



**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
St. James' Episcopal Church  
**WELCOME**

**A Warm Welcome to All!** St. James' is especially delighted and blessed to welcome you to our beloved church today. Assisted Listening Devices are available from an usher. Restrooms are located in the hallway through the exit at the front left corner of the sanctuary. Visitors are invited to fill out a Welcome Card located in each pew, drop it with an usher or put it in the collection basket. All are welcome to receive Holy 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).



## Old Testament

*Please be seated for the lessons.*

### A reading from the Book of Exodus

3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

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

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*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

**A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians**

10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

*All stand as able.*

**Sequence Hymn**

When Israel was in Egypt's Land

Blue Hymnal #648

**A reading from the Gospel according to Luke**

13:1-9

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

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

### **The Sermon**

The Rev. Gina Gore

*After a period of silence all stand as able and turn to p. 358, Book of Common Prayer.*

### **The Nicene Creed**

BCP, p. 358

### **Prayers of the People**

Intercessions for the Christian People

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In this holy season let us turn to God in prayer, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the catechumens and for all the holy people of God [hold silence], that we may heed the God who calls us to repentance in the events of our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For this nation and all the nations of the world [hold silence], that we may live in harmony and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those enslaved in body or in spirit [hold silence], that God may come to rescue them and grant them freedom, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For this community [hold silence], that during this holy season God's grace may produce in us the fruit God seeks, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our own needs and those of others [hold silence], that God will not allow us to be tested beyond our strength, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*The Reader adds our Parish Intercessions.*

*The Celebrant concludes*

God, ever faithful and true, from of old you have revealed yourself as one who will be with your people to save them. Be with us in our times of need, now and always. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## **Confession of Sin**

BCP, p. 360

*Celebrant prays the absolution.*

## **The Peace**

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

*People*        **And also with you.**

*Please greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

# The Holy Communion

## Offertory Sentence

*Celebrant*

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

*All are seated.*

## Offertory Anthem

Turn Back, O Man, Forswear Thy Foolish Ways (Old 124th)  
by Louis Bourgeois and Clifford Bax  
Chancel Choir

*All stand as able.*

## Presentation Hymn

Now Let Us All with One Accord

Blue Hymnal #147

## The Great Thanksgiving , *Prayer A*

BCP p. 361

## The Sanctus (*sung*)

Blue Hymnal S-124

## The Lord's Prayer (*spoken*)

BCP, p. 364

*After the breaking of the bread*

## Agnus Dei (*sung*)

Lamb of God

Blue Hymnal S-161

*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.*

## Communion Hymns

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Blue Hymnal #685

Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless

Blue Hymnal #343

## A Prayer for Spiritual Communion for those worshipping online

*[When the Sacrament is to be shared with homebound parishioners:]*

### **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.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

### **Postcommunion Prayer**

BCP, p. 366

### **The Blessing**

Book of Occasional Services

### **Closing Hymn**

Before Thy Throne, O God, We Kneel

Blue Hymnal #574

### **Dismissal**

*During the season of Lent there are no postludes. Please leave the sanctuary quietly or feel free to remain for private meditation.*

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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.

**Today is Parish Spring Cleaning Day after people help themselves to coffee in the Parish Hall. Many hands make light work!**



## **ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

8:00 AM

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Gina Gore

Director of Music: Joanne F. Archibald

Lector: Karen Davidson

10:00 AM

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Gina Gore

Ushers: Carolyn Flynn, Jihad Sabbagh

Intercessor: Dan Cox

Audio Tech: Jim Beschle

Financial Stewards: Janet Brown, Lew Westfall

Dir. Of Music: Joanne F. Archibald

Lectors: Perry Downs, Bobby Ward

Altar Server: Pat Pearson

## **PARISH INTERCESSIONS**

Let us pray for all who are ill, in danger, or in sorrow, especially the Simonelli family, Katie, Beth, John, Vivien, Ronald, Peter, Claire, Linda, Evan, Kim, Amy, Lois, Arthur, Kim, Ruth, Pat, Kate, David, Rayann, Ava, Bill, Donovan, Sophia, John, Leanne, and Virginia.

For all people affected by war and natural disasters, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Russia.

For St. Barnabas', Greenwich; Christ Church, Guilford; St. John's, Guilford; Grace & St. John's, Hamden.

For all parish-based mission partnerships; ECCT-wide mission partnership networks; the Companions in Mission Network.

For greja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil.

For the intentions on our prayer wall: For a beautiful and comfortable future.

For those celebrating birthdays this week: Ila Haviland, who turns one!

## Pastoral Care Support

### **Prayer Chain**

To add your name to the prayer chain 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).

### **Healing Prayer**

Healing ministers are available for healing prayer after Sunday services weekly: Rev. Gina, Bobby, Christine, Dan, Denise, Jana, Perry and Suzanne. Please don't hesitate to ask.

**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).

# CALENDAR

## **Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

8:00 am Sunday Worship in the Chapel  
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal in the Church  
10:00 am Sunday Worship in the Church (Livestreamed)  
11:15 Spring Cleaning in the Parish  
11:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

## **Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

Office open 9:30-1:30  
Spring Training Week: [www.episcopalct.org](http://www.episcopalct.org) for more info. Zooms run 9am-8pm

## **Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

Office open 9:30-1:30  
Spring Training (see above)  
7:00 Mission Ministries Committee Meeting in the Library \* Revisioning

## **Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**

Office open, 9:30-1:30  
Spring Training (see above)  
11:00 am Lenten Book Study in the Library  
12:00 pm Holy Eucharist in the Chapel  
6:00: LGBTQ+ & Allies Group in the Library, Lounge and Chapel  
7:00 pm SAA in the Hall

## **Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Spring Training (see above)  
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal in Parish Hall

## **Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Lenten Bible Study over Zoom. Please see website's calendar for link.

## **Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

9-3 pm In-person Spring Training at Berlin High School. See [www.episcopalct.org](http://www.episcopalct.org) for more info  
9-3 pm Lenten Retreat at Camp Washington. Email contact: Diane at [datwood@campwashington.org](mailto:datwood@campwashington.org)  
Cost is \$60 and includes a fabulous, healthy lunch.

## **Sunday, March 30<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 Church (Livestreamed)  
11:15 Bible Study

11:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

**In Case of a Pastoral Emergency:**

If there is a pastoral emergency please reach out to our Rector, Rev. Gina Gore at 203-748-3561 ext 14. This is a confidential line.

**Clergy, Wardens, & Staff**

The Rev. Gina Gore, Rector  
The Rev. Dr. Carole Johannsen, Affiliate Priest  
The Rev. Dr. Michael Plekon, Affiliate Priest  
Joanne F. Archibald, Director of Music  
Ricky Lopez, Sexton  
Amy Maloof, Parish Administrator

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

**St. James' Episcopal Church**

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

**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