



St. James's Episcopal Church

December 14, 2025

10:00 am

Welcome!

We're delighted you have joined us for worship today. St. James's is a community drawn together by our love of God and our desire to serve as "doers of the word," as our patron St. James wrote in his letter, and which is inscribed on our building and over our altar, too.

We especially welcome you if you are new or visiting among us. Please sit where you like, wear what you like, and join us in prayer and singing if you like. Some folks who are new to the Episcopal tradition just sit and let the beauty of our worship wash over them for a while. Some of us prefer to stand for prayers while others kneel. God is not picky about this.

If you receive communion at your home church, you're welcome to receive it at St. James's, too. We will bring communion to you in your seat if you need us to—just let one of the ushers know. After the services, one of the clergy will be in the chapel (on the left side of the sanctuary) for prayer and blessings.

There are many opportunities here for worship, education, service, and fellowship. We'd like to include you in our life together, so there is a card in your pew that you can fill out and drop in the offering plate, or hand it to one of the clergy, to let us know a little about you and what you are looking for at St. James's. We also encourage you to visit our website (www.doers.org) to learn more about us and to sign up for our eChimes weekly newsletter.

Children are an important part of our community. We do offer a nursery for infants and toddlers (four and under) but children of all ages are always welcome to be with their parents in church. After the Gospel, young children can follow the cross to the Children's Chapel (they'll return during the passing of the peace), and we invite children to come to the altar rail for a closer view during the Eucharistic prayers.

Restrooms are located downstairs from the narthex (where the front doors are). Any of our ushers will be happy to direct you.

The eChimes

If you would like to subscribe to the eChimes and our other online communications, please visit the QR code on the right.



St. James's Episcopal Church
The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025
10 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Before the liturgy, in silence, talk to God. During the liturgy, let God speak to you.

After the liturgy, speak to one another. Please silence all electronic devices.

Prelude: Psalm 42 Chorale and Toccata

David N. Johnson

Introit: O Oriens

Plainchant

O Dawn, splendor of eternal light, and sun of justice,
come, and shine on those seated in darkness,
and in the shadow of death.

The people stand as able.

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

Advent Lighting Prayer

Celebrant

Lord God, let your 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.*

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer 355

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

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

Collect for Purity

Celebrant

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.*

Kyrie S95 (*The people echo each petition sung by the Cantor.*)

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

*BCP*212

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The people sit.

Epistle: James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:4-9 *Lauda, anima mea*

setting: M. Whitmire

After the Choir sings "Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming," the People sing the following Antiphon:

Come, let us sing, sing unto the Lord come let us sing, sing to him for joy.

Come, let us sing, sing unto the Lord come let us sing, sing to him for joy.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

who keeps his promise for ever;
Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger. *Antiphon*

The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
The LORD shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah! *Antiphon*

The people stand as able.

Hymn 72: *Richmond*, “Hark! the glad sound!”

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John the Baptist heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Children’s Procession (*The children may follow the cross into the Children’s Chapel at this time if they wish.*)

Sermon: The Reverend Beth Franklin

The people stand as able.

Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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 worshiped 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 Leader and People pray responsively, standing or kneeling

Prayers of the People, Form VI

BCP 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace
For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sarah, the appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, for Sean, our
Presiding Bishop, and Mark, Gayle, and Mark, our Bishops, and for all
bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially:

Leader and People

*Robbie and family, Tom, Denise, Parker, Carlton, Perry, John, Dave,
Walter, Schnucki, Bunky, Jeanette, Zinzi, Bobby, Bill, Dennis, Doug, Bob,
Jonathan, Andrew, Katie, Amelia, and Frances*

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your
eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Celebrant

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the
multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who

turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Priest 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 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.*

Celebrant

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 people stand as able.

Peace

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people sit.

Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion



Offertory

To make a gift online, you may use the QR code on the right.

Anthem: In heavenly love

John Ness Beck

In heavenly love abiding my shepherd cares for me;
he watches over my loved ones and longs for me to see
that heaven and earth are bound together by love and unity.
In heavenly love abiding my shepherd cares for me
my shepherd, my savior, my master cares for me.

At this time the children may come forward to the altar or the rug for a closer view of the celebration of Holy Communion.

The people stand as able.

Hymn 60 (v. 6): *Conditor, alme siderum*, “To God the Father”

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 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 him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

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

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:

Sanctus S125

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel as able.

Celebrant

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;

Celebrant

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed James, our patron and all the 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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.

As the children return to their parents, the people sing.

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Verse 3 Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation. *Refrain*

Music at Communion

Anthem: Come, thou long-expected Jesus G. F. Handel

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free
From our fear and sins release us,
Let us find out 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. Amen.

Anthem: Comfort Ye my People Goudimel, arr. M. Whitmire
(For text, see Hymn 67)

Canticle 15: Magnificat Betty Pulkingham
(For text, see S247)

The people stand or kneel as able.

Postcommunion Prayer *BCP* 366

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And

now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The people stand as able.

Advent Blessing

May the Son of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Hymn 74: *Valet will ich dir geben*, “Blest be the King whose coming”

Dismissal

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Psalm 42 Chorale Harmonization

Johnson

Special Celebrations and Prayers

People with birthdays or anniversaries during the week and any with special prayer requests may come to the Chapel after the Dismissal to receive a blessing.

*The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in memory of
John Moncure Daniel, Jr. and Joy Beam Daniel*

Service Participants

Preacher: The Reverend Beth Franklin

Celebrant: The Reverend Blake Singer

Lector: Gracie Sumrell

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Catherine Baker, Tom Baker

Acolyte Team 1: Finn Crowley, Colston Pilcher, Grant Ricard, Ford Way;

Crucifers: Caroline McGetrick, Camden Peace, Henry Peace; *Adult Leaders:* Chris Peace, Tanner Pilcher; *Acolyte Coordinators:* Mary Beth Abplanalp, Katie Reed

Altar Guild Team 3: Carole Conner, Sarah Innes, Tyler Kilpatrick,

Liza Leitch; *Leader:* Lucy Meade; *Co-Chairs:* Lucy Meade, Debbie Meigs

Flower Guild Co-Chairs: Jeanette McKittrick, Loretta Miller

Usher Team 8/9: Frances Caldwell, DeWitt Casler, Barbara Hassett, George Jones, Wally Jones, Cary Milley, Bill Nash;

Team Leader: Chad Clinger; *Chief Usher:* Brink Brinkley

Musicians: Cherub Choir, Children's Choir, West Gallery Choir

Psalms: Evelyn Bader, Eugenia Redmond

Soloists (In heavenly love): Tyndall Durham, Flora Kiewiet de Jonge,

Helen Lamberson, Mary Vernon Wortham, William Stegmaier

Soloists: Annie Valentine, Vincent Sanfilippo, Meredith Harbach, Trey Sibley

Organist: Virginia Ewing Whitmire

Director of Music: Dr. Mark Whitmire

Prayers of the People

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

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: for the congregations and clergy of Santa Maria in Falls Church, St. Barnabas in Annandale, and Westover in Charles City

For all celebrating their birthdays this week, especially those who celebrate their birthdays today: Ellen Bray, Kevin Burger, Jamie Cann, Meg Coogan, Pierson Franklin, David Harbach, Stacey Harbach, Charlie Hudson, Thomas Jenkins, Jay Jordan, and Haley Vinyard

Weekly Announcements

Tonight's Worship & Fellowship

We hope to see you tonight at 4:30 pm at Evensong, followed by the 60+ Social in Michaux House. The Youth will also be gathering on the third floor for A Very Merry Chipotle Christmas Youth Social from 4 to 5:30 pm.

Poinsettia Dedication

The Flower Guild welcomes gifts made in memory of loved ones to help beautify the sanctuary with poinsettias and greenery for Christmas Eve. The deadline to submit names is Tuesday, Dec 16. Your loved one's name(s) will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin insert. The suggested donation is \$25. You can submit your gift and the names in the memo line via the QR code.



Christmas Pageant

Our Annual Christmas Pageant will take place on Sunday, December 21, at 4 pm. All children—3 years through 5th grade—are invited to participate. Please sign up through the QR code. Any Youth interested in participating should reach out to Katie Ricard at youth@doers.org. We are also providing a pizza dinner in Valentine Hall after the Pageant. When you sign up, please let us know if you plan to join us!



Coming Up at St. James's

Mon 12/15	7:00 pm	Our Christmas Hope Service
Tues 12/16	7:30 am	Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
Wed 12/17	10:00 am	Living Faith Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Cherub Choir Rehearsal
	5:00 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	5:00 pm	Advent Class
	6:00 pm	Community Dinner
	7:00 pm	West Gallery Choir Rehearsal
	8:30 pm	Guitar Ensemble Rehearsal
Thurs 12/18	7:30 pm	Parish Choir Rehearsal
Sat 12/20	9:00 am	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Sun 12/21	8:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I
	9:00 am	Formation & Sunday School
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite II
	11:00 am	Coffee & Fellowship
	4:00 pm	Christmas Pageant

Scan for More
Event Info



Music Notes



In heavenly love is by the American composer and arranger of choral music, John Ness Beck (1930-1987). He attended Ohio State University where he completed Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts degrees in music composition. He later served for seven years on the faculty of Ohio State, teaching harmony and theory. In 1972 he established a successful music publishing company. He was a frequent guest conductor and lecturer at music clinics and festivals throughout the country.

Come, thou long expected Jesus is my pairing of music from the oratorio *Judas Maccabaeus* by George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) with a well-known text by Charles Wesley (1757-1834), the English priest who, with his brother John, began the evangelical movement that became Methodism. The historical Judas Maccabaeus led a revolt in 169 B.C. that was instrumental in freeing Judea from Syrian control. The Biblical account is recorded in the Apocrypha. Charles Wesley composed over 9000 hymns,

20 of which appear in Hymnal 1982.

Tonight at 4:30 pm: Evensong followed by Social Hour

Evensong is a perfect way to prepare the heart and soul for the coming week. Music by Herbert Howells and Benjamin Britten. The Rev. Blake Singer will be the Officiant. All are invited to the Social Hour that follows in Valentine Hall where we will sing a few carols to celebrate the season.

Tomorrow, December 15, at 7 pm: Our Christmas Hope

In the midst of the preparations and festivities, some find the holidays to be long, dark nights of the soul, full of struggle with life challenges, grief, and loss of years past and present. This service of healing prayer and reflection includes Irish carols accompanied by accordion, piano, and guitar.

Giving to St. James's

If you have not yet given this year, we invite you to prayerfully consider doing so. Every gift matters—each one is a vital part of the whole—and helps us faithfully and responsibly serve the people of St. James's and the people of Richmond. You can give online via the QR code. Thank you for being a vital part of our parish family. Your presence, prayers, and financial commitments mean more than words can say.



St. James's Episcopal Church

1205 West Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia 23220

804-355-1779 | www.doers.org