

WELCOME TO ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH MILL CREEK HUNDRED

Thank you for joining us for this evening's services. St. James' Church is a committed and vital community, and we hope a friendly and welcoming one. If you have any questions, please 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 are welcome at the Lord's table.

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

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

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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 Coppol, Jerry Clark, Lynn Morgan.	
Clerk of the Vestry	Nancy Patterson	
Treasurers	Steve Prescott, Parish Treasurer Allyson Heinold, Disbursing Treasurer Susan Winward, Receiving Treasurer	

THE FEAST OF THE INCARNATION

CHRISTMAS EVE

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Prelude: Christmas Medley

Opening Hymn: *O Come, all ye faithful*

Hymn 83

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

People: ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen***

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.*

Hymn of Praise (Gloria) *Angels have we heard on high*

Hymn 96

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

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.*

First Lesson - Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Gradual - Psalm 96

- 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.

Second Lesson - Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Sequence Hymn: Joy to the World

Hymn 100

The Gospel - Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town

of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

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.

Prayers of the People

Intercessor: Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray, “Glorious Lord, ***grant us your peace.***”

Intercessor: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil.

Silence.

Glorious Lord, ***grant us your peace.***

Intercessor: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor the lowly. Singe you light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation.

Silence.

Glorious Lord, ***grant us your peace.***

Intercessor: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you.

Your prayers of thanksgiving are invited at this time, either silently or aloud.

Glorious Lord, ***grant us your peace.***

Intercessor: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon the people of the city to yourself. May all of the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence.

Silence

Glorious Lord, ***grant us your peace.***

Intercessor: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your arms to the sick and the lonely.

Your prayers of petition and intercession are invited at this time.

Glorious Lord, ***grant us your peace.***

Intercessor: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection.

Silence.

Glorious Lord, ***grant us your peace.***

Celebrant: Source of light and gladness, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May the Rising Sun of Christ spread across the world and brighten all humanity; for all glory is yours, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Peace

BCP 360

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 and Welcome.

Offertory: **3PM** *Mary Did You Know?* By Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene

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Soloists: Valerie Brunson/Eileen Marvel

7PM *Cantique de Noel (O Holy Night)* By Adolph Adam

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Soloist: Diane Burt

Presentation of Alms: Doxology

Hymn 380 v.3

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

S-130

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

BCP 364

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 died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Carols: *Away in a Manger*
O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn 101, v 1 & 3
Hymn 79 v. 1-3

Communion Hymn: *Silent Night*

Hymn 111

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

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

Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Concluding Hymn: *Hark! The Herald angels sing*

Hymn 87

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!*

Thank you so much for joining us at St. James' this evening and for being a part of our Christmas celebration. If you are joining us for the first time, thank you. If you are returning home for the holidays, welcome back. If you have been with us for a number of years, thank you for your continued prayers and support. However you come to us tonight, we hope you will join us again and that you will continue to find St. James' to be a place of comfort and peace.

And Christ's blessings to you in the new year to come!

Coming in the New Year!

Please visit our webpage for updates about upcoming activities, including the following:

- January 9 – The Good Book Club kicks off in the lounge following church
- January 10 – Lectionary Bible Study in the lounge at 10:30 AM
- January 19 – Wednesday Holy Eucharist in the church at 10 AM

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

Our next prayer team will be Sunday, January 2nd at 5 p.m. via ZOOM and include evening prayer.

SERVING TODAY

3:00 pm Service

Celebrant

Lector / Eucharistic Minister:

Director of Music

Videographer

Usher:

The Rev. Ben Rockwell

Margaret Russ

Keith St. John

Bruce Vrana

Shirley Alexander

Nancy Patterson

7:00 pm Service

Celebrant

Lector / Eucharistic Minister:

Director of Music

Usher:

The Rev. Ben Rockwell

Kenna Harrold-Mansk

Keith St. John

David Niehaus

Steve Prescott