



THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

10:15 A.M.

Prelude

Processional Hymn 497

“How bright appears the Morning Star”

Wie schön leuchtet

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

p. 355

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

Hymn 96

“Angels we have heard on high”

Gloria

The Collect of the Day

p. 213

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10–62:3

The people are seated

NRSV, p. 678

Commentary: Chapters sixty through sixty-two of Isaiah's prophecy are all about Israel's future glory under the Lord. Finally, the harvest of righteousness that the Lord planted in Israel would come to fruition, resulting in praise from the whole earth. God assured His people that although they thought He had been unresponsive to their prayers for deliverance, He would keep His promises to provide righteousness and salvation for them. God will do this for the love of His own. The new name God will bestow upon Israel will signify the nation's new character and status.

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. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

(seated)

"Rejoice, ye pure in heart"

Carlisle

1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks and sing!
 2 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints of earth,
 3 Your clear ho - san - nas raise, and al - le - lu - ias loud;
 4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go;
 5 Still lift your stand - ard high, still march in firm ar - ray,
 6 At last the march shall end; the wea - ried ones shall rest;
 7 Then on, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks and sing!

5
 Your glo - rious ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
 pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 while an - swering ech - oes up - ward float, like wreaths of in - cense cloud.
 from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe.
 as war - riors through the dark - ness toil, till dawns the gold - en day.
 the pil - grims find their Fa - ther's house, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
 Your glo - rious ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

The Epistle: Galatians 3:23–25; 4:4–7

NRSV, p. 1063

Commentary: The Mosaic Law was a disciplinarian for Israel, but it was never intended to provide salvation for anyone. The Law was regulatory and it was revelatory; it was meant to lead Israel to Christ by showing people that human righteousness was inadequate and flawed. Only God could provide the righteousness they needed. By faith in Jesus Christ, we are justified, meaning we are declared 'not guilty' by God, not on the basis of anything we have done but on the basis of what Jesus has done for us. Christ redeemed us, delivering us from bondage to the Law and into a new status as children of God. The Holy Spirit, sent by God to indwell believers, encourages and motivates us to approach God as our loving Father.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 82

"Of the Father's love begotten"

Divinum mysterium

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, When the Vir - gin, full of grace,
 3 O ye heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,

he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing he,
 by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;
 powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, And ex - tol our God and King;
 hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wea - ried prais - es be:



The Holy Gospel: John 1:1–18

NRSV, p.968

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Cheryl Brainard

The Nicene Creed

p. 358

Celebrant and People

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

Prayers of the People

The response to each petition:

...Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The Peace

p. 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

Whence is the goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away?
Never the like did come ablowing,
Shepherds, in flow'ry fields of May,
Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away?

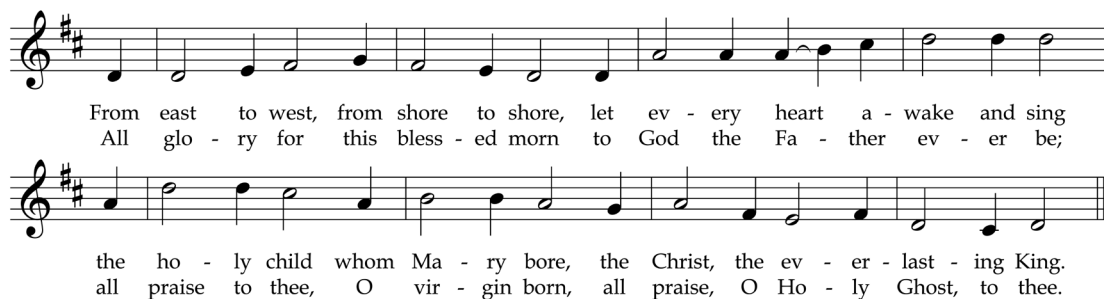
What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes?
Never so bright, the daystar waking,
Started to climb the morning skies!
What is that light so brilliant, breaking,
Here in the night across our eyes?

Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps hieing!
Worship the Savior born today.
Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer haste away.

~ *French carol, arr. John Sullivan*

Presentation Hymn

Puer nobis



From east to west, from shore to shore, let ev - ery heart a - wake and sing
All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn to God the Fa - ther ev - er be;
the ho - ly child whom Ma - ry bore, the Christ, the ev - er - last - ing King.
all praise to thee, O vir - gin born, all praise, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

p. 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here, a proper preface is said, then the Celebrant continues...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

“Holy, holy, holy Lord”

Resignation

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues, saying in the midst of the prayer:

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues, concluding with:

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

p. 364

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 Breaking of the Bread

p. 364

Fraction Anthem: S152

Cantor Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.



People There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Communion of the People

Gluten-free wafers are available at the main altar upon request.

Communion Hymns

Hymn 98	“Unto us a boy is born!”	<i>Puer nobis nascitur</i>
Hymn 84	“Love came down at Christmas”	<i>Gartan</i>
Hymn 324	“Let all mortal flesh keep silence”	<i>Picardy</i>

The Postcommunion Prayer

p. 366

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; 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 573	“Father eternal, Ruler of creation”	<i>Langham</i>
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The Dismissal

p. 366

People Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



*Preacher: The Reverend Cheryl Brainard
Celebrant: The Reverend Gray Hodsdon
Guest Organist & Choir Director: Lisa Nichol*

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

MON.- FRI., JANUARY 1-5

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

NEW YEARS DAY

- SJP OFFICE & SJDS CLOSED - ALL DAY
- FELLOWSHIP A.A.
7:00 PM | Great Hall

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

- SJDS OPEN TODAY
- GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER SIGN-
UPS OPEN TODAY!
- YOUTH BIBLE STUDY
7:00 AM | 16th St. Starbucks

- HOLY EUCHARIST
12:10 PM | St. James Chapel

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

- EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
6:30 - 8:00 PM | Graham Parlor
- CHOIR REHEARSAL
7:00 PM | Choir Room

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

EPIPHANY

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

- HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE I
8:00 AM | St. James Parish
- FAMILY BREAKFAST
8:30 - 9:10 AM | Great Hall
- FAITH FORMATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:10 - 10:00 AM | St. James Parish
- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
10:15 AM | St. James Parish & Online
- IGNITE! SKI TRIP MEETING
5:00 PM | Youth Room

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the January 8th Digital Grapevine is Friday, January 5th.
The deadline for the December Grapevine Magazine is January 20th. Email communications@stjamesp.org.

TODAY AT ST. JAMES

MEALS ON WHEELS

Serve on New Year's Eve!

If you are interested in serving on one of our future dates, please contact Molly Roush at mollyroush@hotmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOM: SERVING MEALS AT GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER

January dates to serve include: January 2, 16, & 25th

If you are interested in serving with Men on a Mission, please contact Brian McMerty at bmcmetry@arris.partners.

GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER EXPERIENCE SIGN UP

Signups open January 3, 2024

One of our St. James traditions is the Guardian Angel Prayer experience. We invite adults to take time this Lent to pray for a young person in our parish. If you agree to be a "Guardian Angel" during Lent, you will receive information about the young person who will be assigned to you. Please remember to keep your identity as their "angel" a secret and to pray for them each day. Complete the form online or reach out to Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org to sign up!

FOYER GROUPS

Last day to sign up: January 7, 2024

The Foyer Groups are getting ready to begin a new season. Formal requests to join a foyer group should be made prior to the end of the day on January 7th. Later this January new groups will be announced. All leaders are asked to touch base with their members and plan one or two gathering this spring. For those who have never been in a Foyer Group, they are small groups of parish members who gather about every six weeks throughout the year. The gatherings can be dinner at a restaurant or in members' homes, brunch after church, a dinner at the beach or whatever the group and host want to plan. It's a wonderful way to get to know parish members in a smaller setting. With our growing church, this is a golden opportunity to socialize and have lots of fun. Contact: Sheila Osann (osannshe@aol.com) or Nina Inge (ninabet55@gmail.com)

EPIPHANY MINI-RETREAT: FOLLOWING THE LIGHT

Saturday, January 13 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Lippitt Room

What/Who is the light we are following? What gives us light for the journey and hope in the darkness? What gifts do we have to offer? Through poetry, Scripture, and prayer practices, we will explore these questions. Epiphany gives us the opportunity to consider. Men, women, parishioners, friends, younger and older are welcome. Registration is requested and is available on the church's website and e-newsletters. Childcare will be available upon request. Contact Linda Murchison, lindamurchison65@gmail.com

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAYS: CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

Wednesday Mornings: Coming Soon!

We invite you to stay tuned for a special time of contemplation, crafting, and connecting with the arts and the Bible. Watch for details regarding Bible and the Arts and the Creative Connections in future publications!

PRAYING SHAPES BELIEVING

Returning February 1, 2024

Want to know more about the Episcopal tradition? Or maybe you need a refresher about the whys of our shared worship? We invite you to join us for Praying Shapes Believing! This seven-week series will help you take a deep dive into the traditions of our faith and how they feed us spiritually. This series also doubles as our Adult Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation class. If you'd like to sign up or have questions about this offering, please reach out to the Rev. Gray Hodsdon at gray@stjamesp.org.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Number of Pledges: 322

Total Pledge amount: \$1,378,115

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 | 92% Complete

ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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