

WELCOME TO ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH MILLCREEK HUNDRED

We are very pleased that you have joined us for worship today. St. James' Church is a committed and vital community, and we hope a friendly and welcoming one. If you have any questions, please don't be afraid to ask.

On Sundays we gather to "continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers". This we do in the Communion service -- the *Holy Eucharist*. All whose conscience allows are welcome to receive Communion.

St. James' Mill Creek Hundred
2106 St. James Church Road
Wilmington, DE 19808

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Phone: (302) 994-1584

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PARISH STAFF AND OFFICERS

Rector	The Rev. Ben Rockwell	
Office Manager	Liz Lichtenstein	Office: (302) 994-1584
Director of Music	Keith St. John	
Sexton	Borden Adams, Blue Sky Maintenance	Cell: (302) 740-7479
Vestry	Valerie Brunson (Senior Warden), Bruce Vrana (Jr. Warden), Jim Craig, David Perry, Ian Prescott, Margaret Russ, Susan Winward, Cathy Coppel, Jerry Clark, Lynn Morgan.	
Clerk of the Vestry	Nancy Patterson	
Treasurers	Steve Prescott, Parish Treasurer Allyson Heinold, Disbursing Treasurer Susan Winward, Receiving Treasurer	

HOLY EUCHARIST 9:30AM

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Voluntary: Prepare Thyself, Zion

J.S. Bach

Opening Hymn: Rejoice! Rejoice believers

Hymn 68

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen***

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader: On this first Sunday of Advent, we recall the HOPE we have in Christ. The prophets of Israel spoke of the coming of a Messiah, a savior born as a king in the line of David.

People: We remember that Jesus is this Messiah who came to us humbly in the manger at Bethlehem and who promised to come again in power to deliver his people. We light this candle to remind us of the hope in our hearts as we watch for His return.

(one purple candle is lighted)

Choral Response:

Christiana Canticles – Magnificat “He remembering his mercy...” John Rutter

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Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.*

Old Testament

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

The Psalm

Psalm 25:1-9

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The New Testament

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Sequence Hymn: O come, O come, Emmanuel

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The Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Sermon The Rev. Ben Rockwell

Nicene Creed

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: 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 worshipped 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 Prayers of the People

Beloved in Christ, may God strengthen our hearts in holiness as we trust in God and pray, "O come, o come, Emmanuel; *be our hope and our salvation.*"

God our hope, make us increase and abound in love for one another. Keep your Church on the paths of love and faithfulness.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel; *Be our hope and our salvation.*

God our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness. May all the world know your peace and safety.

Silence.

O come, o come, Emmanuel; ***Be our hope and our salvation.***

God our hope, you place signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. Give us the eyes to see, the wisdom to prepare, and the faith to trust in you.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel; ***Be our hope and our salvation.***

God our hope, under your reign divisions are overcome, unity restored: bring the people of this region – from city, village and town – together in a spirit of love and respect.

O come, o come, Emmanuel; ***Be our hope and our salvation.***

God our hope, remember your compassion and love. Heal and restore the sick and the suffering, the anxious and the grieving.

O come, o come, Emmanuel; ***Be our hope and our salvation.***

God our hope, keep us blameless before you that we may meet the coming our Lord Jesus with joy. May we, and all who have died, rise to life immortal with all your saints.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel; ***Be our hope and our salvation.***

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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 for 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 Priest, stands and pronounces Absolution

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

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

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

Announcements

Offertory: Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Spiritual/Jay Althouse

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Valerie Brunson, soloist

Presentation of Alms: Doxology

Hymn 380 v.3

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

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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 God thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Gracious God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

Celebrant and People

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Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

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 blessed James and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to 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 Breaking of the Bread

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. Take them in remembrance that Christ gives himself for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Music during Communion: Let all mortal flesh keep silence

324 v. 1-3

Post Communion Prayer

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After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen

Concluding Hymn: Prepare the way, O Zion

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Choral Benediction: A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter

**Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ,
of Christ the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you.**

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Dismissal

Please be aware that we are recording this service in its entirety. Any talking can be picked up by the microphones. So, please save your conversations for outside the church or after the completion of the music after the Dismissal. Thank you.

PRAYERS FOR TODAY

- In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: The Church of Bangladesh.
- In The Episcopal Church in Delaware, we pray for: St. Stephen's Church, Harrington; Vestry Leadership and Parish.
- For those in our parish, we pray for our: Senior Warden, Valerie Brunson, Junior Warden, Bruce Vrana, and all members of the vestry.

For those in our parish who have special concerns, especially: Carole, Lynne, Marlene, Helen and family, Carolyn A., Les, Julianna and family, Debbie M., Wilma, Dan, Sue, Pablo and family, Carl, Daniel, Mary, Faye, Robert, Robin, Ed, Debbie, John, Tara, Olivia, Kevin, Jo, Ellie, Diane, Lori, Barbara and May.

UPDATED COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Our firm desire is to worship our Lord in beauty, holiness, AND safety. Please be assured that the St. James' leadership team has worked hard to have meaningful worship while at the same time making our environment as safe as possible for everyone.

- Church entry time will be 9:15 a.m.
- Please sanitize hands before entering the church.
- Face masks are mandatory.

ST. JAMES' PASTORAL CARE TEAM

St. James' Pastoral Care Team continues to support our parish family and our community.

Please call the office (302-994-1584) and leave a message. Someone will get back to you. Messages are retrieved daily, seven days a week.

If you or someone you know is in need, we:

- Send cards, make phone calls, and pray with you and/or for you.
- For now, in an abundance of caution, our home, hospital, and Eucharistic visits are on hold.

Please let us know if you need us or someone you know needs us. We will not know if you do not tell us.

ST. JAMES' PRAYER TEAM

One Sunday of every month, the members of the prayer team hold a “virtual” ZOOM prayer service (focusing on the prayer requests shared by parishioners through calls or emails to the church office 994-1584 or to individual members of the prayer team.) We lift up these prayer requests and other concerns of the parish, community, and world.

Also, weekly we share the prayers and petitions that have been given to us and they are lifted in the daily prayers of the team members. All are welcome to provide their prayer requests and participate in these services.

For those who have an immediate prayer need or would like to receive the ZOOM codes and join the prayer team service, we invite you to email your prayer needs/requests to Cindy Fauerbach cindyfauerbach@verizon.net or call Cindy at 302-584-8053

NOTE: Our next ZOOM prayer team will be Sunday, December 12th at 3PM. We are grateful that Gwen Gerety-Hayes will also lead us in evening prayer.

SERVING US THIS MORNING

9:30 am Service

Celebrant

The Rev. Ben Rockwell

Lector / Eucharistic Minister:

Robert Buraczynski

Director of Music

Keith St. John

Videographer

Bruce Vrana

Usher:

David Perry

Vestry Greeters:

David Perry