

# ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023 10:30 am

## Welcome to St. James's!

We're glad that you have joined us today to enjoy the blessings of worship and to participate with us in God's mission in the world of justice and love.

However you come to this place, exhausted or energized by life, comfortable with church or not, gay or straight, trans, nonbinary, cisfemale or cismale; of color or white, neurodivergent or neurotypical, differently-abled or able-bodied, younger or older! Whoever you are,

know the people of St. James's strive to love and welcome you as God does, unconditionally and completely just as you are!

**10:30 am** The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Acolytes Marian King, Jonte Folkes, Emery Mazzotta,

Patrick Dwyer-Wilmer

Eucharistic Ministers Lauren Rigsby, Laverne Agard-Lynch

Minister of Music Pat Michaels

Preacher & Presider The Rev. Laurie Rofinot

Readers Emery Mazzotta, Ivy Saltzman, Linda Luikel
Ushers Mark Yoder, Ren Aukeman, Meg Aukeman

Videographer Dave Musser, Colin Mazzotta

Welcomer Katherine Gilliland

## The Word of God

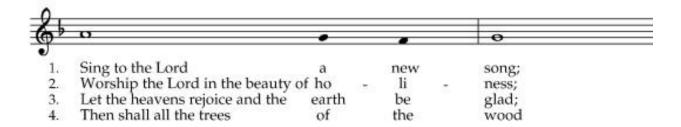
**Prelude** 

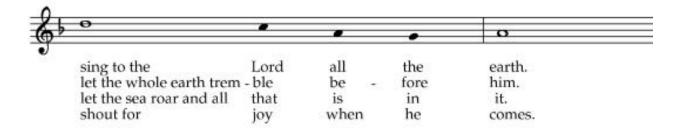
Words of Welcome

**Tolling of the Bell** 

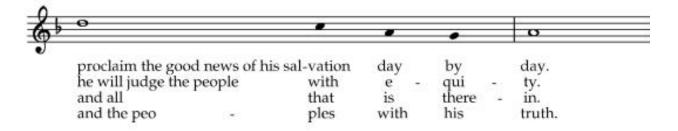


De-clare his glo-ry a-mong all na-tions; and his won-dersa-mong all peo-ple









Native American chant style is slow rather than fast. The first line is intoned by a cantor and then repeated by all. The verses may be sung by a cantor or by all. A hand drum may accompany this chant. It should be played on the beat throughout in a steady manner with no accents.

Words: Carol Gallagher and Michael Plunkett, para. Psalm 96 of The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of

The Episcopal Church, USA. © 1992 Carol Gallagher and Michael Plunkett.

All rights reserved. Used by permission,

Music: Carol Gallagher and Michael Plunkett © 1992 Carol Gallagher and Michael Plunkett.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## **Opening Acclamation**

Presider Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

*People* Glory to God for ever and ever.

## **Collect for Purity**

All then pray

Almighty God, you bring to light things hidden in darkness, and know the shadows of our hearts; cleanse and renew us by your Spirit, that we may walk in your light and glorify your name, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. **Amen.** 

# Song of Praise: Hey Ney Yana



Text and music: Ute children's song arranged by Brooke Medicine Eagle. Used by permission.

# The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.

*People* And also be with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

**The First Reading:** Exodus 24:1,-4, 7-9, 12-20

Emery Mazzotta

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

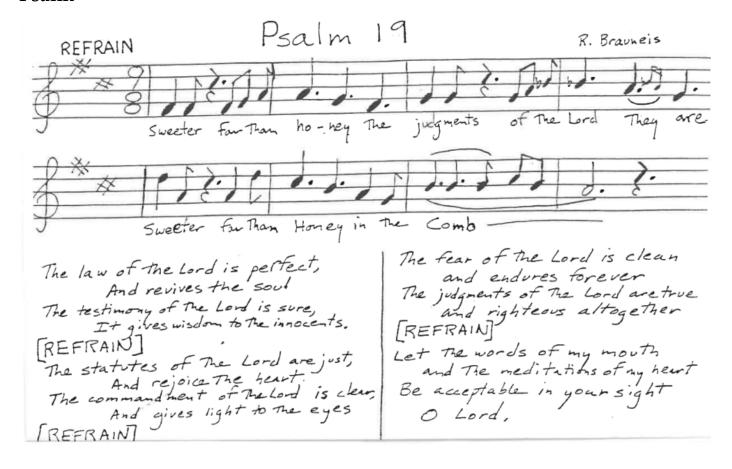
When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and

stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm**



## Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Ivy Saltzman

A reading from the Book of Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as

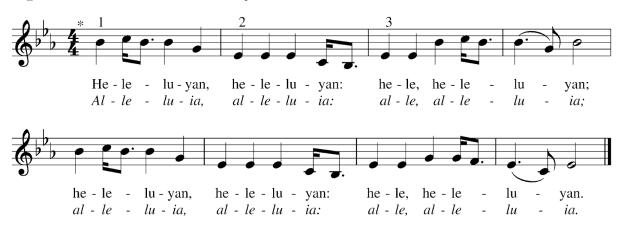
rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

## **Gospel Acclamation:** Heleluyan

**WLP 783** 



<sup>\*</sup> May be sung as a round.

Music: Muscogee (Creek) Indian, tr. Charles Webb. Transcription Copyright © 1989 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.

## The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew. *People* Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they

treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

**Sermon** The Rev. Laurie Rofinot

## **Affirmation of Faith**

Written by the Rev. Roger Scott

The following Creed is written by a member of the Choctaw nation in Oklahoma from his perspective. With his permission, non-indigenous peoples are invited to say it this weekend as a way to learn from and show solidarity with our indigenous siblings.

I believe in God, Creator of our unique native languages, who gifted us this identity as a distinct people through our native tongues, so that our native spiritual leaders could relay God's love to our native people who could not understand that foreign tongue called English.

I believe in Jesus Christ, our relative, who talked of us when he said, "I have other sheep out there, besides those I have here."

I believe in Jesus Christ who knew the pain of our native people who were forced from their homeland and had no place to lay their head.

I believe in Jesus Christ as our Chief Cornerstone as we begin to build a new generation of native spiritual leaders.

I believe in Jesus Christ who does not say "goodbye" in any language but says "I will come again."

I believe in the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire lighting upon our native people to witness to their people and to the world, through the native song and dance.

I believe in the Holy Spirit as our guide and the driving force for our native people to do a new thing as we walk a new journey, toward perfection for all humankind.

**Prayers of the People** (*The people say the responses in bold*)

Linda Luikel

Moved with compassion for all who are on life's journey, let us lift up our hearts and prayers.

For the Church: especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Alan and Carol, our bishops, that through our ministries, God will help us be signs of God's presence in loving deeds and our compassion for all who are in need.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Hear our prayer.** 

For this church family, that we may allow the pain and suffering of others to move our hearts and spirits to a loving response.

Let us pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For peace and justice in the world, that God will heal long standing disputes and guide adversaries to new understanding and trust, let us pray to the Lord.

Let us pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For all who care for those in need, especially those working in food pantries, soup kitchens, outreach ministries, and refugee centers, that they may continue to bring God's love and compassion to those whom they serve.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Hear our prayer.** 

For those affected by hurricanes and other natural disasters, for the scourge of all violence especially from war, for the victims of the racism and transphobia in our country, and for all the sick and the suffering that they may know the tender embrace of God. I invite your prayers at this time, aloud or in silence, for those in danger or in need. (*A time for prayers is kept.*)

Let us pray to the Lord. **Hear our prayer.** 

For all the departed that they may share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. (*A time for prayers is kept.*)

Let us pray to the Lord. **Hear our prayer.** 

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the God-bearer and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

## To you, O Lord our God.

Presider

God of mercy and kindness, who gave us the great commandment of love, hear the prayers we offer this day and grant that we may always bear fruit and lead lives worthy of our calling, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

# Prayer for the Weekend of Indigenous Peoples Day

All then pray

Creator God,

We look at your world and praise you for the diversity all around us.

Thank you for the gift of relationships; our connection with people, animals and the land.

Help us, Lord, to see differences and diversity as strengths.

Help us to listen and understand;

to meet one another with wonder and anticipation.

Help us to love as you love, without expectation.

Reveal to us your way of reconciliation and

guide us into right relationships with all living things.

Lead us to understand how Indigenous peoples have been and continue to be profoundly harmed by settler people and institutions.

Lead us to repent when we as settlers deny Indigenous peoples respect, dignity and fullness of life.

Help us to listen compassionately, to speak humbly and to act justly.

Help us to seek the peace, justice and reconciliation you desire among all your children.

Thank you for your mercy and grace. Amen.

## Confession

Presider Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

All

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Presider then says

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

## The Peace

*Presider* The peace of God be always with you.

People And also with you.

## **Announcements & Celebrations**

The people are now invited to come forward to share announcements, birthday and anniversary blessing requests, or prayer requests. The community's prayer is then gathered as they sing together:

May God bless you; May God keep you; May God's love be with you; May God grant you peace and wisdom; May God ever be with you.

# The Holy Communion

# **Offertory Sentence**

Presider You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may proclaim the excellence of the One who called you out of darkness into the marvelous light.

At this time our gifts and offerings will be collected.

# Offertory Anthem: Long Life Is in Her Right Hand

The Adult Choir

Text: Long life is in her right hand and in her left hand are riches and power. (*Proverbs* 3:16)

# **Presentation Hymn:** Christ the Vine

VF 141

Music: Patrick Michaels



Words: © 1996 Selah Publishing Company, Pittsburgh, PA 15227.

Music: © 1990 Selah Publishing Company, Pittsburgh, PA 15227. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you. Presider Lift up your hearts.

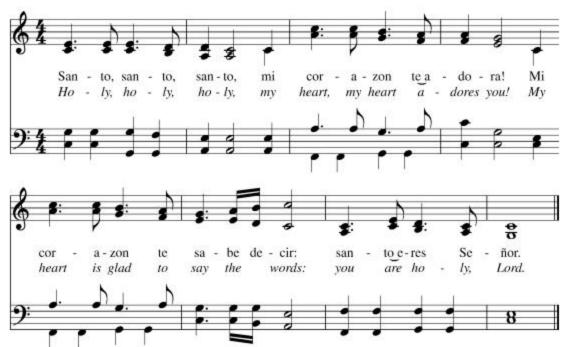
*People* We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

## The Presider says

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Sanctus WLP 785



Words: Variation on a liturgical traditional text Music: Composer unknown. Arr. @1990 Iona Community, admin. by GIA Publications. One License #A-700155

The Presider 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,

Presider and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

*Presider* 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, draw all things into reconciliation through your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with James, Mary, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

#### The Presider continues

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

## As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing:

## Lord's Prayer (Zambian)

(Soloists sing the words in italics. The congregation joins in unitalicized language.)

Hear our plea, dear Father we pray; shower upon us your heav'nly grace that we may be your people Glorifying you.

Lord, our Father, in heaven abiding, may your name always be hallowed by us. Your will is righteous and ever consistent, in heaven and also on earth.

Give us this day what we really have need of. Please forgive us the sins we've committed. Help us forgive all the sins of our neighbor as you have forgiven us ours.

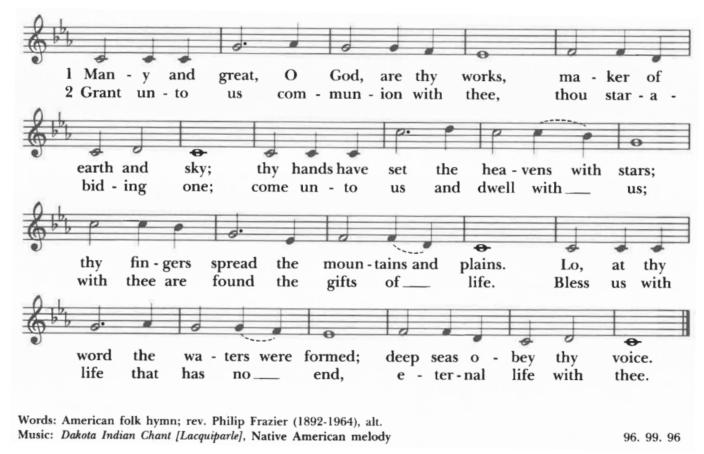
Far from temptation we ask you to lead us. Save us also from all that is evil. Yours is the kingdom, the power, the glory at this time and world without end.

Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. Forever and ever. Amen.

Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. Forever and ever. Amen.

Words: Howard Olson ©Augsburg Publishing. Used by permission. OneLicense.net Lic # A-700155

## **The Breaking of the Bread** (Silence is kept)



## The Invitation

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## **Administration of Communion**

The people are invited to come forward to receive communion when directed by an usher.

Those that wish a contactless blessing or a gluten-free, allergen-free wafer are welcome to ask for that.

All are welcome and encouraged to receive Communion from God's table.

## Communion Anthem: As for You

The Greenleaf Choir

Text: As for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father. (John 8:38)

Music: Patrick Michaels

MHSO 31





words: Fractional, Music: Democratic Republic of Congo. Source unknown © copyright control. Arr Edo Bumba © 1997 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland) (admin. GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 [www.giamusic.com].) All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# **Post Communion Prayer** (Please stand as you are able)

Presider Let

Let us pray.

People

We thank you Creator God for feeding us, nurturing us and reminding us that you are ever present, our Companion. As we leave this Sacred Circle, may we carry away the memory of this time together so that we may continue in the risen life of Christ, the one who comes that all people might live with dignity and in peace. Amen.

## **Blessing**

Presider

Send us anywhere you would have us go, only go there with us. Place upon us any burden you desire, only stand by us to sustain us. Break any tie that binds us, except the tie that binds us to you.

And the blessing of God; the Creator, who made and knows us; the Savior, who redeems and befriends us; and the Spirit, who enlightens and sustains us, be with you this day and always **Amen.** 

## Closing Hymn: What does the Lord require



Words: Albert F. Bayly (b. 1901), alt.

Music: Sharpthorne, Erik Routley (1917-1982)

Music: Copyright © 1969 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

#### **Dismissal**

*Presider* Let us go forth into the world,

rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### **Postlude**

Saint James's Episcopal Church
1991 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02140
Website: www.stjamescambridge.org
Office Email: office@stjamescambridge.org
Emergency Pastoral Line: 857-600-1329

*Interested in speaking to a priest or asking for prayers? Email Rev. Matt at* matt@stjamescambridge.org

Want to donate to St. James's? Visit the website or follow the QR code here:



St. James's Episcopal Church Welcomes You!
I am: visiting just for today. I wish: to be on the church mailing list.
seeking a new church home to receive a call or email from St. James's.
Please circle items below you'd like information about:
Church School/Choir/Bible Study/Food Pantry
I'd like prayer for:
Name(s):
Address:
City: Zip:
Phone:
Email address:
Please fill this form out and place it in the offering plate or the church office.