



# ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*College Hill, Wichita, Kansas*

5:30 PM, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023

8:30 AM AND 10:45 AM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*All directions about kneeling and standing are for those who are able.*

*Masks are welcome, but not required.*

*If making manual acts is part of your piety, these symbols indicate appropriate times (among others) to make these motions.*

✙ - reverence (bow)

✚ - sign of the cross

## HOLY EUCHARIST

### THE PRELUDE

*Shared on Sunday.*

“To Follow a Star”

LANI SMITH

*Bells may be rung. The people stand as they are able.*

### THE OPENING HYMN

**HYMN 59**

*Please remain standing. Sung on Sunday.*

“Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding”

MERTON

### WELCOME & OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Please remain standing.*

*Presider* Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One. *Baruch 5:5*

*Presider* Blessed are you, holy and living God.

*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

**HYMN 56, v. 7-8**

*Designated family or individuals come forward to light candles on the advent wreath.*

*Please remain standing as you are able. Sung on Sunday.*

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

VENI VENI EMMANUEL

### Info for worship

We invite you to follow the service and take part in a way that feels right to you.

BCP - Book of Common Prayer, or Prayer Book, (red book);

Hymnal (blue book); Hymn numbers beginning with 'S' are found in the front of the Hymnal.

### Manual Acts

If making manual acts is part of your piety, these symbols indicate appropriate times (among others) to make these motions.

✙ - reverence (bow)

✝ - sign of the cross

### Our Language

At St. James Church we use language which we hope expands our sense of God and includes all people as beloved children of God.

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Please remain standing.*

*Leader* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires are 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 Savior. **Amen.**

## KYRIE

**HYMN S86**

*Please remain standing. Spoken at 5:30 & 8:30. Sung at 10:45.*

“Kyrie eleison”

DAVID HURD

*Presider* Kyrie eleison.

*All* **Christe eleison.**

*Presider* Kyrie eleison.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Please remain standing.*

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Presider* 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### GAUDETE SUNDAY

## THE FIRST LESSON

**ISAIAH 61: 1-4, 8-11**

*Reader* A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall

raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has

blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord *or*  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE RESPONSE

## PSALM 126

*Please remain seated. Spoken at 5:30 & 8:30. The psalm may be spoken in unison, or responsively by whole or half verse. Sung at 10:45 by the choir. The people may join the choir in singing the psalm.*



- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- †3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

## Gaudete Sunday

The third Sunday of Advent in the liturgy of the church year. The term is derived from the Latin opening words of the introit antiphon, "Rejoice (Gaudete) in the Lord always." The theme of the day expresses the joy of anticipation at the approach of the Christmas celebration. This theme reflects a lightening of the tone of the traditional Advent observance. This Sunday was also known as "Rose Sunday." It is not a required observance in the Episcopal Church, but it is often reflected by the practice of including a pink or rose-colored candle among the four candles of an Advent wreath.

## Advent in Liturgy

There is a common theme in the Gospel readings of Advent. They focus on preparation or making straight the path of the Lord, and remind us of the importance of preparing our hearts for Our Savior and making room for Christ's presence in our lives. The liturgical color used in advent is blue (similar to the purple of Lent), and represents prayer, penance, and preparation for the coming of Christ both on Christmas Day and at the second coming.

## An Advent Wreath

Advent wreaths are traditionally made from evergreen branches and have four candles with a fifth in the center. The evergreen color of the wreath stands for ongoing hope and life because Christ is alive among us, and through him we are given a life of grace, spiritual growth, and hope – even in the midst of winter. The Advent wreath originated from a pagan European tradition of lighting candles during the winter to ask the sun god to return with light and warmth. The circle of the wreath is a geometric figure that has neither a beginning nor an end. It symbolizes that the love of God does not have a beginning or an end; it encompasses unity and eternity. It is a sign of the unending love of God and that loving our neighbors must never stop.

## Gospels of the Liturgical Year

The new church year (Year B) starts with the season of Advent on December 2 & 3. We have spent the last year in liturgical Year A. It highlighted the Gospel of Matthew. In Year B, the primary gospel used is that of Mark. In Advent 2024, Year C will begin with its focus on the gospel of Luke. Through all liturgical years the gospel of John is a supplement to the year's gospel. In worship at St. James, we follow the Revised Common Lectionary and usually read Scripture lessons from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

## THE SECOND LESSON

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

*Reader* A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from

every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord *or*  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL HYMN

HYMN 640

*Please stand as you are able. Sung at 10:45.*

“Watchman, tell us of the night”

ABERYSTWYTH

✦ *As the gospel book passes by. Please turn to face the Gospel with reverence for the Word.*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let

us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany

across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*Deacon* The Gospel of our Savior  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE SERMON

PAUL LEEKER, WORSHIP LEADER

*Please be seated. At the conclusion of the sermon a moment of silent reflection is observed.*

## THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

*Please stand as you are able.*

*All* **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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

*Please kneel or stand as you are able.*

*Leader* In the season of Advent you may kneel or stand for the prayers of the People.

*Leader* Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

*Leader* That God's reign may be brought in with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

### The Historic Creed

We say the Creed as our response to the Word of God. In these historic words, we take ownership of the Creed's cosmic narrative about God's disclosure to humanity. It affirms the source of everything that is including the story of Jesus becoming human. Its conclusion affirms the work of the Holy Spirit in the church, in one baptism, and in our hope for the life to come. The Nicene Creed is a sign of unity with Christians throughout all times and places. Though originally composed at an ancient time (325 CE), it expresses key insights into the nature of God and creation. This version follows the Greek original precisely by saying "was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary," to emphasize that Mary was an active participant in the Incarnation. The words "and the Son," were not a part of the original Greek text of the Creed and are not included. At its General Convention of 1988 The Episcopal Church said they favored this omission. The decision was later approved by the Lambeth Conference of the Anglican Communion.

### That blank space in the PoP

A pause in speaking the prayers is often taken during the Prayers of the People. At such times, you are invited to add your own intercessions to the prayers of the congregation either silently or aloud.

- Leader* That God may establish among the nations God's scepter of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize Our Savior in the breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord:
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen. In our hearts and with our voices we lift in prayer those who are sick, suffering, or in any adversity: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Leader* Let us pray to the Lord:
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death, especially: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Leader* Let us pray to the Lord:
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world, let us pray to the Lord:
- People* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader* We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our divine Creator: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Silence.*
- Presider* Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of your redeeming work; for Christ is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.
- Amen.**

### The Power of Prayer

Sharing announcements when we are together for worship is a sign of vital parish life. We try to balance that vigor with the current of liturgical energy which moves us from our initial gathering to the altar and the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. Brief, necessary announcements in this season attempts to allow the spirit of our worship prayer to continue unbroken.

## CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

*Deacon* At the second coming, God will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*Please kneel or stand as you are able. A moment of silence is observed.*

*All* **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 our Savior 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 Presider stands and says:*

*Presider* 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.**

## **INVITATION TO THE PEACE**

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Leader* In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Presider* The Peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The People greet one another in Christ while respecting the personal space of neighbors. After greeting, please be seated for the announcements.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please be seated.*

### **The Peace**

This is a liturgical exchange of greeting and is a sign of reconciliation, love, and renewed relationships in the Christian community. Initiated by the Presider, who says, “The peace of Christ be always with you,” the people respond, “And also with you.” The gesture of Peace has been expressed in a variety of ways, including a kiss on the cheek, an embrace, a handclasp, or a bow. This is an ancient Christian practice. It has been associated with Romans 16:16, “Greet one another with a holy kiss,” and similar passages.

# HOLY COMMUNION

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERTORY

*Please remain seated.*

*Presider* The day of rejoicing is coming, the prophet Isaiah says, and we await it together; our gifts today in this season of waiting and hope help us to strengthen one another and to offer hope to the world as we look forward to that great day of everlasting joy. Let us gather our gifts together and present them as an offering to God:

## THE OFFERTORY

*On Sunday, please remain seated as the people's offering of bread and wine is brought forward. During the offertory music, the alms basins are passed in the pews.*

## THE OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Please remain seated. Shared on Sunday.*

8:30 am "Companions, let us sing joyfully"

ARR. OLIVE RUSSELL

10:45 am "Beautiful Saviour"

ROBERT LEE

## THE PRESENTATION HYMN

**HYMN 61, v. 3**

*Please stand as you are able and the ushers bring the People's offering to the altar.*

*Sung on Sunday.*

"Sleepers, wake! A voice astounds us"

WACHET AUF

## THE PRESENTATION

*Please remain standing.*

*Presider* All things come of you, O God.

*All* **And of your own have we given you.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - EUCHARISTIC PRAYER D

**BCP 372**

*Please remain standing.*

*Presider* God 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 our thanks and praise.**

*Presider* It is truly right to glorify you, Holy One, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light

### Text Giving

You can now give to St. James using your mobile device!

Text **StJamesWichita** and the amount you want to give to **73256**

Click the link that is sent back to you.

Complete your gift using the online form provided.

### Example Message

To: 73256

Text: StJamesWichita \$75

Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

### Candles on the Advent Wreath

The three blue- and one rose-colored candle stand for the four weeks of Advent. The fifth, white candle in the center of the wreath is the Christ Candle. It is lit on Christmas Day. Candles have extensive ceremonial use in the Christian liturgical tradition. Lighted candles symbolize the light of Christ (or the light of the gospel); they remind us that the time and space of worship are sacred. The progressive lighting of the candles represents the expectation and hope surrounding our Savior's coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming at the end of the age when the reign of God will be established for ever.



*Presider* inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

## THE SANCTUS

## HYMN S124

*Please remain standing. Spoken at 5:30 & 8:30. Sung at 10:45.*

“Holy, holy, holy Lord”

DAVID HURD

*All*      ✚ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. ✚ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*The people may kneel or stand.*

*Presider* We acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death.

In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Holy God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, Jesus lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose Jesus gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who died and rose for us, you sent the Holy Spirit, your own first gift for those who believe, to complete your work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

### The Candle of Hope

The first candle is a symbol of the hope we have in Christ and so it is called the Hope candle.

### The Candle of the Way

The second candle shows that Christ is the Way. Without God, humanity is lost. Christ is the Light of the world and shows us the way out of darkness.

### The Candle of Joy

The rose-colored candle is illuminated on the third Sunday of Advent, which is known as Gaudete Sunday. This Sunday is a day for rejoicing and joy as the faithful draw near to the birth of Jesus. The only lasting Joy to be found in life on earth is through Christ. All other joy is fleeting and does not last.

### The Candle of Peace

The fourth candle reminds that Jesus comes to bring Peace to the world and to people's hearts. Without Christ there is no peace in this world.

### The Christ Candle

The fifth candle represents Christ himself who was born to save people. It is a celebration of the fulfillment of prophecy as represented in Christ's birth and hope in its final fulfillment when Christ comes again and establishes the reign of God for ever.

## Eucharist

The sacrament of the Eucharist is the principal act of Christian worship in our church. The term is from the Greek, “thanksgiving.” Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper where he shared bread and wine at a sacred meal with his disciples. Christ’s sacrifice is made present in the Eucharist, and in it we are united to his one self-offering. The grace bestowed in Holy Communion augments (deepens, increases) faith, forgives sin, and strengthens of our charity. Everyone who seeks a deeper knowledge of Christ is welcome to receive the sacrament.

## Communion in One Kind

Our doctrine upholds the truth that the fullness of communion is available by receiving either the consecrated bread or wine. Communicants receive both the body and the blood in either the consecrated bread or the wine, though all are invited (as they are able) to receive both kinds. Our belief in the fullness of communion in one kind (bread or wine) is called the doctrine of concomitance. The term concomitance comes from the Latin, “to accompany.”

*Presider*

When the hour had come for Jesus to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them Jesus 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 Jesus 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.”

Almighty God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ’s death and descent among the dead, proclaiming Christ’s resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting Christ’s coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*All*

**We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

*Presider*

God our Creator, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with matriarchs, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. James and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Please remain kneeling or standing.*

*Presider* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,  
*All* **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.**

## THE FRACTION

*Please stand as you are able. Spoken at all services.*

*Presider* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Please remain standing.*

*Presider* 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.

*Please be seated. All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and sip the wine from the chalice, guiding it gently to your lips; or you may dip the wafer into the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, indicate your choice by crossing your hands over your chest.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*Shared on Sunday.*

“Improv. on “Tidings”

DAKOTA BENNETT

## COMMUNION HYMN

**HYMN 539**

*Please be seated. Sung at 10:45.*

“O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling”

TIDINGS

*A moment of silence is observed following Communion.*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Please kneel or stand as you are able.*

*All* **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 Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## SENDING FORTH THE EUCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)

*Please remain kneeling or standing. Eucharistic Visitors come forward.*

*Clergy* In the name of this congregation I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.

*People* **We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.**

## THE BLESSING FOR ADVENT

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Presider* May God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May Christ whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at Christ's second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## THE CLOSING HYMN

HYMN 65

*Please remain standing. Sung on Sunday.*

“Prepare the way, O Zion”

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

## THE DISMISSAL

*Please remain standing.*

*Deacon* Prepare the way of the Lord, make God's paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE POSTLUDE

*Shared on Sunday.*

“Watchmen, tell us of this night”

ARR. JAMES MANSFIELD

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
Caroline Rowley, from the Rowley family.*

*If you would like to give flowers for the altar to honor or memorialize loved ones,  
you can reserve a date by signing up on the sheet in the hallway or by calling or  
sending an email to the parish office, [office@stjameswichita.org](mailto:office@stjameswichita.org).*

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### SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

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The Rev. Dawn Frankfurt, Rector  
The Ven. Jeff Roper, Archdeacon  
Dakota Bennett, Organist  
Paul Leeker, Lay Worship Leader  
St. James Choir

#### SATURDAY, 5:30 PM

*Chalice Bearer* - Mary Druding  
*Lector* - Adrienne Edwards

#### SUNDAY, 8:30 AM

*Acolyte* - Jay Price  
*Chalice Bearer* - Jay Price  
*Lector* - John Robison, Dave  
McDonald  
*Usher* - LoWaine Robison, Keith  
Stevens

#### SUNDAY, 10:45 AM

*Acolyte* - Michael Kephart  
*Chalice Bearer* - Richard Bowman,  
Michael Kephart  
*Lector* - Joan Moore, Joan Bledsoe  
*Usher* - Gene Bledsoe, Johnson  
Olanya

*10:45 am service is streamed online by Wichita Livestream*

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

In 2024 we will begin celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries on the first Sunday of each month (for the month to come). If your birthday or anniversary is that month, please stand and be recognized in the service.

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## PARISH PRAYERS

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**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

**In the World Council of Churches Cycle of Prayer:** Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and the Mainland of China

**In the Kansas Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for St. Thomas the Apostle, Overland Park

**Our seminarian,** Maddy Bishop

**Those discerning a call to the priesthood:** Paul Leeker, Elizabeth Wenger

**Those serving in the military:** Davis Jackson; Will Corkins; Maureen Tanner

**Those in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity:** Sam & Beth; Vicky R.; Barbara S.; Lise H.; Jeri & Bill; Hazel S.; Stephen G.; Allie N.; Kris S.; Marlene H.; Judy; Greta P.; Larry R.; Simon family; Nancy C.; Philippa P.; Drew H.; Elena S.; Bella P.; Delmar & Mary; Racine; Daimon; Anna; Dick & Judy; John O. & family; Brianna P.; Sylvester; Pat; Andy S.; Sue C.; Martha L.; Joseph B.; Joan J.; Jayne P.; Helen B.; Deb H.; Dal H.; Carole U.; Bill & Carolyn R.; Marge R.; Marcia & Lowell; Jerry M.; Gus G.

**Those who have recently died:** Margarita Busche; Hollis S.; Jill Spohn; Mark T.

**Some who have died in Decembers past:** Mary Albright; Holly Bell; Martha Black; Carl Brink; Charlotte Cochran; Dorcas Cooper; Flo Duncan; Peggy Duncan; Ruth T. Elrick; Pat Evans; Ron Harrison; Betty Holmer; Helen Hope; Tomora Jennings; June E. Morell; Gladys Osborne; Tom Reid; Mary Rickman; Betty Robinson; Wanda Sanders; Margaret Sandlin; Elizabeth Sheffield; John Sheffield; Lois Smith; Ev Stephenson; Norris Taylor; Marcia Thudium; Gretchen Waite; Mary Jo Watson; Richard Wingell

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## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

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### MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

5:30 pm - Contemplative Prayer Group

7:00 pm - Graduate EfM

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:00 pm - Sacred Ground

7:00 pm - Bell Choir

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

5:30 pm - Choir Dinner

6:00 pm - Gospel of Mark

6:00 pm - Choristers

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

12:00 pm - Book Club of St, James/St.

Stephens at St. Stephens

6:00 pm - Vestry

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

*No worship service*

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

*No 8:30 am or 10:45 am worship services*

9:00 am - Morning Prayer

4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service

7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service

11:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 am - Christmas Day Eucharist

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We need volunteers for the **Christmas services**. There are many opportunities that need to be filled for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. **You can sign up on Realm** (look for the link in Friday's eTower, or "Special Services" under the Serving tab on Realm's website/app) or contact the church office to see what roles need to be filled.

**We need Nursery Volunteers!** If you are interested or want more info, contact Chelsea at [formation@stjameswichita.org](mailto:formation@stjameswichita.org)

**Tabs for Ronald McDonald House:** There is a small cardboard house in the entryway to collect aluminum pull tabs for Ronald McDonald house. They collect these and cash them in to help with their services for children and families.

**The end of the year** is approaching, which is a busy time in the bookkeeper's office. To make sure credit is correctly applied on your 2023 statement, please have all 2023 gifts in by **Wednesday, December 27** so we can have a smooth transition into 2024.

Join us for  
**Greening of  
the Church**  
Sunday, December 17  
at 5:30 pm



**Remember - There will be no services next weekend (Dec. 23/24) at 5:30 pm (Saturday), 8:30 am (Sunday) or 10:45 am (Sunday).**

**We will gather at 9:00 am for Morning Prayer on Sunday, December 24 as we observe the fourth and final week of Advent.**

### Celebrating Christmas

**Christmas Eve Services**  
Sunday, December 24, 2023  
4:00 pm  
7:00 pm  
11:00 pm

**Christmas Day Holy Eucharist**  
Monday, December 25, 2023  
10:00 am



Loving  
Liberating  
Life-Giving

**The Rev. Dawn M. Frankfurt**  
Rector  
motherdawn@stjameswichita.org

**The Ven. Jeff Roper**  
Archdeacon

**Chelsea Whipple**  
Director of Programs  
formation@stjameswichita.org

**Dakota Bennett**  
Director of Music  
music@stjameswichita.org

**Susan Stallings**  
Bookkeeper  
bookkeeper@stjameswichita.org

**Krystal Poindexter**  
Parish Communicator  
office@stjameswichita.org

**Jose Alonso**  
Sexton

**Weekly Eucharist Services**  
Saturday at 5:30 pm  
Sunday at 8:30 am & 10:45 am

**Adult Forum**  
Every Sunday at 9:45 am  
(except second Sundays)

**Children's Sunday School and  
Children's Chapel**  
First Sunday of each month, start-  
ing at 9:30 am

**New to St. James?**  
If you are new to St. James and  
haven't filled out a **Newcomer  
Card**, we would love to know  
more about you! Once we have a  
card from you, we will have a  
name badge ready for the  
following weekend.

# WELCOME TO ST. JAMES

*Episcopal Church of Wichita, Kansas*

3750 E. Douglas Ave., Wichita, KS 67208  
(316) 683-5686 | www.stjameswichita.org  
office@stjameswichita.org

**WHOEVER YOU ARE AND WHEREVER YOU FIND  
YOURSELF ON YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH,  
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.**

You will hear these words every week at St. James as we invite you to join us for the Word and Sacraments that are God's gifts to all. It does not matter who you are, what you look like, what you have done in the past, or who you love. God's grace is not petty; it is not earned. It is radical and universal. We at St. James seek to mirror God's healing love by making this community a safe place for skeptics, doubters, seekers, those who have been wounded by the church, those who have never darkened its doors, those who have wandered, as well as new believers and those who have never left. As a diverse community we have discovered in God a oneness greater than our differences. We have come to know that our variety reflects the divine comprehensiveness of God. Engaging God is a lifelong process. Wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, we believe God invites you to keep traveling. In some subtle or profound way, the Spirit of God drew you here. Our hearts are open to God and to you.

**SIGN-UP FOR THE  
WEEKLY ETOWER**



**FOLLOW US!  
STJAMESWICHITA**



**GIVE ONLINE  
TO ST. JAMES**



*Have you remembered the work of St. James in your planned giving?*