



The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025



St. James Staff

The Rev. Dr. Jerald W. Hyche
Rector

Greg Nunn
Organist

Jane Bates
Parish Administrator

Lacy Young
St. James School Director

Juanita Siller
Sexton

Welcome!

We are glad you are worshipping with us today!

If you're visiting for the first (or second, or third...) time, please sign our guest book near the door of the church, or take a moment to fill out one of the CONNECT cards in the pew and place it in the offering plate. I would love to learn more about you and answer any questions you have about St. James and The Episcopal Church.

Thanks for joining us today. Our celebration of God's work in the world today is made that much better by your being here.

Peace,

The Rev. Jerald W. Hyche, Rector



Please silence your mobile phone.



Child care for children up to 3 years old is available in the nursery across the breezeway in the Parish Hall building.



Assisted-hearing devices are available from the ushers.



We give thanks to Carter's Florist for generously providing our altar flowers each week. If you would like to make a donation to defray other worship expenses and commemorate a special day or someone, contact the Church Office or click GIVE on the church website.

**1803 Highland Hollow Drive
Conroe, Texas 77304
(936) 756-8831
www.stjames-conroe.org**

The Holy Eucharist

According to the Book of Common Prayer

+ said or sung by the congregation

Prelude

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, Wilbur Held

The Word of God

As the bell is rung, please stand for the hymn in procession.

+Hymn In Procession — No. 59 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding*

The Penitential Order

Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

+God's mercy endureth for ever.

Seeing that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14,16*

The Confession

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

+Almighty and most merciful Father,

we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,

we have followed too much the devices

and desires of our own hearts,

we have offended against thy holy laws,

we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,

and we have done those things

which we ought not to have done.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,

spare thou those who confess their faults,

restore thou those who are penitent,

according to thy promises declared unto mankind

in Christ Jesus our Lord;

and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,

that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,

to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Absolution

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **+Amen.**

The Kyrie

Lord have mercy.

+Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

+And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **+Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
 then the lame shall leap like a deer,
 and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
 and streams in the desert;
 the burning sand shall become a pool,
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
 A highway shall be there,
 and it shall be called the Holy Way;
 the unclean shall not travel on it,
 but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools,
 shall go astray.
 No lion shall be there,
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
 they shall not be found there,
 but the redeemed shall walk there.
 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
 and come to Zion with singing;
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
 The Word of the Lord.
+Thanks be to God.

+Psalm 146:4-9



4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;

- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The Lord shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

The Lesson

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

+Thanks be to God.

*During the following hymn, children ages 4 and older
are invited to Children's Chapel, returning at the peace.*

+Sequence Hymn— No. 76

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

♦Verses 1 & 2 before the Gospel ♦Verse 3 after the Gospel

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

+Glory be to thee, O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go

and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

+Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Jerald W. Hyche

Please stand as you are able.

+The Nicene Creed

**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.**

Please remain standing or kneel as you are able.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers [especially _____], that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present;

that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land [especially _____], that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor [_____ and] all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [especially _____], beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **+Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

+And with thy spirit.

The Holy Communion

Anthem at the Offertory

People Look East, arr. John Leavitt

Please stand as you are able.

+The Presentation Hymn

Hymn 65, v. 3

Fling wide your gates, O Zion, your Savior's rule embrace.

His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name!

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I

The Lord be with you.

+And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

+We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

+It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God...

Here a proper preface is said.

...Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

+Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption, who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for

many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

+AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

+Therefore let us keep the feast.

Let us pray.

+We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation

All who seek God are welcome at Christ's table.

To receive the sacrament, either bread and wine or bread alone, come forward as directed by the ushers and stand or kneel at the rail.

To receive the bread: extend your open hands, palm up.

For a gluten-free wafer: hold one arm across your chest.

To receive the wine: when the chalice is offered, guide it to your lips and take a small sip, or you may intinct (i.e., dip the wafer into the chalice).

For a blessing only: cross both arms across your chest.

If you are unable to come forward, notify an usher and the sacrament will be brought to you.

Music at the Communion — No. 66

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Please stand or kneel.

The Post Communion Prayer

+Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

+Amen.

Please stand for the hymn in procession.

+Hymn In Procession — No. 640 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

The Dismissal

+Thanks be to God.

Coffee hour after worship in the parish hall

Come, make connections, have a cup of coffee
and/or other refreshment!

Hosted today by the St. James Choir

next sunday, december 21



Advent Lessons and Carols **with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.**

Prepare your hearts for the coming Christ with the traditional sounds of the season in word and song. Sacred lessons read from scripture take us on the journey toward Bethlehem, with music to inspire us all along the way.



Please make your donations for Christmas Music and Flowers by Sunday, December 21, so that we can include your dedications in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

You can make your donation online by going to the St. James “giving” page at <https://www.stjamesconroe.org/give> or by using the QR code below (select “Christmas Music and Flowers” under the fund option on the giving form). Please email the wording of your dedication to info@stjames-conroe.org.





Christmas

at St. James

Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Eve

5 p.m.

**Children's Pageant
& Festal Holy Eucharist**

(no rehearsal, just come at 4:30 p.m. to participate!)

8 p.m.

Festal Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 28

The First Sunday of Christmas
Holy Eucharist, Rite II

HELPING HANDS—Adult diapers

This month we are collecting adult diapers for the
Community Assistance Center. Grape jelly appreciated year-round.

Please place items in the bin in the narthex.

Collections are gathered and delivered by the Daughters of the King.

Ministers of the Day

Ushers

Matha Low, Andy Williams

Greeter

Sue Sidelinger

Acolyte

Lissy Wernecke

Eucharistic Ministers

Chris Tassos, Gary Clark

Lector

Kristine Rothwell

Children's Chapel

Julie Wernecke

Videographer

Dennis Hawk

Vestry of the Day

Paul Foulger, John Rothwell