

# ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 2026

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.*

**St. James Episcopal Church**  
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WELCOME

PRELUDE

Prelude

John E. Campbell

All stand, as able.

OPENING HYMN \*

O little town of Bethlehem

Hymn 79

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 \*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,  
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,  
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.  
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

OPENING ACCLAMATION \*

*Celebrant* Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people:  
*People* **For unto us is born in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.**

THE COLLECT

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.**

CELEBRATING EPIPHANY

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “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.” When the wisemen heard the child would be born in Bethlehem, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they

had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. With overwhelming joy they entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage.

**SONG OF PRAISE**

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Hymn 128



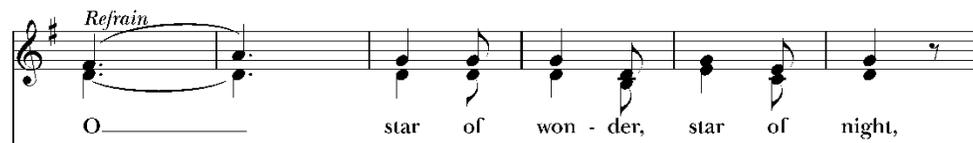
1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing  
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



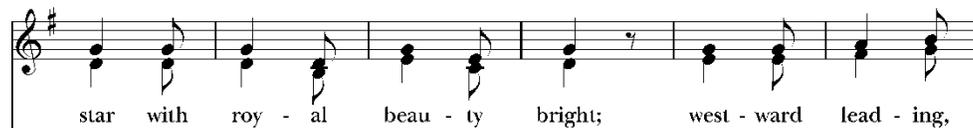
1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
 3 owns a De - i - ty night; prayer and prais - ing,  
 4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
 5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



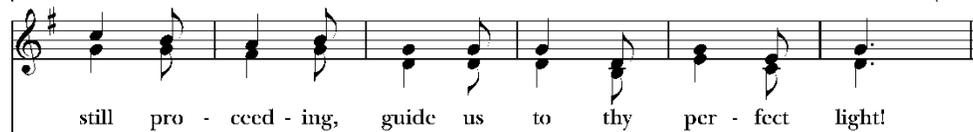
1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.  
 4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



O ————— star of won - der, star of night,



star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY \***

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you,

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

*Celebrant* O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All are seated for the lessons.*

*Reader* A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord

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

### Psalm 84:1-8

*Reader* Let us read Psalm 84 responsively by half verse.

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*

**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

2 The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*

**by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.**

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*

**they will always be praising you.**

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*

**whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*

**for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

6 They will climb from height to height, \*

**and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*

**hearken, O God of Jacob.**

8 Behold our defender, O God; \*

**and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

**THE SECOND LESSON**

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

*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

*Sing 1 & 2 before Gospel, 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.

**THE GOSPEL\***

Matthew 2:-12

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

    `And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
        are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
        who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them 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." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

#### THE SERMON

The Rev Stacy Salles

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

#### THE NICENE CREED \*

*All*            **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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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 \***

*Intercessor:* In Christ God's Word has become flesh dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.  
Let us pray to the true light which enlightens the world saying: What has come into  
being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Clothe your Church with the garments of salvation and cover her with robes of righteousness, O  
Gracious One, that we may be your witnesses to testify to the light. What has come into being in  
Christ was life, **and the life was the light of all people.**

Inspire the leaders of our nation and all in authority in the ways of grace and truth, that we may  
no longer be a people enslaved under the law but may know ourselves to be heirs, adopted as  
God's children. What has come into being in Christ was life, **and the life was the light of all  
people.**

Be our light in the darkness for all the world, that the fullness of your heart may be made known  
for the healing of the earth. What has come into being in Christ was life, **and the life was the  
light of all people.**

Live among us, O Word made flesh, and reconcile this community to your light. What has come  
into being in Christ was life, **and the life was the light of all people.**

May your people be a crown of beauty and a royal diadem in your hand as we pray in faith for  
those who are in sickness, need, or any other adversity. What has come into being in Christ was  
life, **and the life was the light of all people.**

Receive those who have died as heirs of eternal life. What has come into being in Christ was life,  
**and the life was the light of all people.**

We especially keep in our prayers \_\_\_\_\_.

*The People may share their own intercessions and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.*

*Celebrant* Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that  
we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. **Amen.**

**CONFESSION OF SIN \***

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All* **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.**

*Celebrant* 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

*Celebrant* Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

*It came upon the midnight clear*  
St. James Choir

Hymn 89

*All stand or kneel, as able.*

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER \* *Enriching Our Worship***

*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.**

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
 heaven 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: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

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,

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Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,  
 your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in  
 hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.  
 For - give us our sins as we for - give those who  
 sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,  
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,  
 and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

**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.*

*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.**

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*Love came down at Christmas*

Hymn 84

1 Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;  
 2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;  
 3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.  
 wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?  
 love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

*All stand, as able.*

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER \***

*Celebrant* Let us pray.  
*All* **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 \***

*Celebrant* May the eternal Glory shine upon us. May the Son of Mary stay beside us. May the life-giving Spirit live within us, now and always. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN \***

*The First Nowell*

Hymn 109

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star  
 3 And by the light of that same star  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise - men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay,  
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,  
 3 three wise - men came from coun - try far,  
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,  
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,  
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,  
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,  
 4 and there it did both stop and stay  
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win-ter's night— that was— so deep.  
 2 and— so it con - tin - ued both day— and night.  
 3 and to fol - low the star— wher - ev - er it went.  
 4 right— o - ver the place— where Je - sus lay.  
 5 their— gold,— and myrrh,— and frank - in - cense.

*Refrain*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,  
 born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord  
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

*Refrain*

## THE DISMISSAL\*

*Celebrant* Life is short. We do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk this way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind. Go in peace to love and serve God and the World. Alleluia. Alleluia!

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

## POSTLUDE

*Festal March*

J. H. Clifford Johnston

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

### Sunday Service Team

**Reader:** Pete Schaberg  
**Intercessor:** Alison Pomerantz  
**Server:** Julie Frost  
**Usher:** Janet Cook  
**Altar Guild:** Lynn Slager  
 & Sandy Perkins  
**Coffee Hour:** Julie Lowery

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