



The Episcopal Church of St. James the Less



Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24, 2022
4:00 pm.

Welcome to St. James the Less

Whether you have been here many times or if you are a visitor; this worship service is created to be a blessing to you in your journey with God.

If you are new to the Episcopal Church, there may be practices or gestures during worship that are foreign to you. Please do not concern yourself with “keeping up”; rather, allow the liturgy and the rest of the congregation to carry you. May your soul find refreshment in this place.

Welcome Families

Families are welcome at St. James the Less! We invite little ones, ages 0-4 to play in our supervised nursery during the service. Children ages 4-10 are welcome attend Drop-In Sunday School each week. For children wanting to stay with parents/grandparents during worship, we have Activity Bags and books.

About our Hearing Loop

Our sanctuary is equipped with a Loop hearing system, which broadcasts sound directly to hearing aids with t-coils. Individual receivers are also available from the ushers.

Brass Quartet

Sharon Stine and Katie Samayoa, trumpets
Abby Church, horn
Mike McCain, trombone

St. James the Less Leadership

Vestry

Hope Martin, Senior Warden
Colleen Schipfer, Junior Warden
Dan Deuble, Vestry
Dorothy Generes, Vestry
Brian Guinter, Vestry
Janice Herndon, Vestry
Judy Lefferdink, Vestry
Heather Mages, Vestry
Oksanna Malan, Vestry

Rector Search Committee

Tim Clark
Sandra Dold
Jeff Kivetz
Marty Lauber
Nancy Morr
Anita Ruesch
Katie Synek

Christmas Eve – 4:00 p.m.

The Word of God

Prelude

Once in Royal David's City

arr. David Willcocks

Brass quartet

Processional Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

The Hymnal 1982, #83, Stanza 1-3, 6

Welcome

Opening Acclamation

Presider The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

People **We behold his glory, Alleluia.**

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The people sit.

The Christmas Story

Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 2:1-4, 8-11

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

The Hymnal 1982, #79, verse 1

Caesar In those days, I, Caesar Augustus, sent out a decree that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph I, Joseph, went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because I was descended from the house and family of David. I went to be registered with Mary, to whom I was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Mary While we were there, the time came for me to deliver my child.

Innkeeper I'm sorry, but there's no room at the inn.

Mary And so, I gave birth to my firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for us in the inn.

Caesar Now in that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then, an angel of the Lord, stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the Angel said,

Head Angel Do not be afraid, for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Angel 1 This will be a sign for you; you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in the manger.

Head Angel Suddenly a multitude of the heavenly host appeared, praising God and saying,

All angels ‘Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.’

Hymn

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

The Hymnal 1982, #87, Verse 1

Head Shepherd When the angels had gone into heaven, we shepherds said to one another,

Shepherd 1 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

Shepherd 2 So we went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Shepherd 3 When we saw this, we made known what had been told to us about this child.

Head Shepherd All who heard it were amazed at what we shepherds told them.

Mary I treasured these words and pondered them in my heart.

Hymn

Away in a Manger

Sung by the children

Caesar Then the shepherds returned to their fields, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard, as it had been told.

Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are

The Hymnal 1982, #128, Verse 1

Star In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise ones from the East came to Jerusalem. They asked King Herod,

Wise One 1 Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.

Star When King Herod heard this, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

Wise One 2 In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

Wise One 3 Then Herod sent us to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

Wise One 1 When we had heard the king, we set out; and there, ahead of us, went the star that we had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Star When they saw that I, the star, had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

Wise One 2 On entering the house, we saw the child with Mary his mother; and we knelt down and paid him homage.

Wise One 3 Then, opening our treasure chests, we offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High*
The Hymnal 1982, #96

The Sermon The Rev. Daphne Cody

The Statement of Faith

from Daily Prayer for All Seasons, page 44

The people stand as they are able.

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

 who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus,
 the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

 to celebrate God's presence,
 to live with respect in creation,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

The Prayers of the People

We pray for Christians all around the world, that with our lives and words we will proclaim the good news of salvation, and care for others.

Lord: hear our prayer.

We thank you, Lord, for those who have loved us, and those from whom we have learned important truths. May we be loving towards those around us, and may we be channels of truth to them.

Lord: hear our prayer.

We pray for peace in our troubled world, that the darkness of war and injustice may be replaced by the light of peace and love.

Lord: **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for those who work over the holidays on behalf of others: those who work in hospitals, or as police officers or firefighters, or as gas station attendants or transportation workers. May serving others bring them happiness that compensates for not being with those they love.

Lord: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who, this Christmas, are sick, or unemployed, or homeless, or mourn the death of loved ones, or who grieve over broken relationships.

Lord: **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus: the day of your nativity approaches, the day on which we celebrate that, although God, you came to share our human nature and to live among us. Please help me and mine to approach that day on tiptoe, with reverence and awe, mindful of your holiness and beauty, and grateful for the privilege of kneeling at your manger. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Offering Anthem

Wexford Carol

Irish Traditional, arr. Peter Niedmann

*Good people all, this Christmas-time, consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done in sending his beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.*

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship, Prayer 3

The musical notation consists of four lines of music. The first line is for the *Celebrant*, the second and third lines are for the *People*, and the fourth line is for the *People* again. The lyrics are:

Celebrant
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Celebrant
Lift up your hearts. 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.

All thanks and praise
are yours at all times and in all places,
our true and loving God;
through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,
the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world
and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;
You brought forth all creatures of the earth
and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,
all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;
And so as the morning stars sing your praises
we join the heavenly beings and all creation
as we shout with joy:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
might. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow'r and might. Heav - en and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all,
your Word has never been silent;
you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations,
you delivered them from bondage
and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus
to be human, to share our life,
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign
and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
you have freed us from sin,
brought us into your life,
reconciled us to you,
and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us
Jesus took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,
gave it to his friends and said:
“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine,
said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:
“Drink this, all of you:
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,
poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us:
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,
longing for Christ's coming in glory,
and presenting to you these gifts
your earth has formed and human hands have made,
we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may be to us
the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power,
may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ,
and in the fullness of time gather us
with blessed James all your people
into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
we worship you our God and Creator
in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you 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 Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

All who seek God are welcome to partake in communion. Whether you choose to receive the bread or the wine or both, please know that you are fully participating in the sacrament. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. The wine is offered today from the rim of one common cup only, in order to limit hand/finger contact with the wine.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Re-deem - er, Re - deem - er of the world,

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Communion Music

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Lea Langhoff, oboe

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

arr. JS Bach

St. James the Less choir and brass quartet

*Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning;
O shepherds, greet that glorious sight, our Lord a crib adorning.
This child, this little helpless boy, shall be our confidence and joy,
The power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.*

Silent Night

The Hymnal 1982, #111

Closing Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

O God,

We feel your presence through our compassionate community
and vibrant worship.

Compel us by our baptism to follow Jesus.

Form our church to be a source of hope, love, and acceptance.

Unite us as we seek to be a church

Responsive, connected, dedicated

To serve our neighbors and larger communities. Amen.

The Christmas Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World
The Hymnal 1982, #100

The Dismissal

Presider Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
arr. David Willcocks
Brass quartet

Welcome to St. James the Less

The parish office will be closed from December 23 to January 2, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3. There will be no "News from St. James the Less" this week.

Sunday, January 1 – 10:00 a.m.

Worship with our Neighbors will be held Lutheran Church of the Ascension, located at 460 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield, on Sunday, January 1, 2023. A livestream of that service will be available as well. No services will be held at St. James the Less.

Friday, January 6 – 7:30 a.m.

The first "God First Friday" session in 2023 meets on **Friday, January 6**, the Feast of the Epiphany. We will explore the visit of the magi to the Holy family, the gifts brought to the Christ Child, and what the visit of these strangers might signify.

Please read Matthew 2:1-15 and join us on Zoom at 7:30 am ~ link to be sent in the January 4 E-News. All are welcome! Visiting priest, The Rev Dr. Gloria Hopewell will facilitate the conversation.

Christmas Offerings and Flowers

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| Barbara Bredehoeft | In thanksgiving for my devoted family |
| The Christman Family | In thanksgiving |
| Bob Forloine | Happy holidays to you for your time and effort |
| Tom Frey | In memory of dear Marcia |
| Uriy Grigorev | |
| Chip & Janice Herndon | In thanksgiving for family |
| Jack Kessie | In memory of my dear wife, Tricia |
| Judy Lefferdink | In thanksgiving for family |
| Judy Marquardt | In memory of John Marquardt |
| Jim & Terri Mathes | |
| Adrienne & George Miller | In gratitude for our family and friends |
| Marcia & Bill Patterson | In thanksgiving for our wonderful family |
| Christoph & Sandy Ritterson | In thanksgiving of our children, Clay and Jack |
| Colleen & Cory Schipfer | In thanksgiving for our family |
| Allen & Karie Smith | Merry Christmas! With love, Karie, Allen, Everett, Gus & Theo |
| Rich & Katie Synek | In thanksgiving for life's blessings |
| Linda White | In memory of those from our congregation who passed away this year |



The Episcopal Church of St. James the Less

550 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield, Illinois 60093

847.446.8430 | www.stjamestheless.org

The Rev. Daphne Cody, Interim Rector | rector@stjamestheless.org
Caryl Medsker, Parish Administrator | caryl@stjamestheless.org