

THE SUNDAY PAPER FOR JANUARY 9, 2022

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD, YEAR C

The Collect of the Day

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The Old Testament

Isaiah 43:1-7

Thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth--
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

The Psalm

Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.**
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.**
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;**
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.**
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"**
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.**
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

The Epistle

Acts 8:14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

A HEARTY 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 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:

ST. JAMES' COVID-19 PROTOCOLS: AN UPDATE

Because of the rapidly increasing number of COVID-19 infections in the city of Danbury, our community has now been placed into the highest level of alert (the “red zone”) by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Your vestry has discussed how to respond to this challenge in a way that will help keep us all safer, but that also will allow those who wish to worship together in-person the option to do so. *Therefore, we will now once again require that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask at all times while in St. James' buildings. Also, we will suspend Coffee Hours until further notice, as that time of refreshment and fellowship involves the most face-to-face, unmasked interaction.* Please keep in mind that masks and sanitizer are always available on the Information Table, and that we will continue to offer live-streams of our worship services for those who would prefer to join us from home, or for those who are feeling unwell. Thank you for your cooperation!

VESTRY NEWS: DECEMBER MEETING

Our Vestry Clerk Susie Sarkisian has prepared a summary of December's vestry meeting for your information. The document can be downloaded in your weekly E-Pistle, or picked up in hard copy from the Welcome Table near the entrance to the church. The 2022 Budget for St. James' will be presented to the parish at the Annual Meeting on January 30th.

COOKIE WALK AND CRAFT FAIR

Thank you to all those who participated in our recent fundraiser. Thanks to all the bakers who made dozens and dozens of cookies, to all the crafters for the bowls, ornaments, scarves, shawls, etc. and to all who bought the cookies and crafts. Because of your efforts we raised \$1,108, the funds going to Laundry Love and the Dorothy Deal meals. So well done and thank you again for your support. —*Janet Brown*

MISSION COMMITTEE: WINTER CLOTHING COLLECTION

On behalf of the Mission Committee at St. James, thanks to all who donated to our hats, scarves, gloves and socks drive over the past few weeks. They have been donated to Pacific House at Exit 4 and Dorothy Day and were greatly appreciated. Your generosity will help many in our community stay warmer this winter. Blessings to all, —*Denise Holl*

FINAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

Thank You to all those who contributed to our wonderful Celebration Sunday this year! **According to the final tally of 2021, 81 pledge cards have been submitted, totaling**

\$238,668 of support for our parish's ministry in 2022. If you haven't yet done so, it's never too late to submit a card with your giving intention for the year! Cards may be picked up from the Information Table near the church entrance.

STEWARDSHIP: OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022

Thank you to all who made a pledge for 2022. If you requested envelopes, you will find them on the table at the back of the church. If you didn't indicate on your pledge card, but would like to receive envelopes, please speak with Janet Brown. And remember, it's not too late to turn in a pledge card if you haven't already done so!

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS:

If your Committee, Ministry, or Group at St. James' would like to share a report of your activity during 2021 for our upcoming Annual Meeting, please submit all materials as a Word document to our next email address for communications: **communications@saintjamesdanbury.org**. The firm deadline for all reports to be submitted is **THIS SATURDAY, January 15th**. This will ensure our publication is ready in time for our parish meeting on Sunday, January 30th.

THIS WEEK:

- **Sunday:** Holy Eucharist, 8am (*Church*); Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 9:15am (*Choir Room*); Holy Eucharist, 10am (*Church and Live-Streamed*); Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 11:30 (*Choir Room*)
- **Monday:** Rentals Committee, 11am (*Parish Hall*)
- **Tuesday:** Finance Committee, 7pm (*Zoom*); Nar-Anon Meeting, 7pm (*Library*)
- **Wednesday:** Wednesday Book Group, 11am (*Lounge*); Holy Eucharist, 12pm (*Chapel*); A.A. Meeting, 7:15pm (*Library*)
- **Thursday:** Growing in Faith Committee, 6:30pm (*Zoom*); H.A. Meeting, 7:00pm (*Library*); Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm (*Choir Room*)
- **Friday:** *No Meetings Scheduled*
- **Saturday:** Episcopal Church Women Meeting, 10am (*Parish Hall*), Bible Study, 11am (*Zoom*)

COMING UP:

WORSHIP: PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE REFRESH

On Sunday, January 23rd, we will refresh our list of names in our Prayers of the People. If you would like to include names for our intercessions for those who are ill, in danger, or in sorrow, please send them to our new email address for communications: **communications@saintjamesdanbury.org**.

2022 PAYMENT SIMPLIFICATION:

Want to simplify how you pay your pledge or make a donation in 2022? Here are two options:

- Have your bank send the check to the church office
 - Set up recurring payments through your online banking account - the checks will be mailed directly to the church
- Donate on line at www.saintjamesdanbury.org
 - Click here to donate today (There is a fee for this - it will ask if you want to cover the fees)

You can choose to make it recurring as well. --*Linda Spaziani, Assistant Treasurer*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 2022 VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Your Nominating Committee (Gary Rogers, Jehad Sabbagh, Deb Kaufmann, Jana Draper, Bob Flynn, and Karen Montecalvo) is still seeking out eligible nominees for election to our vestry next year. So far, three members have agreed to serve on the vestry for three-year terms. One remaining vacancy remains, for the remainder of a term (one year). Please continue to offer our Nominating Committee your prayerful support and input as we together do the holy work of discerning our leadership for next year!

ANNUAL MEETING:

Please mark your calendars to be present for St. James' Annual Parish Meeting following the 10am worship service on January 30th, 2022, when we will elect our leaders for the new year, and learn more about all that awaits this church in our future together.

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: Roja, Joyce, Susan, Dom, Irene, Takoda, Ron AJ, Dottie, Donovan, Kim, Sarah, Bob, Wayne, Linda, Joe, Joanne, Dorothy, Cathy, Nicky, and Bonnie; for Cheryl, LaNese, Colin, and Family; for Judith, Grant, Joy, Roger, and Family; for Rob and Family; and for Christel and Family.

For our Eucharistic Visitees: *None this week.*

For those who have died:

For those celebrating birthdays: Brenda Benton

For those celebrating anniversaries: *None this week.*

The Altar Flowers today are given in loving memory of Bob Beschle by Carolyn Flynn.

WORSHIP LEADERS

MINISTRY	THIS WEEK 8AM (1/9)	NEXT WEEK 8AM (1/16)
Ushers	Joe Walkovich/Skip Clapp Gary Rogers/Jill Kuhn	Joe Walkovich/Skip Clapp Gary Rogers/Jill Kuhn
Altar Server	TBD	TBD
Lector/Intercessor	Betsy Bergeron	Skip Clapp

MINISTRY	THIS WEEK 10AM (1/9)	NEXT WEEK 10AM (1/16)
Ushers	Frank Giarratana/Dan Cox	Carolyn Flynn/Jim Beschle
Altar Server	TBD	TBD
First Lector	Janis Anderson	Deb Kaufmann
Second Lector	Lyn Meyers	Frank Giarratana
Intercessor	Jana Draper	Lyn Meyers
Eucharistic Visitor	<i>None this week.</i>	TBD
Financial Stewards	TBD	TBD
Refreshments	Coffee Hour Suspended	Coffee Hour Suspended
Flower Arranger	Cheryl Harewood	Ernie Harrington
Flower Deliverer	Lyn Meyers	Bill Hutchinson

St. James' Episcopal Church

25 West St., Danbury CT 06810
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www.saintjamesdanbury.org

Worship Schedule:

Sundays

Holy Eucharist: 8am (*In-Person*)
Choral Holy Eucharist: 10am
 (*In-Person and Live-Streamed*)

Wednesdays

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

