

# ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH



*February 1, 2026  
Morning Prayer  
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*

Welcome! If you are visiting, we offer you a special welcome. If you are with us on Zoom and would like more information about our parish, please send the Zoom Usher a chat message, or email [office@stjamesvt.org](mailto:office@stjamesvt.org) with your name, where you're from, and your email address. On Zoom, please keep microphones muted for most of the service. If you are reading a lesson or adding a prayer request aloud during the time of prayers, please unmute yourself, then mute yourself again. In person, sitting distances may be observed and masks may be worn. Please be mindful of the comfort of others.

## Prelude

### Opening Hymn: Come and seek the ways of wisdom

Voices Found 60

*All stand as able*

*Descant*

3 O vir - tus

1 Come and seek the ways of Wis - dom, she who  
 2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis - dom, cry - ing  
 3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come as - sist us; nur - ture

Sa - pi - en - ti - a O \_\_\_\_

danced when earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she  
 in the mark - et - place. Hear the Word made flesh a -  
 all who seek re - birth. Spi - rit - guide and close com -

vir - tus Sa - pi - en - ti - a

teach - es, for her words are right and true. Wis - dom  
mong us, full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the  
pan - ion, bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us

O Sa - pi - en - ti - a

clears the path of jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.  
word takes root and rip - ens, peace and right - eous - ness em - brace.  
to be - come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

*Final Ending*

Words: Ruth C. Duck, from *Circles of Care: Hymns and Song* © 1996 The Pilgrim Press.

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Music: *Julion*, David Hurd © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Confession

*The Deacon or Officiant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is observed*

*Officiant and People*

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 your Son 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.

*Officiant*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

### **Opening Versicle**

*All* Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

### **The Invitatory and Psalter**

**Venite** *Psalm 95: 1-7*

**St. Helena Breviary**

*Said in unison with the Officiant leading*

*Officiant* The Holy One is in our midst:  
*People* O come let us worship.

Come, let us sing to the Holy One; \*  
    let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving, \*  
    and raise a loud shout with psalms.  
For you, O God, are a great God; \*  
    you are great above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
    and the heights of the hills are yours also.  
The sea is yours, for you made it, \*  
    and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before God, our Maker,  
For you are our God,  
and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand. \*  
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

## The Psalm Appointed

*All may sit.*

### Psalm 15

St. Helena Psalter

*Read in a manner chosen by the Officiant: direct recitation (unison), antiphonally (side to side), or responsive recitation (leader and people) alternating either by verse or at the asterisk.*

- 1 O God, who may dwell in your tabernacle; \*  
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, \*  
who speak truthfully from the heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon their tongues; they do no evil to their friends; \*  
they do not heap contempt upon their neighbors;
- 4 In their sight the wicked are rejected, \*  
but they honor those who fear God.
- 5 They have sworn to do no wrong \*  
and do not take back their word.
- 6 They do not give their money in hope of gain, \*  
nor do they take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.

*All*

Glory to God, Source of all being, Incarnate Word, and Holy Spirit, \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

## The Lessons

### First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

*Lector* A reading from Micah.

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!  
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”  
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

*Lector*      Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People*     *Thanks be to God.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Canticle: The First Song of Isaiah    *Isaiah 12:2-6***

**St. Helena Breviary**

*The Canticle is said in unison*

Surely God is my salvation; \*  
I will trust and will not be afraid,  
For God is my strength and my might \*  
and will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing  
the springs of salvation, \*

and on that day you shall say,  
Give thanks and call upon God's name;  
Make known God's deeds among the peoples; \*  
proclaim that God's name is exalted;  
Sing praises to the Most High who has done great things; \*  
let this be known in all the world.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, \*  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to God, Source of all being, Incarnate Word, and Holy Spirit, \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

*Lector* A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

**Anthem: Warm the Time of Winter**

- Lori True

## **Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

*For Morning Prayer, please remain seated for the Gospel lesson*

*Deacon or Lector* A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

*Deacon or Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People* *Thanks be to God.*

**Sermon**

**Kathy Rouleau**

### **Affirmation of Faith (A form for trial use from the St. Helena Breviary)**

*All standing as able, the creed is said in unison*

I believe in God, the Almighty,  
    creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only-begotten One,  
Who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
    and born of the Virgin Mary;

Who suffered under Pontius Pilate.  
    was crucified, died and was buried;

Who descended to the dead.

On the third day the Christ arose;  
    ascended into heaven,  
        and is seated at the right hand of the Creator.

Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
    the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

*Officiant* God be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Officiant* Let us pray.

*People and Officiant*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

## Suffrages

BCP 97

*The Suffrages are said responsively.*

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

## **The Collect of the Day**

**St. Helena Breviary**

*All are invited to say the collect together*

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **A Collect for a Time of Transition**

Dear Chief Shepherd, we trust in your guidance for our church. We ask for your Holy Spirit to fill us with wisdom and unity as we navigate this time without a priest in charge. Protect us from division and discouragement. Empower our leaders and members to serve faithfully, meet our needs, and continue to spread the Gospel. Guide us to the leader you have chosen for us and help us grow in your kingdom. In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

## **A Collect for Sundays**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of our Savior: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## **A Collect for Grace**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

## **Intercessions and Thanksgivings**

*The Intercessor offers prayers for those on our prayer lists. All may sit.*

We remember and pray for the ministry and work of the Executive Council in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer; and for The Church of England in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer.

I invite your prayers of thanksgiving.

*The Intercessor will invite prayers to be offered aloud by guiding first, the in-person group and after that, the online worshippers.*

We pray for those who are sick or have asked for our prayers, especially Grace; Kristen; Tyler; Darcy; Foster Borch; Connie; Neil Eklund; Jim Larkin; Carl Runge; John; Jeremy Cota; Aaron; and Matthew.

I invite your prayers of intercession.

*The Intercessor will invite prayers to be offered aloud by guiding first, the in-person group and after that, the online worshippers.*

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn, especially for people who have died in global conflicts; and people who have died from acts of violence.

I invite your prayers for those who have died.

*The Intercessor will invite prayers to be offered aloud by guiding first, the in-person group and after that, the online worshippers.*

*The Intercessor offers a Prayer for Justice:*

Creator of the Universe, source of all goodness and love, we ask wisdom, help, and guidance as we work to counter the many instances of injustice and racism in our world. Help us to value differences in culture, religious beliefs, and physical appearance, and celebrate the God-made wonder of every human being. Help us to be vigilant, working against racial and social injustice in our own hearts and in the world around us, that we may live into our baptismal covenant to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. Amen.

*The Officiant concludes with the following Collect.*

### **A Collect of Dedication**

Beloved God: As we offer ourselves to you this day, guide and stir us with your Holy Spirit, that we may become one body, one spirit in Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

*The people's offerings are gathered and brought to the altar by the ushers to be offered to God. All stand as able.*

**Offertory Hymn: In the cross of Christ I glory**

**Hymnal 441 v. 1,2,3**

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing  
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the  
 \*5 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing

1 o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of  
 2 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
 3 love up - on my way, from the cross the  
 4 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that  
 5 o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of

1 sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
 2 cross for - sake me: lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
 3 ra - diance stream - ing adds new lus - ter to the day.  
 4 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.  
 5 sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

Words: John Bowring (1792-1872). Music: Rathbun, Ithamar Conkey (1815-1867).

*Please continue to support our parish life and ministries by sending your offering to St. James Episcopal Church, 4 St. James Place, Essex Junction, VT 05452. You may also give online by visiting: [stjamesvt.org/giving](http://stjamesvt.org/giving).*

## A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

*The Officiant and People say together*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

## Community Announcements

## Dismissal

*Deacon or Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.  
*People* *Thanks be to God.*

## Concluding Sentence

*The Officiant says*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:  
Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

*-Ephesians 3:20,21*

*All stand as able.*

## Sending Hymn: Tis the gift to be simple

Hymnal 554

'Tis the gift to be sim - ple, 'tis the gift to be free,  
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
and when we find our - selves in the place just right,  
'twill be in the val - ley of love and de - light.  
When true sim - pli - ci - ty is gained to  
bow and to bend we shan't be a-shamed, to turn, turn, will  
be our de-light till by turn - ing, turn - ing we come round right.

Words: Shaker song, 18th cent. Music: *Simple Gifts*, Joseph Brackett (1797-1822); acc. Margaret W. Mealy (b. 1922).

## Postlude

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*Psalm from the Saint Helena Psalter Copyright © 2004 by The Order of St. Helena, Inc. All rights reserved.*

*Prayer for Justice written by Peggy Bonesteel*

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*Please join us for coffee and refreshments in the Parish Hall.*

*And please join us for a brief Compline service with music online Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.*



**Officiant:** Brian Garland

**Preacher:** Kathy Rouleau

**Deacon:** The Rev. Dave Ganter

**Lector:** Susan Ficklin

**Intercessor:** Jenny Ogelby

**Musicians:** Carol Reichard, St. James Choir

**In-Person Ushers:** Nancy Collins, Jeanette Racine

**Minister of Technology:** Cathy Clark

**Digital Usher:** Ian Ogelby

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## IN OUR PRAYERS

**Diocesan and Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** We pray for the ministry and work of the Executive Council in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer and for The Church of England in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer.

**We pray for those who are sick, recovering from injuries, lonely or grieving during the holiday season, and others who have asked for our prayers:** especially Grace; Kristen; Tyler; Darcy; Foster Borch; Connie; Neil Eklund; Jim Larkin; Carl Runge; John; Jeremy Cota; Aaron; and Matthew.

**We pray for those who have died and those who mourn:** especially for those who have died in global conflicts; and those who have died from gun and other violence.





## ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bishop of Vermont: The Right Rev. Shannon MacVean-Brown

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon David Ganter

Vestry:

Senior Warden, Brian Garland

Junior Warden, Jeff Moskovics

Linda Chiasson

Frances Huessy

Kathy Laidman

Jenny Ogelby

Neal Robinson

George Rudgers

Parish Treasurer: Susan Ficklin

Assistant Treasurers: Janice Rheaume and Jenny Ogelby

Pledge Treasurer: Jeanne Pizii

Vestry Clerk: Molly Rudgers

Minister of Music: Carol Reichard

Parish Administrator: SarahJean Bos

Bulletin: Heather Winship

Constellation Partner: Calvary Episcopal Church, Underhill, VT

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