



**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**December 1st, 2024**  
**8:00 and 10:00 a.m.**

St. James' Episcopal Church

**WELCOME**

**A Warm Welcome to All!** We at St. James' are especially delighted and blessed to welcome all 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 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. Our worship uses three books located in your pews: the blue *Hymnal*, the red & black *Lift Every Voice* hymnal (LEVAS) and the red *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP).

# The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

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

**Prelude**      Nun komm der Heiden Heiland (Savior of the Nations, Come)  
Johann Walther  
Harmonized by J. S. Bach and J. Pachelbel (P386)

*All stand as able.*

**Advent Wreath Lighting**      O Come, O Come, Emmanuel      Blue Hymnal #56  
(Stanzas 1 & 2)

**Opening Hymn**      Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending      Blue Hymnal #57

## Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant*      Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People*      **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

## 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.**

**Trisagion** (*to be sung three times*)      Blue Hymnal #S-102

## The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to

judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated for the lessons.*

## The Word of God

**A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah**

33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 25:1-9**

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

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
**let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
**and teach me your paths.**

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
**for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
**for they are from everlasting.**

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
**remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
**therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**  
8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
**and teaches his way to the lowly.**  
9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \*  
**to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

**A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians** 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

*All stand as able*  
(10 a.m.) **Sequence Hymn** O Heavenly Word, Eternal Light Blue Hymnal #64

**A reading from the Gospel of St. Luke** 21:25-36

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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all

things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

*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.**

**Prayers of the People**

Form I

Book of Common Prayer, p.383

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For this city of Danbury, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to

the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of Saint James, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**To thee, O Lord our God.**

*Silence*

*The Reader adds our Parish Intercessions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Celebrant 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.**

*Celebrant*

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

## **The Peace**

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

*All may greet one another in the name of the Lord.  
All are seated.*



## Welcome and Announcements

# The Holy Communion

### Offertory Sentence

*Celebrant*

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*All are seated.*

**(10 a.m.) Offertory Anthem**    Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach/Arr. by John Reed  
Deidra Woodend, Soprano Soloist

*All stand as able.*

**Presentation Hymn**

Only Begotten, Word of God Eternal

Blue Hymnal #360  
Stanzas 1, 2, & 6

**The Great Thanksgiving**

Eucharistic Prayer C, p. 369

*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**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of  
glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of  
interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses,  
and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us.**

**By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Sanctus**

Blue Hymnal #S-130

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,  
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Ancestors: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Hagar, Rachel, Rebecca, and Leah;  
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

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

*Celebrant and People*

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,**



*[When 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.**

*All stand as able.*

Let us pray.

### **Postcommunion Prayer**

*Celebrant and People*

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen**

### **The Advent Blessing**

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Blue Hymnal #66

**The Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**

Allemanda from the Concerto Grosso No. 1

Arcangelo Corelli  
Arr. by Kevin Norris

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If you are visiting us for the first time, WELCOME!  
Please feel free to introduce yourself to us or fill out a welcome card in the pews.  
We hope you will join us again soon.

Coffee hour follows the 8:00 a.m. service in the Parish Hall. After the 10:00 a.m. service,  
please join us for the St. Nicholas Party in the Parish Hall.

## **ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

December 1st, 2024

8:00 AM

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Gina Gore

Director of Music: Joanne F. Archibald

Lector: Gary Rogers

10:00 AM

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Gina Gore

Director of Music: Joanne F. Archibald

Ushers: Donna Tuck, Lew Westfall

Lectors: Lyn Meyers, Bobby Ward

Intercessor: Deb Kaufmann

Altar Server: Jana Draper

Financial Stewards: Dan Cox, Susan Parille

Flower Arranger: Ernie Harrington

Flower Deliverer: Donna Tuck

Audio Tech: Jim Beschle

## **PARISH INTERCESSIONS**

Let us pray for all who are ill, in danger, or in sorrow, especially Judith, Kayla, Tim, Sharon, Carrie, Peter, Dave, Takoda, Nikki, Bonnie, Paul, Irene, Virginia, Helen, Linda, Donavan, Peter, Richard, Sandi, Susan, Ruth, Nancy, Wayne, Suzanne, Jeanne, Geraldine, Vivien, Clare, Paul for the people of the Middle East, Russia and Ukraine, and for victims of hurricanes and natural disasters.

For Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam; Christ Church, Bethany.

For Postulants & candidates for Holy Orders; the Commission on Ministry & its members.

For Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

For the intentions on our prayer wall: For a peaceful weekend with family.

For those celebrating birthdays this week: Yvonne Benton, Perry Downs, Laura Katz, and Barbara Parks.

The flowers on the altar this week are given in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Settle, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Settle and Mrs. Sarah P. Settle given by Irene Simonelli and family.



## MUSIC NOTES

### Special Musical Offerings during Advent

#### Advent I: December 1, 2024

10am

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring by J. S. Bach. Soloist: Deidra Woodend, soprano

#### Advent II: December 8, 2024

8am & 10am

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life (aka The Call) by George Herbert & Ralph Vaughan Williams, Soloist: Frank Sweeney, tenor

10am

Advent Hymn by Steve Dallas, Chancel Choir

#### Advent III: December 15, 2024

8am & 10am

Ave Verum by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Soloist: Deborah Kaufmann, alto

10am

Every Valley by Joseph M. Martin, Chancel Choir

#### Advent IV: December 22, 2024

8am & 10am

Ave Maria by Franz Schubert, Soloist: Deidra Woodend, soprano

10am

Keep Silence (arrangement of the tune Picardy) by Cindy Berry, Chancel Choir

Submitted by Joanne F. Archibald, St. James' Director of Music Ministries

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **THIS SUNDAY AT 11:15 a.m., *A PARISH LIFE EVENT FOR ALL AGES:***

Sunday, December 1st please join us for the return of the annual St. Nicholas Party. This is a festive and fun celebration of St. Nick, complete with food, stories, games and gifts. Participants are invited to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament or decoration for sharing (under \$10).

No RSVP needed.

### **GROWING IN FAITH: ADVENT OFFERINGS IN DECEMBER**

#### Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Library, Bible Study

Please join Rev. Gina for an Advent Bible Study in the Lectio Divina style on Wednesdays at 11am in the Library. We're sorry we cannot offer this on zoom. Eucharist follows at 12:00 noon.

This group will meet on Dec. 4, 11 & 18.

#### Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Library, Growing In Faith

Please join us for a reflective and creative Advent offering to grow in faith through a program called Gathering To Write. Each week a Growing In Faith committee member will lead the group in a reflection on an Advent Gospel reading.

This group will meet on Dec. 8, 15, & 22.

#### Saturday, December 21 at 3:00 p.m. in the Church, Blue Christmas

All are welcome to join us for a worship service called Blue Christmas. This is a reflective service with a healing prayer component for those who find Christmas time sad, lonely, or difficult. Come soak in God's love through music, prayer and healing on the evening of the winter solstice.

## **Vestry Nominating Committee**

Sunday, December 1st, is the last day for nominations to be accepted for Vestry roles for 3 years beginning 2025 - 2027. If you have an interest or would like it discuss further, please speak to one of the Vestry Nominating Committee members: Richard Arthur, Dan Cox, Christine DeMiglio, Perry Downs, Linda Harrison, Dave Parille, Deidra Woodend.

In addition a Vestry Nominating Committee Form should be completed which can be found in the back of the church or online on the home page of the church website. Completed forms can be returned to any of the the Nominating Committee members. Specific for criteria for these roles can be found on the Form. Thank you for your interest and consideration.

## **Christmas Services**

Please join us for Christmas Eve services held at 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m., and on Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m.

## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, December 1st**

8:00 am Sunday Worship in the Chapel  
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal in the Church  
10:00 am Sunday Worship in the Chapel (Livestreamed)  
11:00 Annual St. Nicholas Party for all ages in the Parish Hall  
11:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

### **Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Office open 9:30-1:30  
Ricky, Vacation Day  
6:00 pm Growing in Faith Committee -- Zoom

### **Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Office open 9:30-1:30  
5:00 pm Buildings and Grounds Committee in Parish Hall

### **Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Office open, 9:30-1:30  
12:00 pm Holy Eucharist in the Chapel  
7:15 pm SAA in the Library

### **Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal in the Parish Hall

### **Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 pm Friday with Friends in the Parish Hall

### **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am Sunday Worship in the Chapel  
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal in the Church  
10:00 am Sunday Worship in the Chapel (Livestreamed)  
11:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

## **Pastoral Care Support**

### **Prayer Chain**

To add your name to the prayer chain, which is confidential to the team of people committed to praying over requests, please contact Kathy Sabbagh at 203-748-4042 or email [kathysabba48@gmail.com](mailto:kathysabba48@gmail.com).

### **Prayer List**

To add your name to the weekly bulletin prayer list, please call or email the office at 203-748-3561, or [welcome@saintjamesdanbury.org](mailto:welcome@saintjamesdanbury.org).

For pastoral support or a pastoral emergency, contact Rev. Gina Gore at 203-748-3561 x 14 to leave a confidential message or email [ggore@saintjamesdanbury.org](mailto:ggore@saintjamesdanbury.org).

# NOTES



**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)

**Clergy, Wardens, & Staff**

The Rev. Gina Gore, Priest-in-Charge  
The Rev. Dr. Carole Johannsen, Affiliate Priest  
The Rev. Dr. Michael Plekon, Affiliate Priest  
Joanne F. Archibald, Director of Music  
Ricky Lopez, Sexton

Lyn Meyers, Senior Warden  
Russ Griemsmann, Junior Warden  
Beth Cox, Treasurer

**St. James' Episcopal Church**

25 West St., Danbury CT 06810  
(203) 748-3561  
welcome@saintjamesdanbury.org  
www.saintjamesdanbury.org

**Fall Worship Schedule:**

**Sundays Holy Eucharist 8:00 am**  
*(in the Chapel)*  
**Holy Eucharist 10:00 am**  
*(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 on Sunday mornings at 8:00 am and noon on Wednesdays), is not wheelchair accessible*