

# ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

9:30 am



***Welcome!** Everything you need to participate in today's service can be found in this bulletin. Please add your voice to the hymns we sing and the prayers we say together. Congregational responses are in bold print. As you are able, please stand where indicated with an asterisk.*

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**PRELUDE**

*Choral Prelude Op.112, No.9 on 'Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen'*

J. Brahms

*All stand, as able.*

**OPENING HYMN \***

*Christ is the world's true light*

Hymn 542

1 Christ is the world's true Light, its Cap-tain of sal - va - tion,  
 2 In Christ all rac - es meet, their an-cient feuds for - get - ting,  
 3 One Lord, in one great Name u - nite us all who own thee;

the Day - star clear and bright of ev - ery race and na - tion;  
 the whole round world com - plete, from sun-rise to its set - ting;  
 cast out our pride and shame that hin-der to en - throne thee;

new life, new hope a - wakes, for all who own his sway:  
 when Christ is throned as Lord all shall for - sake their fear,  
 the world has wait - ed long, has tra - vailed long in pain;

free - dom her bond - age breaks, and night is turned to day.  
 to plough-share beat the sword, to prun - ing - hook the spear.  
 to heal its an - cient wrong, come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

Words: George Wallace Briggs (1892-1955), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *St. Joan*, Percy F. B. Collier (1892-?). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

**OPENING ACCLAMATION \***

*Celebrant* Sure the Lord is coming soon.

*People* Come Lord Jesus.

**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 LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

## First Sunday of Advent

*Child 1* Today we light the Hope Candle.

*Child 2* Lights a purple candle

*Child 1* “Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.”  
(Isaiah 40:31, NIV)

*Child 1 and People*

**Father, thank you for sending Jesus into our world, our “hope of glory,” our “blessed hope” of resurrection and eternal life. In His name, we pray. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY \*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

### *I will kindle my fire*

VF 27

I will kin - dle my fire in the morn of the day, in the pres - ence of ho - ly  
an - gels. With - out mal - ice or jeal - ous - y, en - vy or fear, with - out  
ter - ror of an - y - one un - der the sun, but the Ho - ly Be - lov - ed to shield me.  
O Ho - ly one, kin - dle thou here in my heart, a flame of pure love to my  
neigh - bor, to my foe, to my friend, to my kin - dred all, to the  
brave, to the knave, to the thrall. O child of the love - li - est Ma - ry, from the  
low - li - est thing, to the Ho - ly Name, the be - lov - ed of all.

Words: *Carmine Gadelica*, alt.

Music: Mary Truly Emey © 1998 St. Hildegard's Community. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*All are seated for the lessons.*

## THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

*Reader* A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*Reader* The Word of the Lord

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 122

*Reader* Let us recite Psalm 122 responsively by half verse.

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

2 Now our feet are standing \*  
**within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem is built as a city \*  
**that is at unity with itself;**

4 To which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord, \*  
**the assembly of Israel,  
to praise the Name of the Lord.**

5 For there are the thrones of judgment, \*  
**the thrones of the house of David.**

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*  
**"May they prosper who love you.**

7 Peace be within your walls \*  
**and quietness within your towers.**

8 For my brethren and companions' sake, \*  
**I pray for your prosperity.**

9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, \*  
**I will seek to do you good."**

## THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 13:11-14

*Reader* A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us

then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord  
*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand, as able.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN \***

*Come now, O Prince of Peace*

WLP 795

*Verse 1-2 before, and 3-4 after Gospel*

1. Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one bod - y,  
 2. Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y,  
 3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior,  
 4. Come, Hope of U - ni - ty, make us one bod - y,

come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
 come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Words: Geonyong Lee; para. Marion Pope, alt. Music: *O-so-so*, Geonyong Lee.

**THE GOSPEL \***

Matthew 24:36-44

*Celebrant*    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People*        **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

SERMON

The Rev Stacy Salles

*After a period of silence, all stand or kneel, as able.*

**THE APOSTLES' CREED \***

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE \*** (Based on prayers by Rev. Alan Jones)

*Intercessor* Dear God, your will is that we may be one. We thank you for calling us into communion with you and with each other. Your generosity and mercy are always taking us by surprise. We bless you for the vision of inclusion, solidarity, and compassion which breaks us open, widens our sympathies, and enlarges our hearts.

We commend into your gracious care all those whom it would be easy for us to forget; the homeless and the hungry, the addicted and the lost, abandoned souls and hurting children. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend into your gracious care our civil leaders that they may not be tempted by the authority they hold, but humbled by the responsibility towards those who depend on them. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for this world you have created. Help us to be good stewards of the land, the creatures that inhabit it with us, and all indigenous people who understand the cycles of creation. May we listen to their wisdom. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the imagination and generosity of those who minister in the name of love and compassion to those who are most in need. We give thanks for the generosity and ministry of the people here in this congregation, and for all those who have left generous gifts to us in the past.

We pray for our Bishop, Bonnie Perry and our Presiding Bishop, Sean M. Rowe.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend to you and thank you for all those saints who taught us what it means to be loving, kind, merciful, and confident in our faith: Today in our cycle of prayer, we pray for: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please add your intercessions & thanksgivings at this time either silently or aloud.*

*Celebrant* Let us, together, seek to serve the needy, the rejected, and the forgotten. Confront our indifference, challenge our boundaries, surprise us with joy. Dear Christ, look upon us in this suffering and glorious world, and keep our sympathy and pity fresh and our faces heavenward lest we grow hard. **Amen**

**CONFESSION OF SIN \***

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

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.**

**THE PEACE \***

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*All are seated.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

Ephesians 5:2

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Mark A. Miller

<p>Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free; From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of every longing heart.</p> <p>Born to save, born to heal, come, O savior, come. While we wait, while we pray, come, Savior, come Hope of all heaven and earth, come, Jesus, come.</p>	<p>Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King, Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone; By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.</p>
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**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**    *All stand or kneel, as able.*

*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 thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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: S124

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

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,

**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 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 now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

#### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD\***

*A period of silence is kept*

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

#### **THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION**

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion in the Episcopal Church. If you would like a blessing, place your arms across your chest as you approach the priest. You may receive both bread and wine or elect to receive the bread alone. A low-gluten option is available.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the people with these words:*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!  
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;  
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.  
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;  
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.  
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt. Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865.

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER \*

*All stand, as able.*

Let us pray. **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made 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 \*

Dear Son of Mary, you took flesh to redeem us, change our hearts. Dear Son of God, you came to us with sacrificial love, change our hearts. The Song of God bounds towards us reaching out a hand of reconciliation. Let us take it, and listen to God's Word. We ask your blessing upon us in the name of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Spirit of Life. Amen

1 Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more  
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the  
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more  
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
 seed is plant - ed there: give up your strength the seed to  
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are  
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may flour - ish.  
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple, look  
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) © 1957 Harold Ober Associates, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Music: *Besameon Carol*; harm. Gary Fitzgerald © Gary Fitzgerald. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**THE DISMISSAL\***

*Celebrant* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
Alleluia alleluia.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia alleluia.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Processional*

Lefebure-Wely

*This concludes today's service. Please join us downstairs for coffee hour.  
An elevator is available near the church offices.*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday Service Team</b></p> <p>Reader: Joyce Wallace-Reed          Intercessor: Sandy Perkins          Server: Wendy Arntson          Usher: Pete Schaberg          Altar Guild: Sandy Riley                            &amp; Joyce Wallace-Reed          Coffee Hour: Kristin Novak                            &amp; Barb Abraham</p>	<p>Music printed Copyright ©2025 Church Publishing Inc.          All rights reserved.          Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with Permission Under          One License A-709578. All rights reserved</p> <p>Advent Candle Reading: From Ralph F. Wilson, 28 Advent Scriptures:          Readings and Resources for the Christmas Season (JesusWalk Publications, 2021).          © 2021 Ralph F. Wilson. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to make copies          of these participant handouts, one set for each member of a local group, at no          charge, provided that this copyright information remains intact on each copy.  <a href="http://www.jesuswalk.com/advent/">www.jesuswalk.com/advent/</a></p>
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