

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH



February 2, 2025
Morning Prayer
The Presentation of our Lord

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 and masks may be worn. Please be mindful of the comfort of others.

Prelude: "Reaching"

- Gaither

Opening Hymn: Blessed Jesus, at thy word

Hymnal 440

All stand as able

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at thy word we are gath - ered all to
 2 All our know - ledge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness
 3 Gra - cious Lord, thy - self im - part! Light of Light, from God pro -

hear thee; let our hearts and souls be stirred
 shroud - ed, till thy Spi - rit breaks our night
 ceed - ing, o - pen thou our ears and heart,

now to seek and love and fear thee; by thy teach - ings
 with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed; thou a - lone to
 help us by thy Spi - rit's plead - ing. Hear the cry thy

pure and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love thee sole - ly.
 God canst win us; thou must work all good with - in us.
 Church up - rai - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

Words: Tobias Clausnitzer (1619-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878); alt. Music: *Liebster Jesu*, melody Johann Rudolph Ahle (1625-1673); alt. *Das grosse Cantional: oder Kirchen-Gesangbuch*, 1687; harm. George Herbert Palmer (1846-1926).

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 *Psalms 95: 1-7*

The 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 24:7-10

The 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.

7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors, *
and the One who reigns in glory shall come in.
8 "Who is this who reigns in glory?" *
"The Holy One, strong and mighty,
the Holy One, mighty in battle."
9 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors, *
and the One who reigns in glory shall come in.
10 "Who is this who reigns in glory?" *
"This is God, the God of Hosts, who reigns in glory."

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: Malachi 3:1-4

Lector A reading from Malachi.

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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*

The 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: Hebrews 2:14-18

Lector A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

For Morning Prayer, please remain seated for the Gospel lesson

Deacon or Lector A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

People Thanks be to God.

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

All are invited to say the collect together

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Child was this day presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph, so may we be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, 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*

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

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

We remember and pray for Ministries of all the ordained and their households and families throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer; and for The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer. We give thanks and pray for Virginia Munkelwitz who is celebrating a 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; Dave; David; Laurie Rheäume; Pat Anderson; Lesley; Neil Eklund; Becca and Eloise Dourmashkin; Steve; and Melissa.

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.

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.

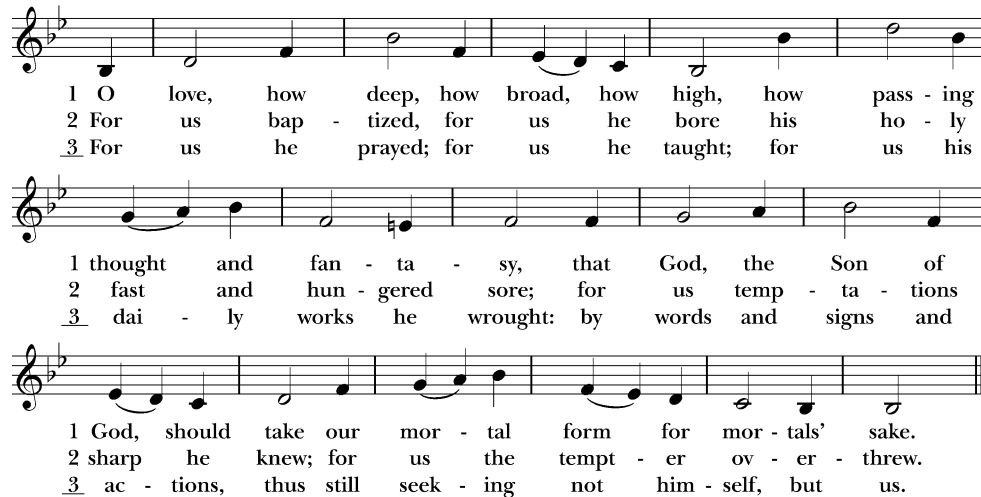
The Officiant concludes with the following Collect.

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.

Office/Offertory Hymn: O love, how deep, how broad, how high Hymnal 448 verses 1-3



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how pass - ing
2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
3 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his

1 thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
2 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions
3 dai - ly works he wrought: by words and signs and

1 God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
2 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er ov - er - threw.
3 ac - tions, thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885), alt. Music: *Deus tuorum militum*, from *Antiphoner*, 1753; adapt. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.; harm. after Basil Harwood (1859-1949).

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.

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: Spread, O spread, thou mighty word

Hymnal 530

1 Spread, O spread, thou might - y word, spread the king - dom of the Lord,
2 word of how the Fa - ther's will made the world, and keeps it, still;
3 word of how the Sa - vior's love earth's sore bur - den doth re - move;
4 word of how the Spi - rit came bring - ing peace in Je - sus' name;
5 Word of life, most pure and strong, word for which the na - tions long,
1 that to earth's re - mot - est bound all may heed the joy - ful sound;
2 how his on - ly Son he gave, earth from sin and death to save;
3 how for - ev - er, in its need, through his death the world is freed;
4 how his nev - er - fail - ing love guides us on to heaven a - bove.
5 spread a - broad, un - til from night all the world a - wakes to light.

Words: Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier (1774-1841); tr. Arthur William Farlander (1898-1952) and Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), alt. St. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Gott sei Dank*, melody from *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergel (1793-1870).

Postlude: "Calm Assurance"

- Gaither

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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: Jenny Ogelby
Preacher: Frances Huessy
Deacon: The Rev. Dave Ganter
Lector: Sue Brown
Intercessor: Lindsey Huddle
Musician(s): Nancy Roff
In-Person Ushers: Jeanette Racine, Linda Chiasson
Minister of Technology: Cathy Clark
Digital Usher: Brian Garland

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany – Year C

Welcome to St. James Episcopal Church. Today the Church celebrates our Lord's presentation to God on the fortieth day after his birth in obedience to the Jewish Law. This is a moment of manifestation of Jesus as the Messiah when Old and New Testament come together in the testimony of the aged priest Simeon and the prophet Anna. The words of Simeon are a regular feature of the Church's evening liturgies.

The first reading from Malachi reflects the hope of the prophets for the coming of the Messiah and the inauguration of God's reign over all the earth.

The second reading is from Hebrews. The writer explains that Jesus' work as Savior is made possible because he is God incarnate, fully human and fully divine. God saved the human race not from the outside but by entering into the world and becoming human and, having taking humanity into the divine life, redeemed the human race.

We return today to the joy of Christmas.

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.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Diocesan and Anglican Cycle of Prayer: In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Ministries of all the ordained and their households and families throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont and in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

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; Marie; Foster Borch; Dave Leahy; Dave; David; Laurie Rheame; Pat Anderson; Lesley; Neil Eklund; Becca and Eloise Dourmashkin; Steve; and Melissa.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn: especially the people in California.

Birthday: Virginia Munkelwitz, February 4

ST. JAMES CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, February 9th: Matt VanWagner, Director of JUMP, visiting

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. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown

Rector: The Rev. Kim Hardy

Deacon: The Rev. Dn. 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 Rheume and Jenny Ogelby

Pledge Treasurer: Jeanne Pizii

Minister of Music: Carol Reichard

Parish Administrator: SarahJean Bos

Bulletin: Heather Winship

Constellation Partner: Calvary Episcopal Church, Underhill, VT

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Office Phone: 802-878-4014

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Senior Warden contact: bjgarland@gmail.com

Rector contact: ammakim@stjamesvt.org

