

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH



By Deb Runge

The Second Sunday in Lent
Morning Prayer
March 16, 2025

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 Usber a chat message, or email 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 as possible and masks may be worn. Please be mindful of the comfort of others.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: The God of Abraham praise

Hymnal 401

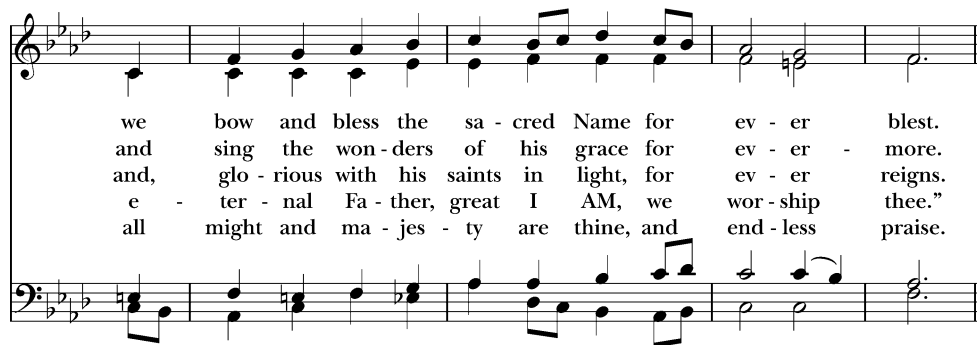
All stand as able

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The God of Abraham Praise'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are provided for five different parts of the hymn.

1 The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;
2 He by him - self hath sworn: we on his oath de - pend;
3 There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Right - eous - ness,
4 The God who reigns on high the great arch - an - gels sing,
5 The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high;

1 An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love;
2 we shall, on ea - gle - wings up - borne, to heaven a - scend;
3 tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;
4 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," cry, "Al - might - y King!
5 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry;

1 the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed:
2 we shall be - hold his face, we shall his power a - dore,
3 on Zi - on's sa - cred height his king - dom he main - tains,
4 Who was, and is, the same, and ev - er - more shall be:
5 hail, A - braham's Lord di - vine! With heaven our songs we raise;



Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt. Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt.

Opening Versicle

All Jesus said: "If any of you would come after me, deny yourself and take up your cross and follow me." *Mark 8:34*

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.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Psalm 67: 1-5 *Deus misereatur*

EOW 23

Said in unison with the Officiant leading

Officiant Let the peoples praise you, O God:

People let all the people's praise you.

O God, be merciful to us and bless us, *

 show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, *

 your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *

 let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *

 for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *

 let all the peoples praise you.

The Psalm Appointed

All may sit.

Psalm

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 God is my light and my salvation;

whom then shall I fear? *

 God is the strength of my life;

 of whom then shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *

 it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

3 Though an army should encamp against me, *

 yet my heart shall not be afraid;

4 And though war should rise up against me, *

 yet will I put my trust in God.

5 One thing have I asked of you, O God;

one thing I seek: *

 that I may dwell in your house all the days of my life,

6 To behold your fair beauty, O God, *

 and to seek you in your temple.

7 For in the day of trouble you shall keep me safe in your shelter; *
you shall hide me in the secrecy of your dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.

8 Even now you lift up my head *
above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in your dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to you.

10 Hearken to my voice, O Most High, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, O God, will I seek.

12 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

13 You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
you will sustain me.

15 Show me your way, O God, *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.

17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of my God *
in the land of the living!

18 O tarry and await God's pleasure;
be strong, and let your heart take comfort; *
wait patiently for God.

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: **Genesis 15:1-12,17-18**

Lector A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me

no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

Canticle: A Song of Lamentation
Lamentations 1:12, 16; 3:19, 22-24, 26

EOW 33

The Canticle is said in unison

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? *

Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
Which was brought upon me, *
inflicted by God’s fierce anger.

For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears, *
for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage.

Remember my affliction and my bitterness, *
wormwood and gall!

The steadfast love of God never ceases, *
God’s mercies never end.

They are new every morning; *
great is your faithfulness.

“God is my portion,” says my soul, *
“therefore will I hope in God.”

It is good that we should wait quietly *
for the coming of God’s salvation.

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: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Lector A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

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

Deacon A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Deacon Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Frances Huessy

Affirmation of Faith

All standing as able, the creed is said in unison

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he 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 Hear our cry, O God.

People And listen to our prayer.

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

EOW 42

The Suffrages are said responsively.

V. Help us, O God our Savior;

R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.

V. Look upon your congregation;

R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.

V. Declare your glory among the nations;
R. And your wonders among all peoples.
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Collect of the Day

All are invited to say this collect together.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. 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*

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Prayer for Welcoming the Stranger

We saw a stranger yesterday. We put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the listening place. And, in the sacred name of the triune God, God blessed us and our house, our cattle and our dear ones. As the lark says in her song: often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise. *Amen*

-Traditional

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

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

We remember and pray for Christ Church, Bethel; Laura Barber, Senior Warden in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer and for The Church of the Province of Central Africa in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer. We give thanks and pray for Denise Noble who is celebrating her birthday this week.

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; Marie; Foster Borch; Dave Leahy; David; Laurie Rheaume; Neil Eklund; Connie; and Janet Brown.

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 Ann DelPizzo, grandmother of Monica Moskovics; for the people who have died in global conflicts, especially in Ukraine, Sudan, and Israel and Gaza; for the people who have died from violence; and for all the people who mourn these losses.

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 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.



1 Hail, thou once de - spis - ed Je - sus! Hail, thou Gal - i -
 2 Pas - chal Lamb, by God ap - point - ed, all our sins on
 3 Je - sus, hail! en - throned in glo - ry, there for ev - er
 *4 Wor - ship, hon - or, power, and bless - ing thou art wor - thy

le - an King! Thou didst suf - fer to re - lease us;
 thee were laid: by al - might - y love a - noint - ed,
 to a - bide; all the heaven - ly hosts a - dore thee,
 to re - ceive; high - est prais - es, with - out ceas - ing,

thou didst free sal - va - tion bring. Hail, thou u - ni - ver - sal
 thou hast full a - tone - ment made. All thy peo - ple are for -
 seat - ed at thy Fa - ther's side. There for sin - ners thou art
 right it is for us to give. Help, ye bright an - gel - ic

Sa - vior, bear - er of our sin and shame! By thy mer - it
 giv - en through the vir - tue of thy blood: o - pened is the
 plead - ing; there thou dost our place pre - pare; ev - er for us
 spi - rits, all your no - blest an - thems raise; help to sing our

we find fa - vor: life is giv - en through thy Name
 gate of hea - ven, re - con - ciled are we with God.
 in - ter - ced - ing, till in glo - ry we ap - pear.
 Sa - vior's mer - its, help to chant Em - man - uel's praise!

Words: John Bakewell (1721-1819) and Martin Madan (1726-1790), alt. Music: *In Babilone*, melody from *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenliedjes en Contradanseu*, 1710; harm. Roy. F. Kehl (b. 1935).

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 this website link:

[ONLINE DONATIONS FOR ST. JAMES](#)

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

Solemn Prayer

The Deacon says

Bow down before the Lord.

The people bow or kneel as able and the Officiant says

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

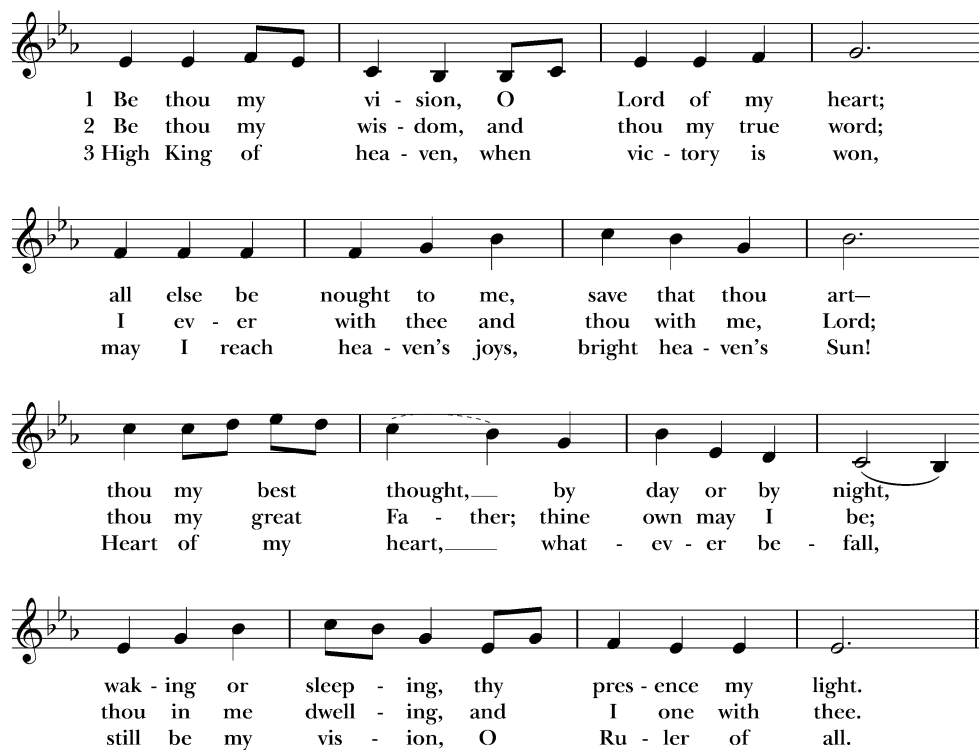
Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn: Be thou my vision

Hymnal 488



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,
all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!
thou my best thought,— by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart,— what - ev - er be - fall,
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Postlude

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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: Peggy Bonesteel

Preacher: Frances Huessy

Deacon: The Rev. Dn. Dave Ganter

Lector: Molly Rudgers

Intercessor: Jenny Ogelby

Musician: Nancy Roff

In-Person Ushers: Ernie Rheume, Ron Belair

Minister of Technology: Janice Rheume

Digital Usher: Heather Winship

In Our Prayers

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer & Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We remember and pray for Christ Church, Bethel; Laura Barber, Senior Warden in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer and for The Church of the Province of Central Africa in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer.

We pray for those who are sick, recovering from injuries, lonely or grieving, and others who have asked for our prayers: Grace; Kristen; Marie; Foster Borch; Dave Leahy; David; Laurie Rheume; Neil Eklund; Connie; and Janet Brown.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn: for Ann DelPizzo, grandmother of Monica Moskovics; for the people who have died in global conflicts, especially in Ukraine, Sudan, and Israel and Gaza; for the people who have died from violence; and for all the people who mourn these losses.

Birthday:

Denise Noble, March 21

Third Sunday in Lent – Year B

Welcome to St. James Church. Today the liturgy gives us the account of the covenant between God and the first person of faith: Abraham. There are two parts to this covenant: God's promise and Abraham's faith. Abraham's faith becomes the model for us who have been brought into covenant with God in baptism.

The Gospel reading today tells of Jesus being warned that he is in danger of being killed. He responds by again foretelling his own death and resurrection, the three days in which he will complete his work. Jesus then laments his rejection by the leaders in Jerusalem because he wishes fervently that no one be lost and that he may gather everyone to himself.

The second reading today is concerned with contrasting those who do not live within the covenant and those who do. It reminds us that the self-denial and fasting of Lent are not ends in themselves and certainly are not meant to imply that pleasure is wrong. They lead us on toward the discovery that true joy and pleasure always come from God and always point us to the resurrection of our earthly life and desires, which is God's ultimate aim for us.

As we draw nearer to Easter and the renewal of our baptismal commitment, and as we pray for those who will be baptized then, the liturgy of Lent takes us ever deeper into the mystery of our redemption. Faith and repentance are our response to the redemption that began to be worked out in Abraham's day, was fulfilled in Jesus' dying and rising, and is renewed in us in baptism and Eucharist.

From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year. Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

ST. JAMES CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 16: St. Patrick's Day potluck after church

also

Sunday, March 16: Hinesburg Artist Series Concert: The Hinesburg Artist Series presents The South Country Chorus and HAS Orchestra performing the Faure Requiem, selections from Handel's Messiah, and other choral offerings – two performances at 2:00 and 4:30. Amma Kim invites you. (She's in the orchestra)

Tuesday, March 18: Online Lenten Study continues focusing on the book [Faithful, Creative, Hopeful: Fifteen Theses for Christians in a Crisis-Shaped World](#). 7:00-8:15 p.m. Link will be on the St. James website or by emailing the office.

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Save the Dates

Maundy Thursday, April 17th - Soup Supper at 5:30; worship at 6:15
Good Friday, April 18th - Stations of the Cross at 12:00 noon at St. James
Good Friday, April 18th - Ecumenical event in Jericho - TBA
Easter Sunday, April 20th - Worship at 10:45 - PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE

For more details or a more complete calendar,
please see the Weekly or visit our website: www.stjamesvt.org



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Rector: The Rev. Kim Hardy

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon David Ganter

Vestry:

Senior Warden, Brian Garland

Junior Warden, Ron Belair

Linda Chiasson

Susan Ficklin

Kathy Laidman

Sandy Redmond

Neal Robinson

Parish Treasurer: Susan Ficklin

Assistant Treasurers: Janice Rheaume and Jenny Ogelby

Pledge Treasurer: Jeanne Pizii

Minister of Music (on sabbatical): Carol Reichard

Parish Administrator: SarahJean Bos

Bulletin: Heather Winship

Constellation Partner: Calvary Episcopal Church, Underhill, VT

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Rector contact: ammakim@stjamesvt.org

