

St. James' Episcopal Church
260 Beaver Dam Road
Brookhaven, NY 11719
631.286.0726
www.welcometostjamesbrookhaven.org

*St. James' Episcopal Church welcomes you to our service of worship.
If you are searching for a spiritual home,
we invite you to become part of our community of faith and love.*

*The mission of St. James' Church derives from the nature of the church.
It exists for the good of all people, to spread the word of
God's Salvation and to bring people to know Jesus Christ.*



Mk 1:8

*I have baptized you with water; but he
will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.*

The Second Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist
10 December 2023 9:30 AM

Let us acknowledge with respect and reverence the Unkechaug People, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations, while not forgetting the colonization of this land.

The Liturgy of the Word

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

You come to your people and set them free.

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.**

Kyrie

S91

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray. Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. *The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

- ¹ You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- ² You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- ⁸ I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- ⁹ Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰ Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- ¹¹ Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- ¹² The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- ¹³ Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter.

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the

heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. *The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

Hymn

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The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” *The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ*

Homily

The Nicene Creed *(Please Stand)*

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 *Compiled by Deacon Ormande Plater*

Presider: As we keep awake for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us offer prayers to God who stirs up strength and comes to help us.

Intercessor(s)

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ. **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Lawrence, Geralyn, Daniel and William our bishops and all bishops, for the presbyters, for the deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place. **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority. **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth. **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, and for those in prison. **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For the dying and the dead. **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need. **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Joining our voices with the Blessed Virgin Mary, blessed James and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord.**

Presider: O King of all the nations, only joy of every heart, keystone of the mighty arch who makes us one, come and save the creature you fashioned from clay. Glory to you for ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence is kept.* **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.**

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 of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Hymn

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Eucharistic Prayer 1 from Enriching our Worship

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new

Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Mary the God-bearer, blessed James and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fraction Anthem

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Invitation to Communion

All baptized Christians are invited to receive Communion.

Postcommunion Prayer *(Please stand)*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

Announcements

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

Welcome to our service. We are happy you could join us, either in person or via technological means. To join us as we worship via Zoom. Call in to 646 558.8656 Meeting ID: 317 854 854 Password: 187300. Please join us for fellowship in the Parish Hall after service. Thank you to Kamala Browne for hosting. Next week the Alexandre Family will host.

Are you receiving and reading the weekly e-messenger Good News from St. James? Check your email to make sure it is not going into your spam folder. If not, email the church and we will be sure to put you on the list.

Thank you to all who have committed to support our ministry at St. James by filling out an intention card and giving of your time, talent, and treasure. If you have not done so, we invite you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to respond to this call to help us minister in this part of the vineyard.

Fr. Hickman may be reached at 631.320.8777. Monday is his Sabbath Day.

Dates to Remember

14 December	Bishop's Committee Meeting 7PM
16 December	Essential Items Drive
24 December	Fourth Sunday in Advent 9:30 AM – Service in the Parish Hall Christmas Eve Service at 4:30PM

For a Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant N. as *she* begins another year. Grant that *she* may grow in wisdom and grace, and

strengthen *her* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Travelers

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel in particular _____; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For an Anniversary

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



The Most Rev'd Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Right Rev'd Lawrence Provenzano, Bishop of Long Island
The Right Rev'd Geralyn Wolf, Assistant Bishop
The Right Rev'd Daniel Allotey, Assisting Bishop
The Right Rev'd William Franklin, Assisting Bishop
The Rev'd Hickman Alexandre, Vicar

Bishop's Committee
Ted Anderson -25 & Sharon Smith -24; Wardens
Doreen Vaz, Treasurer
Kamala Browne -25, Karen LeGé – 25, Judy McCadden-26
Tracy Rentz McLeod -24, Diane Robinson – 24, John Ryley -26

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