



**ST. JAMES'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The First Sunday after Christmas

**December 31, 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,
those that are disabled and those that are non-disabled, 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 First Sunday after Christmas, Morning Prayer, Rite II

<i>Minister of Music</i>	Pat Michaels
<i>Officiant & Preacher</i>	Tamasin Milner-Wohlers
<i>Reader</i>	JT Kittredge
<i>Usher</i>	Mark Agard
<i>Welcomer</i>	JT Kittredge
<i>Videographer</i>	Steve Clark

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn: Go tell it on the mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their
2 The shep - herds feared and
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain

hold, through-out the hea-vens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Words: Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (b. 1901)
 Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.;
 arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935)

The Invitatory and Psalter

Opening Versicle

Officiant Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!
Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

All Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Invitatory Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7

1. Come, let us sing with joy un - to the Lord,
2. Great is our God and great - ly to be praised,
3. Come, let us kneel be - fore the Lord our God;

5
and for our sav - ing Rock let us re - joice.
sov - ereign a - bove all powers of heaven and earth.
9
to our Cre - a - tor let all hearts draw near.

13
In - to God's pres - ence come with hymns of praise;
Both depths and heights are held with - in God's hand,
This is our God, who cares for us like sheep

17
with thank - ful hearts new psalms and an - thems raise,
who made the sea and mold - ed the dry land,
and who with stead - fast love our lives will keep.

till all earth's tongues be joined in one great voice.
and from whose life all crea - tures have their birth.
Oh, that to - day you would God's call - ing hear!

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr.

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Psalm 147:13-21

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

The First Reading: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

JT Kittredge

Reader A reading from the Book of Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle: Tell out, my soul (*The Song of Mary*)

H 437

1 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his Name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*
 Music: *Birmingham*, from *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813; harm. *Songs of Praise*, 1925
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Reader A reading from the Gospel of John

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 11: The Song of Zechariah (*Said together by all*)

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 God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Sermon

Tamasin Milner-Wohlens

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.

Offertory Sentence

Officiant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Hymn: The Christmas Child is a troublesome child

Unison

1. The Christ-mas Child is a trou-ble-some child, as trou-ble-some as the Word
2. The Christ-mas Child is a gen-er-ous child, ex-trav-a-gant in ex-cess,
3. The Christ-mas Child is a trou-ble-some child, as trou-ble-some as the Word

4
that stirred the wa-ters from the deep and let God's voice be heard.
who spends the coin of life and hope to re-cre-ate and bless.
that stirred the wa-ters from the deep and let God's voice be heard.

8
The Christ-mas Child is a spir-it-ed child who ques-tions giv-en rule,
The Christ-mas Child is a dan-ger-ous child when to a pro-phet grown,
The Christ-mas Child is a lu-mi-nous child whose peace the an-gels sing,

12
who flouts con-ven-tion's pi-ous face, who laughs and plays the fool.
whose vi-sion takes a thorn-y path, whose cross may be our own.
whose star no dark-ness o-ver-comes, whose life lights ev-ery-thing.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray

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TROUBLESOME CHILD

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The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant Hear our cry, O God.

People And listen to our prayer

Officiant Let us pray.

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

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord;

People And grant us your salvation.

Officiant Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People Let your people sing with joy.

Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People For only in you can we live in safety.

Officiant Keep this nation under your care;

People And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Officiant Let your way be known upon earth;

People Your saving health among all nations.

Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collect of the Day

The Officiant says

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Collect for Peace and Forgiveness

The Officiant says

Loving God of all the earth, we pray for those who perpetrate injustices in the Holy Land and everywhere, regardless of their motives; we pray that you will change their hearts and fill them with the spirit of mercy. Teach us all the pathways of peace and forgiveness. Spirit of comfort whose glory covers the face of our earth, comfort the oppressed, give shelter to those who have lost their homes, and let your peace dwell in every heart. With thankful hearts we pray in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Collect for Mission

All say this prayer together:

O gracious and loving God, you work everywhere reconciling, loving, and healing your people and your creation. In your Son and through the power of your Holy Spirit, you invite each of us to join you in your work. We, young and old, lay and ordained, ask you to form us more and more in your image and likeness, through our prayer and worship of you and through the study of your scripture, that our eyes will be fully opened to your mission in the world. Then, God, into our communities, our nation, and the world, send us to serve with Christ, taking risks to give life and hope to all people and all of your creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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.**

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.

Benediction

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of the Incarnate Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:
Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church,
and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: A stable lamp is lighted



1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose
 2 (This) child through Da - vid's ci - ty Shall
 3 (Yet) he shall be for - sak - en, And
 4 (But) now, as at the end - ing, The



glow shall wake the sky; The stars shall bend their voic - es,
 ride in tri - umph by; The palm shall strew its branch - es,
 yield - ed up to die; The sky shall groan and dark - en,
 low is lift - ed high; The stars shall bend their voic - es,



And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry;
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,



And straw like gold shall shine; A barn shall har - bor hea - ven,
 Though hea - vy, dull, and dumb, And lie with - in the road - way
 For ston - y hearts of men: God's blood up - on the spear - head,
 In prais - es of the Child By whose de - scent a - mong us



A stall be - come a shrine. _____ 2 This
 To pave his king - dom come. _____ 3 Yet
 God's love re - fused a - gain. _____ 4 But
 The worlds are rec - on - ciled. _____



Words: © Richard Wilbur (b. 1921)
 Music: *Andújar*, David Hurd (b. 1950)

76. 76. 66. 76

The Peace

Officiant The peace of God be always with you.

People And also with you.

The community is now invited to greet each other and depart when they so wish.



*Saint James's Episcopal Church
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*Interested in speaking to a priest or asking for prayers?
Email Rev. Matt at matt@stjamescambridge.org*

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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.