



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 10 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	p. 323
Kyrie	p. 324
The Collect of the Day	p. 159

Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson: Isaiah 40:1–11 The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 653

Commentary: This passage in Isaiah stresses the comfort God had planned for His people, Israel. Coming deliverance was possible because of the Lord's faithfulness and Israel's unique relationship with Him. God's ultimate purpose for His people was life, not death; it was salvation, not enslavement. Israel had suffered greatly under God's judgment but was promised abundant future blessing. God Himself would come to help His people so they should prepare for His appearing. God's promise of hope and deliverance was not just for Israel's blessing, but also for the blessing of the whole world.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

People The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.**

8 I will listen to what the LORD GOD is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

**9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

**13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1–8

NRSV, p.912

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Geoffrey Hoare

The Nicene Creed

p. 327

The Prayers of the People

p. 328

Confession of Sin

p. 330

The Peace

p. 332

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

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 76

“On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”

Winchester New

1 On Jor - dan’s bank the Bap - tist’s cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 ref - uge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 light re - store earth’s own true love - li - ness once more.
 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

The Dismissal

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Celebrant: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr. *Preacher: The Reverend Geoffrey Hoare*
Organist: John Sullivan

*The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
 Jane Miller Metts, Edwin Anderson Metts, Elizabeth Cotchett Metts,
 Elizabeth Metts Brown, Michael Corbett Brown, Sr., James Fred Rippy III, James Rippy IV*

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

MON.- FRI., DEC. 11-15

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

- SABBATH EXPLORATION GROUP
5:00 PM | Member Home
- VESTRY MEETING
5:15 PM | Graham Parlor
- FELLOWSHIP AA
7:00 PM | The Great Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- YOUTH BIBLE STUDY
7:00 AM | 16th St. Starbucks
- ADVENT BIBLE STUDY
11:00 AM | Graham Parlor or Zoom

WEDNESDAY, CONTINUED

- HOLY EUCHARIST
12:10 PM | St. James Chapel
- PARISH SHOP OPEN
12:15 - 1:30 PM | Parish House

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

- PARISH SHOP OPEN
4:15 - 5:45 PM | Parish House
- EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
6:30 PM | Graham Parlor
- CHOIR REHEARSAL
7:00 PM | Choir Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I
8:00 AM | St. James Parish
- FAMILY BREAKFAST
8:30 AM | Great Hall
- PARISH SHOP OPEN
8:45 - 10:30 AM | Parish House
- FAITH FORMATION HOUR
9:10 AM | St. James Parish
- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
10:15 AM | St. James Parish & Online
- IGNITE! WRAP'N'YAP
5:00 PM | Youth Room
- SAM TRIPP: I CAN'T DANCE - CELLO
RECITAL
6:00 PM | St. James Church

TODAY AT ST. JAMES

FAITH FORMATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

Sunday, December 10, 2023 | 9:10 a.m.

- DISCIPLE'S CLASS: "The Second Coming of Christ" - led by The Rev. Phillip Craig, Jr.- *Lippitt Room*
- FAITH DISCUSSIONS: "Stages of Faith" - *Stephen Ministry Room*
- JUBI-LATTE ROUND TABLE: *Youth Room*
- SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR PRE-K-K 3s - 5th GRADES: *2nd Floor Milton Hall*

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.

NAMETAG PICK UP

If you ordered a nametag before Thanksgiving, your name tag is in! This Sunday, we will have all of our nametags out and available for pick up. Have questions or need to coordinate an alternate time to pick up your nametag? Please contact Dottie Benz at Dottiebenz@hotmail.com.

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 at cookie@stjamesp.org or Jane at janerippy@yahoo.com.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Number of Pledges: 291

Total Pledge amount: \$1,304,175

It's not too late to pledge to support St. James Parish in 2024. Visit our website or call the church office to participate.

stjamesp.org/pledge/



Goal: 350 Pledges | 83% Complete

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/

UPCOMING OUTREACH

MEN ON A MISSION: SERVING MEALS AT GSC

GSC Dates: Dec. 5 & Dec 19

Seargent Ashley Veteran's Center: Dec. 28

If you are interested in serving on one of the above dates, please contact Brian McMerty at bmcmerty@arris.partners.

TRINITY GROVE STOCKING STUFFER DRIVE

Deadline to donate: December 11, 4:00 p.m.

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, coloring books, and puzzles to the Bacon House.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Dates to serve: Christmas Day, 12.26, and New Year's Eve!

If you are interested in serving on one of the above dates, please contact Molly Roush at mollyrousb@hotmail.com.

IGNITE: WRAP'N'YAP

Sunday, December 17 | 5:00 PM | Youth Room

During IGNITE! on December 17th, our St. James Youth are invited to join us for snacks and to WRAP all of the gifts that we have purchased at "Shop'N'IHop." We will also be watching a Christmas Movie as we act like an ELF and WRAP our gifts! For further information contact Cookie cookie@stjamesp.org or Jane janerippy@yahoo.com. Bring your friends!

ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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