8@aol.com to sign up for Canasta, or Linda Holt, boblindah@yahoo.com to sign up for Bridge.

BROWN BAG SUNDAY IS EVERY SUNDAY. Help “Sharing and Caring” with their most needed items: ***Sugar, Oil, Flour, Corn Meal, Eggs, Salt, Pepper and Margarine.***

THE ST. JAMES ALTAR FLOWERS SIGN-UP CHART FOR 2026 is located downstairs in the Parish Hall. Sign up for a Sunday you would like to sponsor for \$45, and let the church office know how you would like your gift to appear in the bulletin.

REGULAR PROGRAMS

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

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

LISTEN WITH HEART: A CLASS ON INTENTIONAL LISTENING AND EMPATHETIC ENGAGEMENT This is designed to deepen your capacity for *intentional listening* and *empathetic engagement* — practices that nurture connection, compassion, and understanding. Guided by the spirit of **love**, anchored in **peace**, and illuminated with **joy**, this journey will help you:

- ⇒ Learn to listen beyond words to emotion, energy, and presence.
- ⇒ Engage with others through empathy, authenticity, and openness.
- ⇒ Cultivate inner peace that sustains your ability to listen with love.
- ⇒ Foster relationships rooted in mutual respect, trust, and joy.

This is more than a class — it's a practice of the heart, a return to the essence of being seen, heard, and valued. **Come join us**, and rediscover the beauty of connection through *love, peace, and joy as your daily rhythm*. **Mondays 5:30pm - 6:30 pm.**

GATHER & GOSPEL meets **Tuesdays at 10:00am** on Zoom and in person, led by Fr. Jim or 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.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY EVERY WEDNESDAY 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

RETIREES WILL MEET AT NOON EVERY 3RD TUESDAY of each month. Next luncheon will be **Tuesday, March 17 at Ishy's** restaurant in Clayton. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

BOOK CLUB Everyone is invited to join us on **Thursday, March 19, 11:00am** in the Parish Hall. Contact Becky Callahan, tbcallahan@aol.com, with any questions.

LENTEN PROGRAMS

SOUP SUPPERS will continue at **5:30pm** on **Wednesday, March 11** and each Wednesday through Lent. Fr. Jim was inspired by the book *When Did We See You: A Lenten Exploration of Poverty and Wealth*, by Elizabeth McGill. He will lead us as we deal with our own wealth in the face of poverty for so many in our country. You may join us on Zoom or at 6:00pm in person.

MEDITATIONS ON THE CROSS AND COMPLINE SATURDAY EVENINGS DURING THE SEASON OF LENT Fr. Jim will be leading a more contemplative service **Saturday evenings from 5:30pm to 6:00pm** through March 28. The meditations will be inspired by the stations of the Cross and the seven last words of Jesus from the cross. Significant silence will be incorporated into this Compline service. Compline is one of our most beautiful services. You can find it on page 127 of the Book of Common Prayer. Some of us will go to dinner afterwards.

HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY service with Holy Communion at **5:30pm**

PRAYER VIGIL The sign up sheet for this year's Prayer Vigil is in the Narthex and Parish Hall. The Vigil will begin at 8:00pm Maundy Thursday, April 2 and end at 8:00am Good Friday, April 3. Each volunteer will spend an hour praying in their own home during their chosen time slot.

GOOD FRIDAY **5:30pm** service with The Passion According to John.

EASTER DAY regular services at **8:00am and 10:30am**.

EASTER POTLUCK Once again, we will meet at Terra Incognita Winery at **2:30pm**, Easter Sunday. All are invited, bring a dish to share.

EASTER FLOWERS—PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

If you would like to donate toward the St. James Easter flowers,
your gifts can be designated as shown below.

YOUR NAME: _____

I would like to contribute \$ _____ towards Easter Flowers.

In Memory of:

In Thanksgiving for:

Forms received by Sunday, March 29 will have names listed in the Easter bulletin.



HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ST. JAMES

To join our church, you can request a letter of transfer from your previous denomination or speak directly with the Priest-in-Charge at any service. To be considered a member in good standing and eligible for the vestry, you must be baptized, attend regularly, and make consistent financial contributions.

You may also discuss joining with the priest-in-charge over a meal or drink. Simply email the office to receive the membership form and be added to the Parish Directory, allowing you to stay informed on church communications.

We encourage participation in St. James ministries such as pastoral care, outreach, worship, altar guild, Eucharistic minister, choir, and more. Most members are actively involved, which helps maintain a vibrant and spiritually engaged community.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

March 15-22, 2026

Sunday

8:00 am Holy Communion

9:00 am Choir

10:30 pm Holy Communion

7:00 pm AA

Monday

7:30 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

5:30 pm Listen With Heart

7:00 pm AA

Tuesday

7:30 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

10:00 am Study of the Gospels

12:00 pm Retirees Lunch

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 Soup Supper

6:00 pm Lent Program

7:00 pm AA

Thursday

7:30 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

11:00 am Book Club

1:00 pm Cards

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

5:30 pm Meditations on the Cross

7:00 pm AA

Sunday

8:00 am Holy Communion

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal

10:30 am Holy Communion

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

jshumic@aol.com 912-844-7412

Susi Roessler, Deacon (Lutheran, ELCA)
susiroessler@gmail.com

Samantha Joedicke, Parish Administrator
admin@stjamesclayton.org

Bonnie Klinect, Office Coordinator
bcklinect@gmail.com

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

Dave Bellaire, dbellaire0953@yahoo.com

Jim Clayton, airmaleiah@aol.com

MINISTERS SERVING TODAY

Bread: Jackie Tatum
Altar Guild, Set Up: Karen Carroll

8:00

10:30

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| VPOD or *Opener | Ann Inman | Kathleen Johnson |
| Eucharistic Minister | Ann Inman | Dirk Brown |
| Eucharistic Server | Ginny Heckel | Lynda Ann Price |
| Lector | Ginny Heckel | Jim Clayton |
| Intercessor | Ginny Heckel | Dirk Brown |
| Usher(s) | Traci Cagle | Karen and Dave Bellaire |
| Announcements | Ann Inman | Kathleen Johnson |
| Altar Guild | Traci and Kevin Cagle | Karen Carroll Linda Sanders |
| Video | | Chris Adams |
| Tellers | | Kathleen Johnson Mary Oglesby |

FATHER JIM IS TYPICALLY IN TOWN the second Sunday through the fourth Sunday of each month, though due to dates of Palm Sunday and Easter, he will be here 4 Sundays in a row during Lent. He is available for in-person meetings every day during those periods. As he likes to say, he's available for early morning coffee, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and meeting for a drink or golf. He is also available by phone, text and email 24/7 all year round. You can call him at 912-844-7412 or email him at jshumie@aol.com.



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