

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 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

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 Coppol, 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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Voluntary: Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

J. Brahms

Opening Hymn: Prepare the way, O Zion

Hymn 65

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: The first candle of Advent represents HOPE, a sign of the return of Jesus our Messiah. (*Light 1st purple candle.*)

Reader: On this, the Second Sunday of Advent, we hear John the Baptist call us to prepare for the Lord's arrival. PEACE will come to those that allow God to touch them at the very depths of their lives.

People: As we light a second candle, we recall the Peace that Christ offers to a broken world. (*Light second purple candle.*)

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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Canticle 16 Page 92, BCP

The Song of Zechariah (read in unison)

Luke 1: 68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Sequence Hymn: O come, O come, Emmanuel

56 v. 3-4

The Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of

repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
 and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Prepare your hearts for his arrival, praying, "Fill the valleys, make low the hills; *come, great Redeemer, come.*"

Merciful God, increase our love to overflowing. Make your Church pure and blameless that we may greet with joy the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Silence

Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

Come, great Redeemer, come.

Merciful God, we long for the light of hope to break into our world, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide us into the way of peace.

Silence.

Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

Come, great Redeemer, come.

Merciful God, give us grace to heed the warnings of those calling us to be better stewards of your creation. We thank you for all you have made, especially those things that sustain and better our lives.

Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

Come, great Redeemer, come.

Merciful God, you lead us with joy; you delight in our joy. You clothe us in beauty. We give you thanks for your tender care.

Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

Come, great Redeemer, come.

Merciful God, you remember your children. You do not leave us in sorrow or affliction. Crown your children with glory; clothe them with righteousness.

Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

Come, great Redeemer, come.

Merciful God, you have raised up for us salvation through your Son. Keep us, with all your saints, in the eternal life of Christ.

Silence

Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

Come, great Redeemer, come.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

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

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

Offertory: The Ground

Ola Gjeilo

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The Ground – translation

Pleni sunt caeli et terra Gloria tua.

The Heaven and Earth are yours in glory.

Osanna, Osanna in excelsis.

Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

He who comes in the name of Lord is blessed.

Benedictus qui venit.

He who comes is blessed.

Osanna, Osanna in excelsis.

Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

Dona nobis pacem.

Grant us peace.

Presentation of Alms: Doxology

Hymn 380 v.3

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP pg. 367

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.

Music during Communion: Comfort, comfort ye my people

Hymn 67

Post Communion Prayer

365

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: Open your ears, O faithful people

Hymn 536, v. 1-3

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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Voluntary: My Spirit be Joyful

J.S. Bach

Dismissal

This week's Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Edward Lombardi by his wife Marion Lombardi, and his family.

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 Anglican Church of Burundi.
- In The Episcopal Church in Delaware, we pray for: St. Peter's Church, Smyrna; The Rev. Donna Jean Kiessling, Rector.
- For those in our parish, we pray for our: Worship Ministries: Acolytes, Altar Guild, St. James Choir, Flower Guild, Greeters, Lay Readers, Prayer Team, Pastoral Care Team, Ushers & Worship Ministry Team.

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, Ann, 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 required.

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:	Cindy Fauerbach
Director of Music	Keith St. John
Videographer	Bruce Vrana
Usher:	Shirley Alexander
Vestry Greeters:	Lynn Morgan
Advent Reader:	Carol Bruno
Coffee Hour Host:	Nancy Patterson
	Cindy Fauerbach
Counters:	Jim Craig
	Dick Prettyman