



# eTower



A weekly email publication for the community  
of St. James Church in College Hill

## Message of the Moment

### Meditation of Preparation

Each year we light the candle of hope and do our best to put ourselves in the place of the magi, patiently studying the stars in hope that one night they might see the star of God's coming; or in the place of Simeon or Anna who went to the temple every morning, hoping that they would be there when the Messiah came. —*Richard Groves*



### Meditation of Commitment

When I take a tally of the people who surrounded Jesus in the days leading up to and following his birth, a great many of them seem to fit these descriptions: Mary the humble peasant girl, Joseph the patient carpenter, the coarse shepherds — and those two elderly saints of the Temple community, Anna and Simeon. Because of their faithfulness, we anticipate the coming of true, complete joy and peace — light in the midst of darkness. Advent is upon us, and it's time for us to take on the roles of these pageant personalities. As people of the light, we have an obligation to shine. As sacred salt, we need to be useful to Christ. — *Mark McClintock, from "Salt, Light & Advent"*

Yours in Christ,  
Mother Dawn+

## First Things First

**Thank you to all** who have returned your completed pledge cards to the church. If you still want to submit your pledge, it's not too late. No gift is too small. Extra pledge forms are available at the front desk.

**Breakfast Sunday, St. Nicholas Bazaar, and visit from Santa...!** It's all happening **Sunday, Dec. 12** in the Guild Hall between services. Come enjoy a hot breakfast buffet, shop the bazaar and then pose for Santa selfies! Proceeds from the bazaar will go to ECW. We need donations of your holiday treats to sell. Please bring them (packaged and priced) to the parking lot kitchen door between noon and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11. Anyone who has a craft or unique gift to sell is invited to rent a table for the customary 20% donation. Setup will be Saturday afternoon, Dec. 11 in the Guild Hall. Please email [bowman.peg@gmail.com](mailto:bowman.peg@gmail.com) and let us know how many tables you need.

**The churches of the Wichita Minster** are having an Advent/Christmas Festival of Music from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at St. John's Episcopal Church (402 N. Topeka) with a light reception to follow in the undercroft.

## Readings This Week



Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**[Click here to go to the Lectionary Page](#)**

**[Click here for a free PDF download of the Book of Common Prayer](#)**

**Lessons appointed for the First Sunday of Advent:**

**[Jeremiah 33:14-16](#)**

**[1 Thessalonians 3:9-13](#)**

**[Luke 21:25-36](#)**

**[Psalm 25:1-9](#)**

## Calendar

Click here to view our  
current calendar of events

Calendar

## Parish News and Updates

**The Heart of America Men's Chorus** will perform "CineMagic — Christmas from the Big Screen" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19 at St. James. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and \$5 for children under 12. Call 316-708-4837 for tickets.

**OPUS (Older People Up to Something)** is returning, but new coordinators are needed to help reimagine and reorganize the get-togethers. Diana Williams has volunteered to be a co-chair. Please call Diana at 509-942-4348 or email her at [rkwddw@cox.net](mailto:rkwddw@cox.net).

## Children and Youth

We are in need of **nursery volunteers**. Please consider joining this fruitful ministry. [Please click here to email Chelsea.](#)

**Children's Sunday School and Children's Chapel** will be at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 5. We will be entering into the Promised Land, doing some Advent activities and talking about the Season of Advent.

## Outreach

# THE GIVING TREE IS HERE!



**CHOOSE A NAME TAG**

**WRITE YOUR NAME AND THE RECIPIENT'S NAME  
ON THE CLIPBOARD**

**GIFT CARDS ARE PROBABLY THE BEST CHOICE, THIS YEAR**

Please put the gift card in an envelope or inside a Christmas card or box.

If you buy a present, please bring it wrapped.

**ATTACH THE NAME TAG TO THE ENVELOPE OR PACKAGE**

**BRING YOUR GIFT TO THE CHURCH NO LATER  
THAN DECEMBER 12**



**Donations will be used to purchase gift cards. Make check out to St. James Church,  
with "Giving Tree" or "Christmas Project" on the memo line.**

The Outreach Committee, Breakthrough/ESS, Kansas Children's Service League and St. Francis Ministries  
thank you for making Christmas special for the



To thank the St. James congregation for their generous support of our Outreach projects, our committee recorded choral readings of psalms to be sent out in the eTower each week of Advent. This week's psalm, Psalm 31, is read by Mary Klocke, Sarah Robinson and Susan Graybill. Enjoy.

The St. James Outreach Committee learned about an exciting organization called **Global Faith in Action** when **Chelsea Whipple** spoke to our group this month. St. James is a charter member of this organization, and we will be helping them with several events.

## Wichita Minster News

**YAW (Young Adults Wichita)** is a ministry of the Wichita Minster led by Deacon Dillon Green. It includes members from St. James, St. John's, Good Shepherd and St. Stephen's. We meet weekly, currently at 6 p.m. Mondays (time/dates subject to change). If you know anyone interested in participating, please connect them with Dillon at 256-762-5110 or **by email**.

The minster has a new page on our website. **[Click here for more minster news.](#)**

## Prayer

### Parish Prayers for the Week of Nov. 28

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for our Full Communion Partner, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**In the World Council of Churches Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for the people of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.

**In the Kansas Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for St. James, Wichita.

**Pray for those serving in the military:** Will Corkins, J. David Anderson-Lusk and Maureen Tanner.

**Pray for those who have died:** Hugh Auchterlonie, Lillian Roosevelt, Charles Daily, Jayne Milburn, Mary Albright, June Morell, Gladys Osborne and Peggy Duncan.

**Pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity:** Denise, Gretchen, Pat, Marilyn, Sue, Buck, Pam, Danny, Brad G., David, Darwin, Jim T., Sage, Gary, Ian, Mary (niece of Kate Miller), Helen, Laura, Jean, Marge, Dal, Jayne, Betty, Gus, Bob, Joe, Jerry, Larry, Mary, George, Carly, Tom, Cindy, Cathy, Kam, all people with COVID-19, and all health care workers.

**In Thanksgiving for:** Palmer Randall Wells, the first child of Shannon Johnston and Troy Wells. He was born on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

**Our Parish Prayer List:** All members of our parish community are asked

to pray for each person on our prayer list. To share your prayers of thanksgiving (births, weddings, new jobs, anniversaries, etc.), to notify us that someone you love is serving in the military, to share that you or someone you love is suffering, or to tell us of a death, please call 316-683-5686 or email [office@stjameswichita.org](mailto:office@stjameswichita.org).

**If your prayers have been answered,  
we would love to rejoice with you.  
Please let us know so your name may be removed  
from our list of people most urgently in need. Thank you.**

## Let Us Pray

### **The General Thanksgiving**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.  
*Book of Common Prayer*

### **Collect for Thanksgiving Day**

Almighty and gracious God, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.  
*Book of Common Prayer*

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks that demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments that satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we

thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he conquered death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

*Book of Common Prayer*

### **Traditional Table Graces and Thanksgiving Prayers**

Bless, O Lord, this food to our use,  
and us to thy service,  
and make us ever mindful  
of the needs of others. Amen.

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts  
which we are about to receive from thy bounty,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,  
Let these thy gifts to us be blessed. Amen.

Be present at our table, Lord;  
be here and everywhere adored.  
Bless these thy gifts and grant that we  
may feast in fellowship with thee. Amen.

### **Thanksgiving Prayer from “We Thank Thee” by Ralph Waldo Emerson**

For this new morning with its light,  
Father, we thank thee.  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
Father, we thank thee  
For health and food, for love and friends,  
For everything thy goodness sends,  
Father in heaven, we thank thee. Amen.

### **Thanksgiving Prayer for Harvest Time**

Loving God, all that we have  
comes from your goodness  
and the work of those who love us.  
Bless us and the food we share.  
Watch over those who care for us.  
Open our eyes to the needs of the poor  
during this time of harvest and thanksgiving.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
*From Blessings and Prayers through the Year, Elizabeth  
McMahon Jeep*

### **A Word of Thanks**

For health and strength and daily food;  
for all the joys that make life worth living;  
for the opportunity to help those  
who need us so very much,

we give you thanks, O God. In Jesus' name. Amen.  
*From Pilgrim Prayers for Mealtime, Alexander Campbell*

### Thanksgiving Prayer "That We May be Renewed"

Loving God,  
bless our food and drink  
our friendship and our laughter  
that we may be renewed  
in body, mind, and spirit  
to work together  
for the coming of your kingdom  
of justice, love, and peace. Amen.

*By Maureen Edwards, Blessed be our Table*

### The Hand that Made the Hands

For the hands that tilled,  
for the hands that harvested,  
for the hands that processed,  
for the hands that transported,  
for the hands that stocked,  
for the hands that sold,  
for the hands that bought,  
for the hands that prepared,  
for the hands that will hold,  
for the hand that made the hands,  
our hearts are forever grateful. Amen.

*By Ewan Aitken, Blessed be our Table*

### A Scottish Grace

Praise to God who giveth meat.  
Convenient unto all who eat.  
Praise for tea and buttered toast,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.  
*From Saying Grace, Sarah McElwain*

## Helpful Links

[View Last Week's Service](#)

[Contribute to St. James Church](#)

[Parish Leadership](#)



**Whoever you are and  
wherever you find yourself  
on your journey of faith,  
you are welcome here.**



St. James  
Episcopal Church  
CELEBRATING  
  
YEARS  
1920-2020  
A COMMUNION  
OF SAINTS

## Get in Touch with St. James Episcopal Church



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