

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28th, 2024

St. James' Episcopal Church
Danbury, CT

The Rev. Gina Gore, *Priest-in-Charge*

Lyn Meyers, Russ Griemsmann, *Wardens*
Joanne F. Archibald, *Director of Music*

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

WELCOME

A Warm Welcome to All! We at James' are especially delighted, honored, and blessed to welcome visitors and newcomers here to this beloved church today. Assisted Listening Devices are available for the hearing impaired; please ask an usher for a device. Restrooms are located along the hallway that is through the exit at the front left corner of the sanctuary. Visitors in need of a pastoral call or interested in learning more about our parish and Church are invited to fill out a Welcome Card located in each pew, drop it with an usher, and you will receive a follow-up call. Please note that all are most welcome to receive Communion in our church.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Please hold silence during the Prelude as we gather to worship.

Prelude *O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus/Vocalise*
by Thomas J. Williams/Sergei Rachmaninoff. Arranged by Marilyn Ham

Welcome and Announcements

All stand as able

Opening Hymn #379 (*The Hymnal 1982*) *God is love, let heaven adore Him*

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Collect for Purity

Celebrant

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.**

Gloria #S-280 (*Front of The Hymnal 1982*)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray....

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

The people sit for the lessons

The First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

After the Reading

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 22:24-30

Read antiphonally changing at the Lector begins with 1st verse and congregation follows.*

- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

The Epistle

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot

love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

After the Reading

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as able

Sequence Hymn #529 (*The Hymnal 1982*) *In Christ there is no East or West*

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

After the Gospel

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Gina Gore

A period of silence is kept.

All stand as able

The Nicene Creed

**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.**

The Prayers of the People Form IV (*The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 388)

Response: **Hear our prayer**
The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

All remain standing as able

The Peace

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

Then all may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

All are seated

Offertory Anthem: *Praises* Arranged by Barbara Brocker and Rob Pearson
Deidra Woodend, Bell Tree Soloist

All stand as able

Presentation Hymn #180 (*The Hymnal 1982*) *He is risen, He is risen!*

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

(*The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 361)

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

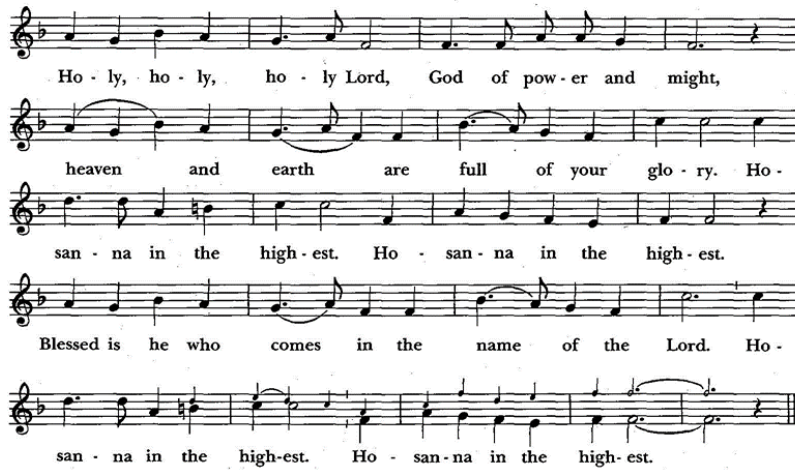
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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:

Celebrant and People
Sanctus

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Holy, holy, holy Lord *Sanctus*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

The People may kneel as the Celebrant continues
Holy and gracious Father...

(Celebrant continues....)

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption. O Father....

...
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 sing..

Celebrant and People:

The Lord's Prayer #264 (The Lift Every Voice & Sing Hymnal)

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All are invited to come forward for Communion. To receive a priestly blessing instead, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest.
Gluten-free hosts are available by request.*

Communion Anthem: *I Am the Vine* by Paul D. Weber Chancel Choir

Communion Hymn: #323 (The Hymnal 1982) *Bread of heaven, on thee we feed*

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion for those worshipping online

Celebrant Holy Jesus, Redeemer of the World, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of this altar. Even while some of us are unable to receive you in the elements of bread and wine, we invite you to enter our hearts and be our companion along the way. Awaiting in hope, we know that you are present in every moment of our lives and will never leave us comfortless. For all good things come from you O Lord, and from that goodness, lead us to the love of others. For you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. **Amen.**

[If the Sacrament is to be shared with homebound parishioners, the following form is used:]

Sending Forth of the Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.
Celebrant and People

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

Closing Hymn #296 (*The Hymnal 1982*)

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia,
alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude *The Lord Reigneth* by Lani Smith

Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Library

St. James' Episcopal Church

25 West St., Danbury CT 06810

(203) 748-3561

wecome@saintjamesdanbury.org

www.saintjamesdanbury.org

Worship Schedule:

Sundays

Holy Eucharist: 8am *(in the Chapel)*

Choral Holy Eucharist: 10am
(in the Church and Live-Streamed)

Wednesdays

Holy Eucharist: 12pm *(in the Chapel)*

Please note: Our main Church has an accessibility ramp. However our smaller Chapel (used at 8am on Sundays and noon on Wednesdays), is not handicap accessible.

THE SUNDAY PAPER FOR APRIL 21, 2024
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today:

SUMMER ADULT FORMATION PROGRAMS

Please join us after today's services as we explore what type of program we will offer in the summer.

HOLY EUCHARIST WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

Please join us on Wednesdays in the Chapel for a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. All are welcome.

MISSION

LAUNDRY LOVE

We exceeded our goal. Thank you to all who contributed. That is a lot of LAUNDRY LOVE! Our next opportunity to volunteer is May 8th, if interested please speak with Denise Holl.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICES BLANKETS

In honor of Mother's Day, the Mission Committee collection provides blankets for people facing hard times. \$10 will buy a blanket giving comfort and warmth to someone in need. Please use a mission envelope, or note May mission on memo line in your check.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

To be a Coffee Hour Host

Q: What do I have to do?

- 1. Sign up! 2. Bring a special treat. 3. Let the Parish Life Committee do the rest!

Q: Who can host?

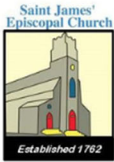
- A: Anyone!

Q: Why would you host?

- A: In honor of a celebration, or just because!

May 19 or May 26 could be you! Please contact Deb Kaufmann for additional information

St. James' Episcopal Church 25 West Street, Danbury, CT 06810 203-748-3561



Participate in a Wave for Peace

Saturday May 4th

Labyrinth open from 12:30-2:00 P.M.

Join us in Danbury to walk and talk and think for World Peace. Be part of the worldwide 24-hour Wave for Peace. The wave starts in New Zealand and ends in Hawaii. Please join the surge with us in Danbury.



Indoor activity with seating available.
Handicapped drop-off back entrance of Parish Hall.
Off-Street parking available at City Hall
parking lot across the street.

Sanctuary and Parish Hall open 12:30 P.M.

Walk as One at 1:00

Bring Your Peace

For more information contact St. James' at 203-748-3561

THIS WEEK

For all zoom meetings, the link may be found on our calendar <https://www.saintjamesdanbury.org/calendar.html>

Sunday, April 28

8:00am Sunday Worship -Chapel
9:00am Summer Adult Formation Planning—Lounge
10:00am Sunday Worship -Church (Live-Stream and In-Person)
11:00am Bell Choir rehearsal—choir room
11:00am Summer Adult Formation Planning—Lounge

Monday, April 29

Tuesday, April 30

Wednesday, May 1

12:00pm Holy Eucharist—Chapel

Thursday, May 2

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal—Parish Hall

Friday, May 3

6:00pm Friday with Friends -Parish Hall

Saturday, May 4

12:30pm Wave of Peace Labyrinth Walk—Parish Hall

In Case of an Emergency:

If there is a pastoral emergency please reach out to our Priest-In-Charge, Rev. Gina at 203-748-3561 ex 14 (office).

PARISH INTERCESSIONS

To add a name to our Sunday prayers, please contact the Parish Office at 203-748-3561 or welcome@saintjamesdanbury.org. Please be sure you ask permission from the individual before placing another's name on our public prayer list.)

- For all who are ill, in danger, or in sorrow, especially Takoda, Nikki, Bonnie, Paul, Irene, Linda, Helen, Donavan, Virginia, Richard, Nancy, Lisa, Jeanne, Bob, Wayne, Geraldine, Suzanne, Peter; for the people of the Middle East; and for victims of gun violence
- For mindfulness to the special intentions on our public Prayer Wall: for success, for love of God, and end to stealing and malice, for support of mothers, and love for everybody
- For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Jeff & Laura our bishops, for Gina our clergy & the lay leadership of St. James'
- The altar flowers are given in loving memory the Rt. Rev. John Benjamin Arthur and Mrs Lydia Arthur. Dr. Arthur Joseph Eugene Bucknor and Dorothy Marian Bucknor. Given by the Arthur family.
- For those celebrating birthdays: Mark Stirling, Richard Arthur, Beth Cox, Jana Draper, Jody Armstrong
- For St. Mark's, New Canaan; Christ Church, New Haven; St. James', New Haven ; Parishes in transition, transition teams, and interim clergy; The Church of Bangladesh

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

April 28

8:00 AM

Lector: Gary Rogers

10:00AM

Ushers: Donna Tuck, George Bogart

Altar Server: Linda Spaziani

Lectors: Jean Hassen, Bill Hutchinson

Intercessor: Jana Draper

Financial Stewards: Janet Brown, Lew Westfall

Flower Arranger: Ernie Harrington

Flower Deliverer: Frank Giarratana

Audio Tech: Russ Griemsmann

May 5

8:00AM

Lector: Skip Clapp

10:00AM

Ushers: Jehad Sabbagh, Donna Tuck

Lectors: Alvin Tuck, Perry Downs

Morning Prayer Leader: Janet Brown

Altar Server: Pat Pearson

Intercessor: Deb Kaufmann

Financial Stewards: Ernie Harrington, Deb Kaufmann,

Lyn Meyers

Flower Arranger: Janet Brown

Flower Deliver: Jim Beschle

Audio Tech: Lew Westfall

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welcome@saintjamesdanbury.org



Sunday Worship Schedule:

8am—Chapel Worship

10am - Church Worship with Choir

(Handicapped accessible and live-streamed)

Wednesdays: Holy Eucharist - Chapel

Our Chapel is not wheelchair accessible