

THE SUNDAY PAPER FOR NOVEMBER 27, 2022

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

YEAR A

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.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The Response

Psalm 122

(read in unison)

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

The Epistle

Romans 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus said to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

A HEARTY WELCOME TO ALL! We at St. 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 and drop it with an usher, and you will receive a follow-up from our priest right away. *Please note that all baptized Christians of any denomination are most welcome to receive Communion in our church.*

TODAY:

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: “More Than Enough”

Thanks to all those who contributed to a wonderful Celebration Sunday, and especially to the members of our Stewardship and Parish Life Committees who made the day a success. So far, **57** pledges of support for St. James’ in 2023 have been received, totaling **\$208,409**. Pledge cards have been mailed to parishioners unable to attend our Celebration Sunday gathering, and will be added to this total as they come in. Additional cards are available on our Information Table, and can be downloaded from our website and E-News.

ALL PARISH MEETING: A WARDEN'S MESSAGE

As we all know by now, Fr. Dustin will be leaving our parish at the end of this year, his last Sunday being Christmas Day. St. James' Vestry members met with Fr. Dustin after church this past Sunday to try to find answers to the many questions we all have on what our next steps will be moving forward. After over 2 hours some of our questions were answered but we still have more and will meet again after the 10 am service next Sunday, November 27th.

In order for all our voices to be heard and questions and concerns to be addressed, **we are inviting you to an All-Parish meeting on Sunday, December 11th, following the 10 am service.** Please mark your calendars with this date, and in the meantime, if you would like to speak to someone before that date, please don't hesitate to reach out to a Warden or any member of the Vestry. —*Janet Brown, Warden*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 2023 VESTRY NOMINATIONS

It is time for St. James' as a congregation to begin thinking about our elected leadership for 2023! Vestry Nomination Brochures are now available to assist parishioners in discerning those whom God may be calling to service as leaders of our parish next year. Please read the brochure carefully, thoughtfully, and prayerfully, and write the names of your suggestions for the Nominating Committee to consider. This year, Janet Brown will be completing her 6th term as parish Warden, the maximum number of consecutive terms allowed by our parish by-laws. In addition to a warden, three vestry terms (of three years) will need to be filled. Members of this year's Nominating Committee are Janet Brown, Lyn Meyers, Christine DiMeglio, Dan Cox, and Susie Sarkisian.

PASTORAL CARE: SPIRITUAL WELLNESS DURING ADVENT

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Wonderful encouragement from Psalm 96, but tough to manage in the season of hustle and bustle. Because we yearn to grow close to God, to stretch in his direction, we must pay attention to the state of our spiritual life, especially in Advent. Build up your health by attending worship services, surrounded by people who understand that you love God and want to serve God and proclaim Christ. Find opportunities to connect to family, friends, and fellow parishioners through Christmas cards, phone calls, and coffee hours. Put your concerns of a loved one on the Prayer Chain (with permission to kathysabba@snet.net). Let the arts fill your heart and attend the Festival of Lights in Downtown Danbury (12/3, 1-7pm, free), or The Messiah at the First Congregational Church (12/3, 3 pm, free). Most of all, find a quiet moment every day to consider the wonder of being loved wholly and unconditionally by our Savior. *Christine DiMeglio, Pastoral Care*

WORSHIP:

Advent begins Sunday, Nov. 27. This is a time for waiting, anticipation, and for some, a time of anxiety. During this season of Advent we will once again be offering Evening Prayer and Compline via Zoom for those seeking quiet at the end of the day. Evening prayer will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Compline will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday. All services will begin at 8 pm and we hope to see you there.

MUSIC NOTES:

The Service Music for Advent (begins this Sunday!) will include the beautiful **Trisagion (S-102)** written by **Alexander Arkhangelsky (1846-1924)**. He received his initial musical education at the Penza Theological Seminary and sang in choirs from an early age. He conducted church choirs in St. Petersburg and eventually started his own choir comprised of women instead of the traditional boys choir. In 1883 he began touring with this choir in Russia and abroad. They performed both Russian and Western sacred music. Among his works are over 300 sacred compositions and arrangements of church chants.

We will also be singing two of **David Hurd's (b.1950)** compositions during Advent; **S-124 Sanctus** and **S-161 Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God**. David Hurd is a composer, concert organist, choral director and educator. He was Professor of Sacred Music and Director of Chapel Music at the General Theological Seminary in Chelsea, New York for 39 years. Currently he is the Director of Music at the historic Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Times Square, New York City. As well as studying at the Juilliard School and Oberlin College, he holds honorary doctorates from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, Seabury-Western Theological seminary and Church Divinity School of the Pacific. These degrees were bestowed upon him in recognition of his contributions to sacred music.

MID-WEEK MUSICAL MOMENTS

**Music of Advent and Christmas
Organ Arrangements**

**November 30
Advent I:
O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel**



Joanne F. Archibald, Director of Music at St. James'
<https://www.facebook.com/StJamesDanbury>



Midweek Musical Moments <https://www.facebook.com/StJamesDanbury>
Wednesday, November 30, 2022; ADVENT MUSIC will feature a piano arrangement of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. —*Joanne F. Archibald, St. James' Director of Music*

THIS WEEK:

- **Sunday:** Holy Eucharist, 8am (*Chapel*); Choir Rehearsal, 9:15am (*Choir Room*); Choral Holy Eucharist, 10am (*Church and Live-Streamed*); Bell Choir Rehearsal, 11:30am (*Choir Room*); Special Vestry Meeting, 11:30am (*Library*)
- **Monday:** Finance Committee Meeting, 6pm (*Zoom*); Advent Evening Prayer, 8pm (*Zoom*)
- **Tuesday:** H.A. Meeting, 7pm (*Library*); Advent Compline, 8pm (*Zoom*)
- **Wednesday:** Wednesday Book Group, 11am (*Lounge*); Holy Eucharist, 12pm (*Chapel*); A.A. Meeting, 7:15pm (*Library*); Advent Evening Prayer, 8pm (*Zoom*)
- **Thursday:** H.A. Meeting, 7pm (*Library*); Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7pm (*Choir Room*); Advent Compline, 8pm (*Zoom*)
- **Friday:** Friday with Friends, 6pm (*Parish Hall*); Advent Evening Prayer, 8pm (*Zoom*)
- **Saturday:** Worship Committee, 10am (*Parish Hall*); Bible Study, 11am (*Zoom*)

COMING UP:

MISSION:

The annual **Cookie Walk & Craft Fair** will be held on **December 4th** in Parish Hall after the 8:00am and 10:00am services. Come and join some Holiday Shopping with gifts and goodies, without the lines. If you are baking cookies for the cookie walk, please drop them off by 8:30am so all can enjoy. Thank you all for your support. —*Sandi Nichols, Mission Committee*

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND THANKSGIVINGS:

This year, as in years past, St. James' parishioners have the opportunity to have their loved ones remembered in our Christmas Memorials & Thanksgiving Booklet. Do you have someone you would like to remember fondly at this time of year, or for whom you give specific thanks? If so, pick up a form from the Information Table, PRINT the names of those whom you would like listed in the 2022 Christmas edition of **The Book of Loving Remembrance**, and send it into the office with your donation. You can also email the form, and then mail in your donation to be included in this year's booklet. The booklet will be available on our website as well. There is no minimum offering. These names **MUST** be submitted **by Dec. 11th** in order to be listed in the Book of Loving Remembrance.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Our schedule of Christmas Worship this year will be the same as last year. We will offer a festive celebration of the Holy Eucharist at **5pm on Christmas Eve**, with special music beginning at 4:30pm. We will then continue our celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord with a **10am Holy Eucharist on (Sunday) Christmas Day**. On the First Sunday in Christmastide, we will plan for a Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols.

PARISH INTERCESSIONS

(To add a name to our Sunday prayers, please contact the Parish Office at 203-748-3561 or communications@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: Takoda, Nikki, Bonnie, Paul, Bobby, Irene, Dom, Linda, Ben, Ruth, Susan, Virginia, Donovan, Christel, Christine, Ann, Jill, Carole, for the people of Ukraine, for victims of gun violence, and for the special intentions on our public Prayer Wall.

For our Eucharistic Visitees: Mildred Boughton, Joan Tarrant, Shirley Ferrarone, Rita Butler, Dick and Erma Rausch.

For those who have died:

For those celebrating birthdays: Yvonne Benton

For those celebrating anniversaries: None this week.

The Altar Flowers are given in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Settle, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Settle, and Mrs. Sarah P. Settle, by Irene Simonelli and Family.

WORSHIP LEADERS

MINISTRY	THIS WEEK 10AM (11/27)	NEXT WEEK 10AM (12/4)
Ushers	Jehad Sabbagh, Carolyn Flynn	George Bogart, Donna Tuck
Altar Server	Liz Hagen/John Boddie	Lew Westfall
First Lector	Frank Giarratana	Bill Hutchinson
Second Lector	Alvin Tuck	JMT
Intercessor	Jana Draper	Deb Kaufmann
Eucharistic Visitor	Alvin Tuck, Janet Brown	TBD
Financial Stewards	Janet Brown, Lew Westfall	Beth Cox, Mark Sarkisian
Refreshments	<i>Host Needed</i>	<i>Host Needed</i>
Flower Arranger	Ernie Harrington	Ernie Harrington
Flower Deliverer	Donna Tuck	Dan Cox

St. James' Episcopal Church

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 (203) 748-3561
 welcome@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 is an Accessible space, but our smaller Chapel (used at 8am on Sundays and noon on Wednesdays), is not Accessible.