



Morning Prayer, Rite II

ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 20, 2020 | Online Service
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Greeting and Announcements

Hymn 54: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, "Savior of the nations, come"

Savior of the nations, come! Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, both heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous child of the Virgin undefiled!
Mighty God and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!

Thus on earth the Word appears, gracing his created spheres;
hence to death and hell descends, then the heavenly throne ascends.

Come, O Father's saving Son, who o'er sin the vict'ry won,
boundless shall your kingdom be; grant that we its glories see.

Advent Lighting Prayer

Officiant

Lord God, let thy blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this Advent wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Opening Sentences

Book of Common Prayer, page 78

Confession of Sin

Officiant

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

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 Priest alone stands and says

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 Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise

Officiant and People

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

Venite S35

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Lessons

First Lesson: II Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: Come, thou long expected Jesus (*Judas Maccabeus*)

G. F. Handel
arr. M. Whitmire

Come, thou long expected Jesus; born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Second Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Reverend Hilary Streever

Apostles' Creed

BCP 96

Officiant and People together, all standing as able.
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
He was conceived by power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Officiant Let us pray.

BCP 97

Officiant and People together
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.

Suffrages A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let the people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain in us with your Holy Spirit.

Collect of the Day

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.*

Other Collects

Prayers for the Parish

Prayer for Mission

BCP 101

Officiant

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace; So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those that do not know you to the knowledge and love of you, for the honor of your name. *Amen.*

Anthem: A Hymn to the Virgin

Benjamin Britten

Of one that is so fair and bright
Velut maris stella, (*Like the star of the sea,*)
Brighter than the day is light,
Parens et puella: (*Mother and maiden:*)
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy Son for me
Tam pia, (*So tender,*)
That I may come to thee.
Maria!

All this world was forlorn
Eva peccatrice, (*Eve having been a sinner,*)
Till our Lord was y-born
De te genetrix. (*Of you, his mother.*)
With *ave* it went away
Darkest night, and comes the day
Salutis; (*Of salvation;*)
The well springeth out of thee.
Virtutis (*Of virtue.*)

Lady, flow'r of ev'rything,
Rosa sine spina, (*Thornless rose,*)
Thou bare Jesu, Heaven's King,
Gratia divina: (*By divine grace:*)
Of all thou bear'st the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise
Electa: (*Chosen:*)
Maid mild, mother es Effecta.
Effecta. (*You are fulfilled.*)

Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Versicle and Response

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Closing Sentences

Hymn 66: *Stuttgart*, “Come, thou long-expected Jesus”

Come, thou long expected Jesus born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of
Lawrence Brevard Cann, Jr., Constance Cann Hancock, William Rose Coleman,
and Stella Heritage Coleman*

Service Participants

Preacher: The Reverend Hilary Streever

Officiant: The Reverend Dr. John McCard

Musicians: Youth Choir, Chamber Singers

Organist: Virginia Ewing Whitmire

Director of Music: Dr. Mark A. Whitmire

Prayers of the People

Please lift up to God those who have asked for our prayers:

For the sick and in need: especially the family of Eleanor Angle, Elizabeth Austin, Susan Bain, the family of Anne Bedner, Margaret Bloor, Susan Bloor , Priscilla Cabell, Betty Crasten, Matt Curtis, Cameron Flippen, Mary Harrison , Palmer Johnson, the family of Garrett Lockhart, Eleanor Lynch, Emma Mason, Eve McCray, Harry Moore, Robbie Morris, Darlene Ogden, Jess Pillmore, Katherine Reynolds, Tommy Runyon, George Silver, Geoff Sisk, Barbara Streever, Anne Sweets, Lilo Ukrop, Gordon Wallace, David Wilkinson, Bodie Williamson, Barbara Willis, Amy, and Paul

For healthcare workers, first responders and all frontline workers: especially Chris Abplanalp, Jennifer Ascoli, Eric Bland, Laura Bland, Tracy Carrasquillo, Gussie Carter, Paul Crook, Robert Crutcher, Lauren Dickinson, Brian Hoffmann, Rachel Klavan, Rebecca Krey, Worth Lewis, Anne Byrd Mahoney, Jimmy Milley, Sally Prillaman, Alex Skidmore, Kaylyn Tucker, Banks Turner, William Welch, Peter Wilbanks, Margaret Williams, and Judith Zerkle

For the newly born: especially Anne Massie Meredith, daughter of Sara and W. Massie Meredith, Jr. who was born recently

For all celebrating their birthdays this week: especially Kara Bleecher, Leila Jones, John Jordan, IV, Jana McQuaid, Judy Philpott, and Hill Stoever who celebrate their birthdays today

For those who have died recently: especially Chuckie Jackson



Our church family will come together virtually on Christmas Eve, and we hope you will be with us. Our beautiful sanctuary – adorned by exquisite flowers and illumined by glowing candles – will be fully captured by a professional film crew for an unforgettable Christmas Eve experience. The church will ring with the sound of organ and voices singing your favorite carols – “O come, all ye faithful,” “Angels we have heard on high,” Hark! the herald angels,” “Away in a manger” and “Silent night,” sung by candlelight on the steps of the church. The service will be streamed at 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Facebook and www.doers.org, and available thereafter on YouTube.

House Church - A beautiful Christmas Eve liturgy will also be available on the church website for use at home or by House Church group during the twelve-day season of Christmas.

We hope you will plan to make worship at St. James’s a part of your families’ Christmas.

Music Notes



“O sing unto God with the voice of melody.” -Psalm 47:1

Come, thou long-expected Jesus (sung by the Youth Choir) is my arrangement of a duet is George Frederick Handel’s *Judas Maccabeus*. The oratorio tells the story recorded in the First Book of Maccabees in the the Apocrypha: Prior to the year 165 BC, the Jewish people who dwelled in Judea where living under the rule of the Greek kings of Damascus. During this time Seleucid King Antiochus Epiphanes took control of the Temple in Jerusalem and forced the Jewish people to abandon their worship of God, their holy customs and reading of the Torah, and he made them bow down to the Greek gods. King Antiochus IV defiled the temple by sacrificing a pig on the altar and spilling its blood on the holy scrolls of Scripture. As a result of the severe persecution a group of four Jewish brothers, led by Judas Maccabaeus, decided to raise up an army who came to be known as the Maccabees. The warriors fought for three years until achieving victory and deliverance from the Greco-Syrian control. After regaining the Temple, it was cleansed and cleared of all idolatry and rededicated in 165 BC. In the Temple, the eternal flame of God was to be lit at all time as a symbol of God’s presence. According to tradition, when the Temple was rededicated there was only enough oil left in the temple to burn the flame for one day. The rest of the oil had been defiled by the Greeks during their invasion, and it would take a week for new oil to be processed and purified. But at the rededication, the Maccabees lit the eternal flame with the remaining supply of oil, and God caused it to burn for eight days, until the new sacred oil was ready. This is why the feast is also called the Festival of Lights, and why the Hanukkah Menorah is lit for eight consecutive nights. The tradition is echoed by Christians with the lighting of the Advent candle. The Feast of Lights is recorded in John 10: 22-23: “Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon’s Colonnade.” As a Jew, Jesus most certainly would have participated in the Feast of Dedication. The Feast of Dedication came to be known as Hanukkah or the Feast of Lights.

A Hymn to the Virgin was composed by the British Composer Benjamin Britten (1913-76). It is one of the earliest surviving pieces of church music written by Britten, composed when he was 16 years old. The text is an anonymous 18th-centruy macaronic carol taken from the Oxford Book of English Verse. Britten remained fond of *A Hymn to the Virgin*, and requested that it be performed at his funeral. St. James’s Choir sang *Hymn to the Virgin* at St. Peter’s Basilica (Rome) on June 30, 2013.

In case you missed previous **Music at St. James's**, here are links:

- 9/20 Liz Nance– A Celtic Blessing (M. Whitmire)
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIr4o8ddtUFgkFHcKIguFKQ>
- 9/27 Knox Hubbard– What good am I? (Dylan)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DFF7VFCtg>
- 10/4 Berkeley Crane, Winston Crane - O praise the Lord who made all beauty (Hopson)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z93KIAKV3RA>
- 10/11 Heather Jones– I will sing new songs of gladness (Dvorak)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLw5hBePEIA>
- 10/18 Nathan Bick - Then shall the righteous shine (Mendelssohn)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7WUd5clKAg>
- 10/25 Diane Wright, Sam Zimmer, Knox Hubbard, Scott Milstead - Come to Jesus
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjrwwu1uzRY>
- 11/1 Elisabeth Eckstein, Julianne Eckstein - I sing a song of the saints of God
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSZea3DcE_E
- 11/15 Lisa Edward Burrs, Anthony Dowd, Matt Hall, Aaron Binder - He's got the whole world
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4o-tlLc1kC0>
- Molly Sharp, Roberts Wadsworth - Be thou my vision (arr. M. Whitmire)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-87qrIBykLo>
- 11/22 Massie Valentine, Hank Artz, Scott Milstead, Molly Sharp – O love that will not let me go
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Z-jST1ek3M>
- 11/29 Chamber Choir – E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come (Manz)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcLDfky6IUM&feature=youtu.be>

Virtual Choir Links

- Sicut cervus (Palestrina)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBE828xCRwE&fbclid=IwAR0Eljn2KOj99I1q6sEhxyU3qbbkOO0XEql4gguBAuHU3h3Tfv-Tbcae6pY>
- Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake (Farrant)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqELCw0uXsU&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0Eljn2KOj99I1q6sEhxyU3qbbkOO0XEql4gguBAuHU3h3Tfv-Tbcae6pY>
- If ye love me (Tallis)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDGaKW-A2zg&feature=youtu.be>
- Ubi caritas (Gjelo)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0FrP0CrEmc&feature=youtu.be>