



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 2023
THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I
8:00 A.M.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 323

The Collect for Purity

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Kyrie

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The Collect of the Day

p. 185

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

NRSV, p. 1040

Commentary: Corinth was strategically situated in the ancient world and its location brought commerce and all that went with it, including wealth, a steady stream of travellers, and vice. Paul had planted a church in Corinth and he subsequently wrote this letter to address areas of concern within the Corinthian church. As was Paul's custom, he began his letter with thanksgiving to God for what the Corinthian Christians were doing well. Paul praised the Corinthians for their gifts, if not their behavior. He reminded his readers that one day they would stand without guilt before the Lord, not on their own merits, but because God is faithful and His keeping power is eternal. Paul stated that everything God had done and will do for the Corinthians was based on the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1–7, 16–18

read responsively by whole verse

Qui regis Israel

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

People The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Gray Hodsdon

The Nicene Creed

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The Prayers of the People

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Confession of Sin

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The Peace

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Welcome and Announcements**THE HOLY COMMUNION****Eucharistic Prayer I**

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Sanctus

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The Lord’s Prayer

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The Breaking of the Bread

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Prayer of Humble Access

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The Communion of the People*Gluten-free wafers available upon request*

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

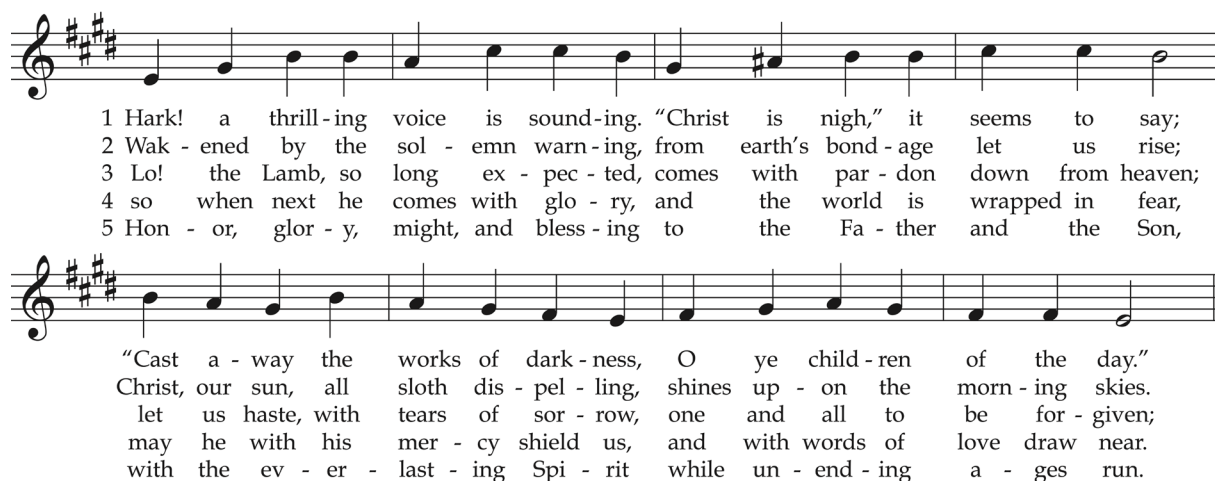
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The Blessing

Closing Hymn 59

"Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding"

Merton



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn-ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pec - ted, comes with par - don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glor - y, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

"Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye child - ren of the day."
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

The Dismissal

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Celebrant: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

Preacher: The Reverend Gray Hodsdon

Organist: John Sullivan

*The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. P. Huber Hanes, Jr. and Dr. and Mrs. William A. Lambeth, Jr.*

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

MON.- FRI., DECEMBER 4-8

- MORNING PRAYER
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

- LIVING WELL IN MIDST OF GRIEF
5:00 PM | Graham Parlor or via Zoom
- FELLOWSHIP AA
7:00 PM | The Great Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
9:00 AM | Registration Req.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- YOUTH BIBLE STUDY
7:00 AM | 16th St. Starbucks
- ADVENT BIBLE STUDY
11:00 AM | Graham Parlor or Zoom
- HOLY EUCHARIST
12:10 PM | St. James Chapel

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

- EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
6:30 PM | Graham Parlor
- CHOIR REHEARSAL
7:00 PM | Choir Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I
8:00 AM | St. James Parish
- FAMILY BREAKFAST
8:30 AM | Great Hall
- FAITH FORMATION HOUR
9:10 AM | St. James Parish
- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
10:15 AM | St. James Parish & Online
- IGNITE! SHOP'N'THOP
5:00 PM | Walmart & IHOP

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the December 11th Digital Grapevine is Friday, December 8th.

The deadline for the December Grapevine Magazine is December 27th. Email communications@stjamesp.org.

TODAY AT ST. JAMES

COMBINED FAITH FORMATION

Sunday, December 3, 2023 | 9:10 a.m. - During Faith Formation Hour | RSVP

Join us for an inter-generational-faith-formation hour on the first Sunday of Advent. Together we'll explore the lessons of the advent wreath and each family will have the opportunity to produce their own wreath.

OLD WILMINGTON BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023 | 1:00-5:00 p.m.

This December, St. James will be joining the Latimer House and other historical downtown landmarks in opening our doors to our community for a candlelight tour. If you would like to learn more about this event or join us in greeting our neighbors, please email communications@stjamesp.org.

LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 3, 2023 | 5:00 p.m.

Make plans to join us for Lessons and Carols featuring our St. James Choir! Together we'll welcome the season of Advent with song and scripture.

UPCOMING OUTREACH PROJECTS

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Gifts Due TODAY - Dec. 3

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern North Carolina's Christmas Gift program is in full flight! This year St. James Parish has adopted 125 Angels. Have questions about this year's participation in the Angel Tree Project? Please reach out to Rachel Colonna at rcolonna85@gmail.com.

MEN ON A MISSION: SERVING MEALS AT GSC

GSC Dates: Dec. 5 & Dec 19

Sargent Ashley Veteran's Center: Dec. 28

If you are interested in serving on one of the above dates, please contact Brian McMerty at bmcmetry@arrispartners.com.

TRINITY GROVE STOCKING STUFFER DRIVE

Deadline to donate: December 11

Our neighbors at Trinity Grove have reached out with an invitation to support residents in need of a lift this holiday season. To donate, please bring non-slip socks, word activity books, craft supplies, coloring books, and puzzles to the Bacon House by the end of the workday on December 11th.

POINSETTIAS & MUSIC

Deadline: December 19th at 12:00p.m

You are invited to participate in sharing the joy of tradition with the St. James Christmas Music & Flower Honorarium. We will be playing Christmas music and placing poinsettias and greens in honor of our loved ones this holiday season. Visit our website or call the church office to participate.

[stjamesp.org/blog/
poinsettia/](https://stjamesp.org/blog/poinsettia/)

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

Next Meeting, December 6 | 11:00 AM | Graham Parlor or Zoom

The Wednesday following Thanksgiving, our Wednesday Bible Study group will kick off their Advent Study. Please come as you are able.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DRESS REHEARSAL

Sunday, December 10 | Following the 10:15 Service

Following the 10:15 service, all of our participating children will meet in the church for pageant practice, costume pick-up, and lunch. Please make sure your child attends if they are participating in the pageant. Special instructions for pageant day will be included in your child's costume bag.

IGNITE: SHOP'N'IHOP

Sunday, December 10 | 5:00 PM | Walmart & IHOP

Instead of our regularly scheduled IGNITE!, you're invited to join the St. James Youth as we take on one of our favorite annual outreach projects. We will gather at Walmart on Market Street to SHOP for families with children who need our help at Christmas. Once we complete our purchases, we will pop over to IHOP for a delicious supper. Join the fun! Help other people! Bring your friends! SHOP & IHOP! For further information contact Cookie.cookie@stjamesp.org or Jane.janerippy@yahoo.com

VESTRY MEETING

Next Meeting, December 11 | 5:15 PM | Graham Parlor

Our Vestry gathers on the second Monday of each month at 5:15 p.m. in the Graham Parlor to discuss the business of the parish and to hear from our parish family. These meetings are open and members of St. James Parish are welcome to attend.

ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

25 South Third Street ♦ Wilmington, NC 28401 ♦ (910) 763-1628 ♦ admin@stjamesp.org

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