

Please be seated for the readings

The Old Testament

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

A reading from the Book of Joshua

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm (*Read responsively by whole verse*)

Psalm 78: 1-7

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; * incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 **I will open my mouth in a parable; * I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

3 That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, * we will not hide from their children.

4 **We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, * and the wonderful works he has done.**

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, * which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 **That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; * that they in their turn might tell it to their children;**

7 So that they might put their trust in God, * and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments;

The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

Sequence Hymn

Jesus came, adored by angels

Hymn 454

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25: 1-13

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated

The Sermon

The Rev. Audrey Hasselbrook

Please stand

The Nicene Creed (*Recited In Unison*)

BCP Page 358

Prayers of the People

Form III

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The Confession and Absolution

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THINGS TO REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY FINANCIALLY SAFE

Part of the Safety Sundays Series

1. Plan for your estate and finances. Common documents include a will, durable power of attorney for finances, and a living trust. It is never too early for an adult to have a will.
2. Plan for your future health care. The most common advance directives include a living will and a durable power of attorney for health care.
3. Put your important papers and copies of legal documents in one place.
4. Tell someone you know and trust or a lawyer where to find your important papers and up-to-date passwords.
5. Review your plans regularly. It's important to review your plans at least once each year and when any major life event occurs, like a divorce, move, or major change in your health.
6. Maintain at least one photo ID, a passport or driver's license, even if the holder no longer should drive or travels.
7. If you are preparing to marry or have a child, it is particularly important to address all of the above. Included in your wishes is the designation of guardians for your children.



St James Episcopal Church
2023-2024 Chamber Music Series
Program includes works by Mendelsohn,
Mozart and Beethoven performed by

The Rose Quartet

Gabriel Anker

Liana Branscome

Violins

Rachel O'Connor

Viola

Alonso Testrepo Cardozo

Cello



With guest oboist
Randall Wolfgang
NY City Opera



Currently in Residence
at Montclair State,
they have shared the
stage with Harlem
Quartet, the Cavani
Quartet, Caroline Shaw,
Rhiannon Giddens
and Decoda.

Tickets are free. Donations will benefit community ministries.

St James Episcopal Church

581 Valley Road

November 19, 2023

4 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- * **Stewardship Season has begun; please fill out your pledge card and return to the church. If you need one, please see the Rector.**
- * A warm welcome to visitors and newcomers.
Please make yourself known to the clergy and sign the guest book to stay in touch.
- * **Church Office Hours:** We are open from 10am–3pm Monday–Friday
- * **Chamber Music Concert: Sunday, November 19th at 4pm.** Please join us for a concert in the church with the Rose String Quartet and guest oboist, Randall Wolfgang. The ensemble will be performing music of Mendelssohn, Mozart, and Beethoven. Admission is free however donations will be collected to support community ministries. All are welcome to attend!
- * **Coat Drive:** Coat drive ends on November 15th. Thank you to everyone for your donations!
- * **Little Free Pantry on the Front lawn:** We are in need of sources of protein, especially canned tuna, meats, and peanut butter. Donations can be brought to the church.
- * **Steinway Piano Restoration:** Our Steinway grand piano is almost done being fully restored and should return to us before Christmas. We are asking the congregation to help with restoration costs by writing a check payable to St. James Church with "piano" in the memo line or donating electronically with Zelle (email address odell.bettylou@gmail.com), and by attending musical fundraisers in the months ahead.
- * **Holiday Gift Drive:** We are collecting holiday gifts for infants through high schoolers for Prison Ministry and the Lighthouse Ministry. Bring your gift to St. James Church no later than Dec. 11. Our first event is Dec. 10. Select a tag from the holiday bulletin board (this process helps to ensure we get a broad range of gifts, but not mandatory to participate).
 - Gifts must be in gift bags, NOT wrapped.
 - Tag gift with age and gender
 - No toy guns, weapon-like toys, or batsGift cards (\$20 for Walmart or K-Mart) are popular with the tweens and teens. Gift Cards need to be in a clearly marked business size or larger envelope so nothing is misplaced. Do not tuck a gift card into a gift (such as into a purse, wallet, or book) per Jail instructions. Thank you for your support! Questions? See Rev. Audrey (ahasselbrook@gmail.com)

Servers Today: Ushers (8:15am): Karen Mingo-Campbell
(10:15am): Delps (Phil, Wren), Lindbergh Simpson, Laurie Sutton
Lectors (8:15am) - Alex Langbein & Karen Mingo-Campbell
(10:15am) - Phil Delp & Joanne Torrisi
Acolytes: Oliver Wagner, Jackson Pagliaro, Calvin Goodrich

THE H.O.S.T CORNER (HERE'S ONE SMALL THING)

I will do this one small thing:

- Write a letter about gun safety to your elected officials
 - Come to church as often as I can
 - Volunteer for the parish's food insufficiency program
 - Sign up for the choir
 - Sign up your children for church programming
 - Donate food to the soup kitchens
 - Give one hour in our thrift store
 - Say grace at the dinner table
 - Say prayers thanking God for the day at waking and sleeping
 - Give one Sunday to help gather this community in worship by being an usher
 - Be a Church Reader
 - Learn the names of our Rite 13-ers
 - Volunteer to work with our teens and youth.
 - Offer a ride to church for someone who needs it
 - Make a short weekly phone call to the homebound
 - Help with social media posts
 - Reach out by email to welcome a new member
 - Invite a friend to Church
 - Talk about our church's good works with others
 - Show up to events at the church.
 - Say hello to a neighbor
 - Volunteer to keep the outdoor food pantry stocked.
 - Learn the names of three teens or children in our church
 - Say Hello to three teens or children in our church
 - Become informed about our town government
 - Be good stewards.
- We urge you to keep up to date with your financial support of the church.

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. C. Melissa Hall, Rector

The Rev. Audrey Hasselbrook, Assistant Rector

Mr. Sean Price, Director of Music Ministries

The Rev. Deacon Jill Singleton, Parish Secretary

Mr. Zachary Zembower, Videographer

The Rev. Dr. Walter Lewis, Assisting Priest

Ms. Martha Boughner, Verger

Ms. Bettylou O'Dell, Business Manager

Ms. Cathlyn Robinson, MSN, RN, Parish Nurse

The St. James Vestry

Charlotte Judd (Senior Warden)

Martha Boughner

Kerri McMahan

Joanne Torrisi

Karen Mingo-Campbell

Romesh Sukhdeo

Michael Porcelli (Junior Warden)

Tara Lewis

Angela Bylancik

Richard Schmermund

Enver Acevedo

Angela Pagliaro