



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 17 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: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 1079

Commentary: There are some seventy instances in the New Testament where the command is: Rejoice! Christians can always rejoice if they remember what they have been given in Christ. Paul also urged prayerfulness as a constant reminder of dependence on God. Paul encouraged his readers to test what they heard by the standard of God's word in Scripture; in this way they could discern and hold what was good and true while discarding what was wrong and misleading. Paul's desire was for all to remain without fault until Christ's return and he was confident that God would see His work completed in the life of every believer.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126

read responsively by whole verse

In convertendo

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.

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

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.

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

The Sermon

The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

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

p. 333

Sanctus

p. 334

The Lord’s Prayer

p. 336

The Breaking of the Bread

p. 337

Prayer of Humble Access

p. 337

The Communion of the People

Gluten-free wafers available upon request

p. 338

Prayer of Thanksgiving

p. 339

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

“Tell out, my soul”

Eventide



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 child - ren's child - ren and for ev - er - more!

The Dismissal

p. 339

Celebrant: The Reverend Gray Hodsdon

Preacher: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

Organist: John Sullivan

The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Richard Henry Youngblood and Christine Ramsaur Youngblood and Raiford Graham Trask, Mable Dunn Hall Trask, Charles Ramsaur Youngblood.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

MON.- FRI., DEC. 18-22

- SJDS CLOSED - CHRISTMAS BREAK
- MORNING PRAYER
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

- LIVING WELL IN MIDST OF GRIEF
5:00 PM | Member Home
- FELLOWSHIP AA
7:00 PM | The Great Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

- MEN ON A MISSION: SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER
4:30 - 7:00 PM | Good Shepherd

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 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 21

- 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 22

- A CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT
7:30 PM | St. James Parish

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS EVE

- HE RITE II: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT LITURGY
9:00 AM | Great Hall

- PARISH SHOP OPEN
8:45 - 10:30 AM | Parish House

- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
4:00 PM | St. James Parish & Online

- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
6:00 PM | St. James Parish & Online

- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
10:30 PM | St. James Parish & Online

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

- CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
10:30 AM | St. James Parish & Online

TODAY AT ST. JAMES

FAITH FORMATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

Sunday, December 17, 2023 | 9:10 a.m.

- DISCIPLE'S CLASS: "The First Coming of Christ" - led by The Rev. Gray Hodsdon- Lippitt Room
- JUBI-LATTE ROUND TABLE: Youth Room
- SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR PRE-K-K 3s - 5th GRADES: 2nd Floor Milton Hall

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 17 | During the 10:15 a.m. Service

The St. James Christmas Pageant is coming! We're so excited to share the Christmas story at the 10:15 a.m. Service on Sunday, December 17th, 2023

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@botmail.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." For further information contact Cookie cookie@stjamesp.org or Jane janerippy@yahoo.com. Bring your friends!

SAM TRIPP - CELLO RECITAL

Sunday, December 17 | 6:00 PM | St. James Parish

Our parish family is invited to join Sam Tripp as he shares melodies of dance. All are welcome!

MEN ON A MISSION: SERVING MEALS AT GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER

GSC: 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.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Last Session: Dec. 20 | 11:00 a.m. | Graham Parlor | Zoom

If you are interested in joining us, please do! If you have questions, reach out to Rev. Cheryl at Cheryl@stjamesp.org.

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 mollyroush@hotmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Number of Pledges: 304

Total Pledge amount: \$1,344,175

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 | 87% 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/

A CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Friday, December 22 | 7:30 p.m. | St. James Parish

St. James Episcopal Church is proud to present "A Classical Christmas," on Friday, December 22nd, at 7:30 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church located at 25 S. Third Street. Featuring St. James' own celebrated professional singers, this program of Christmas carols and songs will brighten these long winter days and will bring peace to your heart.

Soloists include: Sara Westermark, soprano; Tanya Hanano, mezzo soprano; James Taylor, tenor; and a debut by Hans Graham Westermark, baritone—accompanied by John Sullivan, piano. This program also features upcoming talented students from the Westermark Voice Studio—Nilin Pavate and Ozzy Davidson as trebles.

Donations go to "A Safe Place" to aid victims of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic sex trafficking.

ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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

[f](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesp) @stjamesp [i](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesparish) @stjamesparish

stjamesp.org