



SAINT JAMES CHURCH

Love God. Love People. Build Community.



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Holy Eucharist

24 December 2020 7:00pm

Welcome!

to Saint James Church
where we're about

*Proclaiming the
Grace of God in
Jesus Christ*

If you are visiting us, please take a moment to fill out the **Friendship Card** in the back of this bulletin. This will help us get to know you and let you know about the programs and offerings of Saint James. Please leave it with an usher.

Hearing aids are available and our Church is equipped with a hearing loop. Please ask an usher for assistance.

The Nativity of Our Lord Holy Eucharist for Christmas Eve

24 December 2020

at Seven o'clock in the evening

CHRISTMAS PRELUDE

THE OPENING VOLUNTARY

In Dulci Jubilo

J.S. Bach

THE INTROIT

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN *(Please stand)*

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O
2. God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal, lo! he ab -
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, sing, all ye
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je - sus to

come ye to Beth - le - hem; come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
hors. not the Vir - gin's womb; on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove; glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
thee be glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O

come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

Text: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others
Music: ADESTE FIDELIS, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade

On the Cover: Gerald von
Honthorst, 1622

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: The Light of Christ

People: *Thanks be to God.*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: For unto us a child is born,

People: *Unto us a son is given.*

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

Our worship begins with the **Acclamation**. The first words the Minister speaks identify the God whom we gather to worship.

The **Collect** is written to go along with both the season of the church year and the readings for the day. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the Scripture for the day.

THE SONG OF PRAISE



1. An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.
Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with your Spirit.*

Celebrant: 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 Scriptures teach that much of our spiritual renewal is by the washing of the Word of God, which cleanses our minds and purifies our hearts. This portion of the service is known as the **Liturgy of the Word**, and it consists of the readings, the sermon, the creed, and the prayers of the people.

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

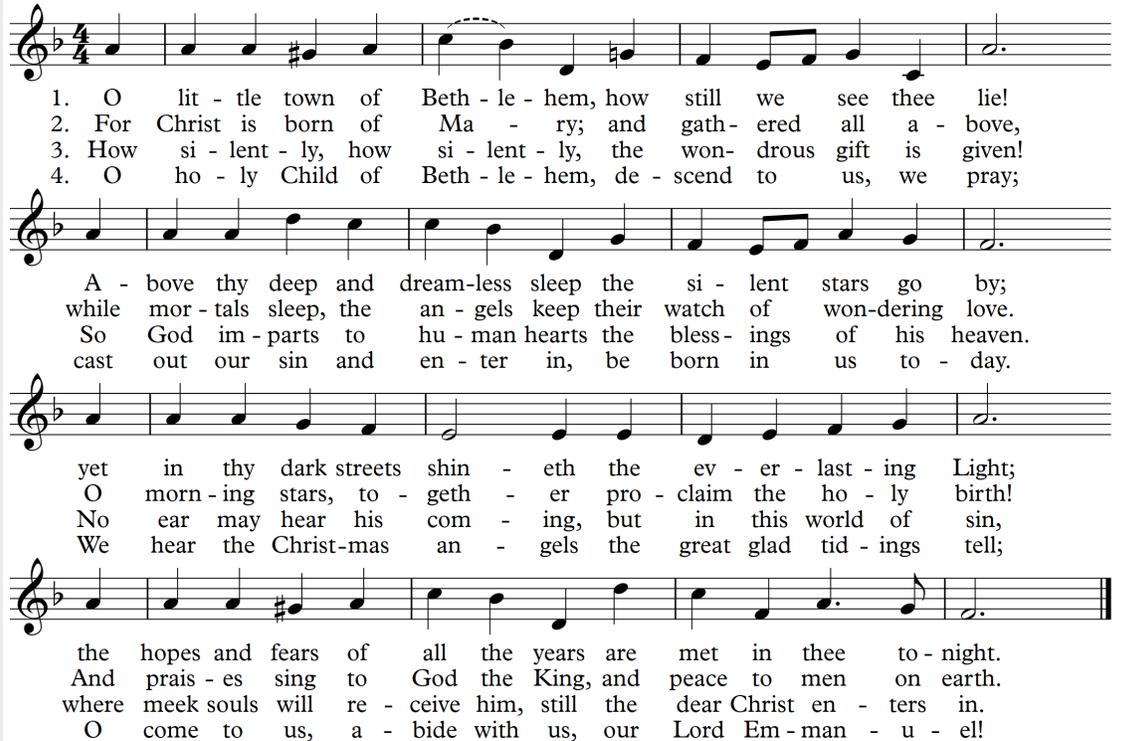
The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
 on them has light shone.
 You have multiplied the nation;
 you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
 For the yoke of his burden,
 and the staff for his shoulder,
 the rod of his oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.
 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
 and every garment rolled in blood
 will be burned as fuel for the fire.
 For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given;
 and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
 and his name shall be called
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 Of the increase of his government and of peace
 there will be no end,
 on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
 to establish it and to uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time forth and forevermore.
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

THE GRADUAL HYMN *(Please stand)*



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. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus is the Word that became flesh and dwells among us. The word **Gospel** comes from the Old English word, *god-spell*, which means “good news” or “glad tidings.” That word developed from the Latin word, *evangelium*, and Greek, *evangelion*, which also literally means “good news.” These are the source of the English words “evangelist” and “evangelism”

THE STORY OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE (2:1-14)

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a

manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

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

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Rev'd Arthur Jenkins

**See page 19 for sermon notes.*

THE NICENE CREED *(Please stand)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and 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.*

The **Nicene Creed** is a statement of what the Christian community believes to be true about God. It was born of rigorous intellectual debate in the fourth century, culminating in councils of the whole church at Nicaea in 325 and at Constantinople in 381. The word “creed” comes from the Latin word “credo” which means “I believe.”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Please sit or kneel)*

Christians pray. When we worship the living God, we bring before Him our concerns for ourselves and others, for the world, and for the church. We also thank God for hearing and responding to our prayers. At the Offertory, all of our prayers are presented to God along with our tithes and offerings.

As we celebrate with joy the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely given us and for the many blessings we receive at his hands:

For the splendor of your creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you, Lord

For the blessing of family and friends, and the loving care which surrounds us on every side,

We thank you, Lord

For our daily food and drink, for the health and strength to work, and for times of rest and refreshing

We thank you, Lord

For Mark our bishop, and for all bishops and clergy who minister in the name of Christ, for all the people of God, and especially for this kingdom community of Saint James,

We thank you, Lord

For this nation and for Donald our President, Joseph our President Elect, Henry our Governor and for all who serve our country, especially those in harm's way,

We thank you, Lord

For your tender and gracious regard for the sick and the suffering, for prisoners and those in any kind of need

We thank you, Lord

And above all, for your Son Jesus Christ, for his coming among us, for the truth of his word and the sufficiency of his sacrifice and dying, and for his rising to life again

We thank you Lord

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Silence may be kept

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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

The Celebrant may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. *Matt. 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

THE PEACE *(Please stand)*

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

People: *And with your spirit.*

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

We are sinful people. In the catechism section of our Prayer Book (pg. 845), it tells us that “From the beginning, human beings have misused their freedom and made wrong choices” and that “Sin is the seeking of our own will instead of the will of God, thus distorting our relationship with God, with other people, and with all creation.” Here, in the **Confession**, we admit our wrongdoings and lay our sins at the feet of Jesus on the cross.

Please take a moment to extend God’s **Peace** to those around you. That peace, which the world cannot give, comes only through the mediation of Jesus Christ. This peace is not rooted in our circumstances but in the presence, promise, and power of God and Christ’s redeeming work. The peace is a particularly good time to welcome visitors and newcomers.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Mary's Magificat*

Andrew Carter
Mrs. Jane Read, soprano

Softly a light is stealing, Sweetly a maiden sings, Ever wakeful, ever wistful. Watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly her King of Kings. My soul doth magnify the Lord: And my spirit hath rejoiced In God my Saviour.

Mary her song to Jesus Softly, serenely sings:

I will love you, I will serve you, May my lullaby glorify, magnify my King of Kings.

THE PRESENTATION HYMN (*Please stand*)

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O
come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

Text: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others
Music: ADESTE FIDELIS, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade

Our altar is The Lord's Table and all baptized Christians (baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) are welcome to receive Holy Communion here.

In the Anglican tradition, Communion is received in two kinds: in the Bread and in the Wine. The Bread is offered first and is typically placed in one's open palm. After hearing the words "The Body of Christ, the bread of Heaven," the bread is ready to be consumed. A chalice bearer will then offer the Wine. As he or she presents the cup, please gently take hold of the base of the chalice, helping the chalice bearer to guide it toward your lips.

If you or your children are not baptized, you may receive a blessing at the altar rail from the Priest. Simply cross your hands over your chest as you kneel at the rail.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with your spirit.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them up 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, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary his mother, was made truly man, yet without the stain of sin, that we might be cleansed from sin and given the right 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:

THE SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
hea - ven 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.

Setting: from *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828)

The **Sanctus** is the song of the seraphim contained in the great vision that the prophet Isaiah experienced while worshipping in the Temple in Jerusalem. This vision is recorded in the 6th chapter of Isaiah. It is inspired by Isaiah's vision of the heavenly court "Holy, holy, holy" acknowledging the transcendence of God.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION *(Please kneel)*

The People kneel. The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation. By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

When we gather together for the Lord's Supper, we remember the presence of Jesus. By repeating the words and actions of Jesus' last meal with His disciples, we join the story and make it our own. We don't just watch the drama or listen to it unfold, we enter into the story as we, too, take the bread and wine and eat and drink and participate in the victory Christ has won for us.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant:

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 **Lord's Prayer**, so called because Jesus gave this prayer to His disciples as an example of how to pray, has been a part of Eucharistic liturgies since the fourth century. The link between "our daily bread" and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is very ancient. In the Lord's Prayer, we ask for daily bread, meaning the things we need to get through each day. But as a part of that, the sacramental bread is Jesus Christ, truly present in this bread. When we eat of this bread, we most certainly receive our daily bread.

THE FRACTION

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The **Prayer of Humble Access** is a very distinctive element of worship in the Anglican Tradition. Assembled in the earliest prayer books by Thomas Cranmer, it includes phrases and concepts from Mark 7:28, the Liturgy of St. Basil, a Gregorian collect, John 6:56, and some ideas of Thomas Aquinas.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Celebrant and People together may say

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

Facing the People, the Celebrant may say the following invitation

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. *John 1:29, Rev. 19:9*

The gifts of God for the people of God. [Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.]

COMMUNION Music

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam
Anna-Parsons Nobles, Soprano

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the east be -

fields as they lay; in fields as they lay, keep - ing their
 yond them far, and to the earth it gave great

sheep, on a cold win - ter's night, that was so deep.
 light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.

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

Text: English carol, 18th cent.
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English carol, 17th cent.

At Saint James, we encourage you to continue to pray by singing both before and after you come to the Communion Rail. In this way, all of us are helping each other to lift our hearts continuously in the midst of receiving the greatest gift ever given: the life of Jesus Christ.

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 4. For lo! the days are haste ning on, by pro - phets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time for - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all - gra - cious King."
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt.
 Music: CAROL, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900)

1. What child is this, who laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep - ing?
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, pea - sant, king to own him;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ, the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

As the Eucharistic celebration ends, we are charged to “go forth.” The Holy Eucharist is therefore not an exclusive gathering that separates us from the world but a charge to reach out beyond our own walls to the world around us for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The acolytes will now bring the Light of Christ to be shared by all people. Please light your candle and pass the light down the pew. After all are lighted, kneeling we sing.

THE HYMN

STILLE NACHT (Hymnal 111)

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight,
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

round you vir - gin mo - ther and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
 glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far, heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

sleep in hea - ven - ly peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 Christ the Sa - vior, is born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)
 Music: STILLE NACHT, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)

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.*

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN (*Please stand*)

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her King;
 2. Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our songs em - ploy;
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground;
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove

let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
 he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 the glor - ies of his right - eous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture sing,
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy,
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his love,

and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 far as, far as the curse is found.
 and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.
 Music: ANTIOCH, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Christmas Medley

Today's Servers

Readers:	Bonum Wilson, Tom Hilton
Crucifer:	Thomas Rehm (Father)
Acolyte:	Thad Rehm (Son)
Welcome Team:	Doug Hord, Lily Woods
Altar Guild:	Francie Egleston

The Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. Collect from *The Book of Common Prayer of the Anglican Church in North America*. Psalter translation is from the *Book of Common Prayer, 2019*.

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 25th – JANUARY 1st
Regular Office Hours Resume January 4

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2020

7:00 PM Worship

Isaiah 9:1-7; Psalm 96; Luke 2:1-14

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when **Quirinius** was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" Luke 2:1ff,

IS THIS THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL?

- NOT REALLY...

The BEGINNING actually happened about 9 months earlier in Nazareth a small village in lower Galilee.

- Angel Gabriel found a young girl by the well in the village square
- The angel's message:
"... Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."
- "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"
- "The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

THERE IT IS! THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL...

THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL

The fulfillment of the Prophecy from Isaiah 7,
"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel"

The fulfillment of the DIVINE BIRTHS in Scripture...

- Isaac born to Sarah and Abraham...
- John the Baptist born to Elizabeth and Zechariah
- And now, Jesus to be born to Mary...
- A Birth by Divine Means..., An irrefutable act of God...

The Virgin Birth...

- it is not about sex...
- It is not about sin...
- It is the proclamation that this is God's Son.

THE SEED OF GOD CLOTHED WITH THE FLESH OF MARY

THAT WE TOO MAY BE CLOTHES FOR THE SEED OF GOD

- John 1:12, "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

- The Holy Spirit, the Seed of God

- John 3, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

The Gathering Prayer for Sunday, December 24th:

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.

Arthur
Luke 1:35



Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God by:

Tank & Scooter Barnette in memory of George & Ruth Barnette and "Son" & Angela Delorme.

Dick & Virginia Bartels in thanksgiving for members of Men's Friday Prayer Breakfast, Friday Morning Women's Bible Study, Daughters of the Holy Cross, and Saint James Lay Readers.

Jennifer Baskin in memory of Robert & Jeanne Baskin and Mary Ann Jones.

Osia & Harriet Brummett in memory of the Brummett Children and Robert Legare Grayson.

Diane Corbett in memory of my mother, Mary Ruth Keene.

Amarylis Cranwell in memory of Kim Cranwell, Ada & Francis Betancourt, Dot & Jack Cranwell.

Charles M. Davis in memory of his parents Mr. & Mrs. James K, Davis, Jr. and brother James K. (Mickey) Davis.

Mary Beth Demosthenes in honor of grandchildren: Alex, Emilie, Caroline, Isabel, Harry and Arthur, Louise, Elizabeth and administrative staff.

William Dockendorf in honor of Torry and Melah Dockendorf and in memory of Patsy Peterson and Georgia Dockendorf

Ernie & Sonya Droze in honor of our children, grandchildren and all of our many blessings. And in memory of Buddy & Kitty Olsen, Edwin & Marie Droze, Colt Matthew Droze.

Francie & David Egleston in memory of loving parents who witnessed God's mercy and grace.

Mickey & Betty Floyd in memory of our loving parents.

Kimberly Gibson in memory of my husband, Royal (Chip) Gibson and daughter, Dr. Amy Gibson Black.

Paula & Bill Huff in memory of Billy & Dot Huff, Leah Huff, Paul & Betty White, and Bobby and Michael.

Sue Ivey in memory of Al & Shirley Melson, Rick Melson.

Dave & Yvonne Jordan in honor of our sons Michael (Starr) and Matthew (Holly) and our grandchildren Camden, Cooper, Jack & Chloe Jordan. And in memory of Fred Taylor, Marie & Bernie Wolf, and Day & Haward Jordan.

Jean Matthews in memory of my loved ones.

Bill & Maureen McDaniel in honor of our grandchildren, William, Brian, Elise and Henry.

Bill & Maureen McDaniel in memory of our parents Wiley & Mary, William & Lydia, and daughter Kelley Ann.

Jackie Miller in memory of my beloved husband, Mike.

Susan E. Morrison in thanksgiving for Brooks Clark Morrison.

Becky & Gerry Osmond in thanksgiving of our grandchildren: Caroline, Annie, Isaac, Bentley, Jesse, Aiden, Mason, Jaxon & Ryan. And in memory of our granddaughter Gabriella Osmond.

Joel & Mary Porcher in memory of Sarah & Mortimer Clement and Julia & Edward Porcher.

William Porcher in memory of Frances W. Porcher and Mr. & Mrs. Edward P. Porcher.

Marcia Porter in thanksgiving of Rhenda & McLeod. And in memory of Tory & Scott Porter, Robert & Anne & Kyle Currier.

Maxine Swafford in thanksgiving for our Saint James Family. And in memory of my husband, Mack Swafford.

Fred Whittle in thanksgiving of the Saint James Church Pastors & Staff. And in memory of Juanita C. Wallace, L. W. Wallace, Joan K. Medeiros, Leroy F. Whittle.

Joyce Wichmann in memory of Fred Wichmann & Mary Weston.

Bonum & Janet Wilson in thanksgiving for children & grandchildren and all of our family members and our church family. And in memory of Bonum & Ann Wilson, Dorothy Hoff & Mack Swafford.



Friendship Card

(Please complete and put in offering basket)

Name:	Birthdate:	Phone:	Marital Status:	
Spouse's Name:	Birthdate:	Phone:	Guest of:	
Address:		City:	State:	Zip:
Email:				
Children's Names & Birthdates:				

I want more information on:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> JR Youth 4th & 5th Grades | <input type="checkbox"/> Middle School Group | <input type="checkbox"/> High School Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool/MMO | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Ministry |



SAINT JAMES CHURCH

Love God. Love People. Build Community.

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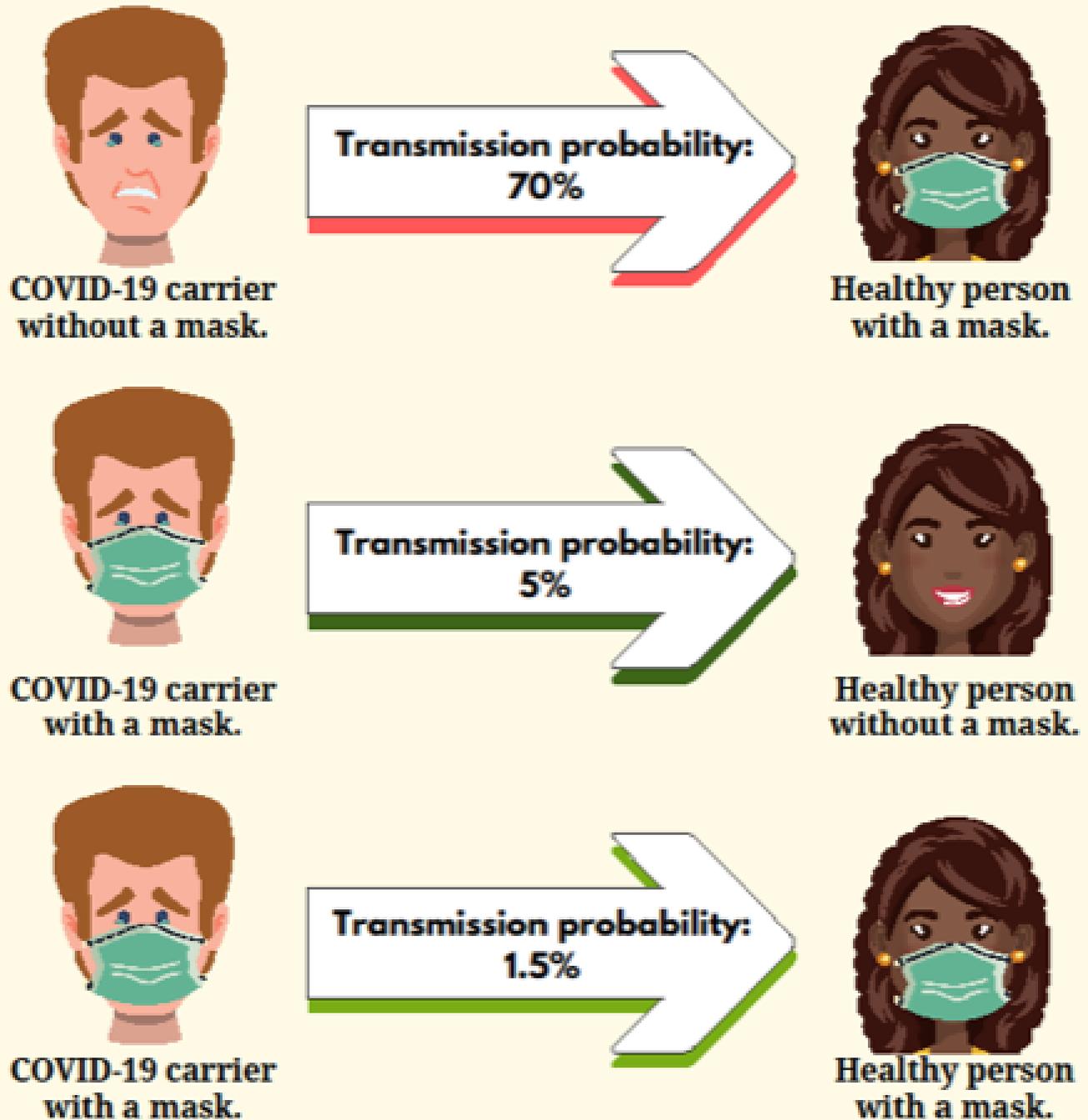
Bruce McDonald | *Senior Warden*
Bruce.mcdonald@comcast.net

At Large

Barbara Edlund | *Bishop Gadsden*

They don't know they're sick.

With an incubation period of up to 14 days, COVID-19 can be spread without knowing.



Jacqueline Vance, RNC, CDONA/LTC, McKnights.com