

WELCOME TO ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH MILLCREEK HUNDRED

Thank you for joining us today. 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

E-Mail: office@stjamesmillcreek.comcastbiz.net

Website: www.stjamesmillcreek.org

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Voluntary: Magnificat, Short Service

Orlando Gibbons

Opening Hymn: Come thou long expected Jesus

Hymn 66

(sung to the tune Hyfrydol #657)

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: The second candle represents the PEACE offered by Christ to a broken world. (*Light second purple candle.*)

Reader: The third candle represents the JOY that the arrival of the Promised One is near. (*Light the pink candle.*)

Reader: On this, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we recall the LOVE that God has for the world, having sent his Son so that all might be saved. (*Light last 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.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

The Response

Psalm 80:1-7

Qui regis Israel

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
 stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O LORD God of hosts, *
 how long will you be angered
 despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
 but a body you have prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings
 you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Sequence Hymn: The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Hymn 265

The Gospel

Luke 1:39-45(46-55)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among

women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."
]

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

The Mighty One has done great things for us. And so we appeal to God once again, praying, “Stir up your strength, O Lord; ***and come to help us.***”

Prepare in us a mansion for yourself, O Christ.

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

And come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts. May we know security. May we know peace. May we know the benefits of the reign of your Christ.

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

And come to help us.

Show the strength of your arm, O God: lift up the lowly. Fill the hungry with good things. Look on your children with favor.

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

And come to help us.

Have mercy on all captives and prisoners, O God. Remember them and come to their aid. Fill our hearts with mercy. May we learn to forgive even as you forgive us.

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

And come to help us.

Hear the prayers of your people, O God of hosts. May those who have fed on the bread of tears, feed instead on your strength, O Lord. Show them the light of your countenance and be their salvation.

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

And come to help us.

Great Shepherd, gather your flock into your eternal kingdom. Bless the dying, embrace the dead, and comfort those who mourn.

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

And come to help us.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession

BCP 359

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.

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: Maria walks amid the thorn

German Carol/arr. JW Burnam

Arr. Copyright © 2013 Jack Warren Burnam

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: Sing of Mary, pure and lowly

Hymn 277 v. 1 & 3

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: Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Hymn 81

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 the Province of Central Africa.
- In The Episcopal Church in Delaware, we pray for: Delaware Prison Ministries
- 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: Emily, the Cernos family, Joel, Holly, Tom, Melissa, Carole, Lynne, Marlene, Helen, Carolyn A., Les, Julianna, 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

Our next prayer team service will be on ZOOM on January 2, 2022, at 5 p.m. and will include evening prayer.

Adopt-a-grandparent and Adopt-a-family

Last year we “adopted” 20 individuals of the Brandywine Nursing and Rehabilitation Center without a family member to remember them or send a gift at Christmas. Our donations went to purchase gifts from their “wish list” and to ensure these individuals received gifts at their Christmas gathering.

We also have an opportunity to support a family of three (mother and her 15-year-old daughter and 8-year-old son) who were burned out of their home before Thanksgiving and lost everything in the fire. The mother is one of our healthcare heroes who works as a medical assistant in an urgent care unit with one of our parishioners. Donations will provide needed clothing and a few Christmas gifts.

Please send your contribution in the form of a check to the St. James’ parish office or drop it in the collection plate:

St. James’ Church

Attn: Adopt-a-grandparent/family

2106 St. James’ Church Road

Wilmington, DE 19808

(Please mark: Adopt-a-grandparent/family in your check memo.)

Deadline for contributions: **Monday, December 20, 2021**

Christmas Services 2021

Friday, December 24, 2021 — 3:00 p.m. — Daylight Christmas Eucharist

Friday, December 24, 2021 — 7:00 p.m. — Christmas Eve Eucharist

Friday, December 24, 2021 — 10:00 p.m. — Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist

Saturday, December 25, 2021 — 10:00 a.m. — Christmas Day Eucharist (No Music)

Sunday, December 26, 2021 — 9:30 a.m. — Christmas Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

SERVING US THIS MORNING

9:30 am Service

Celebrant

The Rev. Ben Rockwell

Lector / Eucharistic Minister:

Pam Smith

Director of Music

Keith St. John

Videographer

Bruce Vrana

Usher:

David Niehaus

Vestry Greeters:

Margaret Russ

Advent Reader:

St. James' Choir

Coffee Hour Host:

Jenny Vrana

Counters:

Carolyn Joynt

Susan Winward

David Perry