

Holy Eucharist Rite 2

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

BCP pg. 109

Blessed be the Lord who forgives all our sins;

His mercy endures forever.

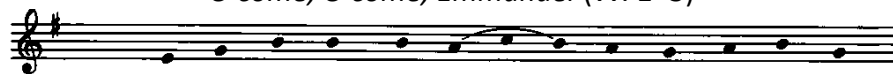
Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the good you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel (vv. 1–3)

Hymnal 56



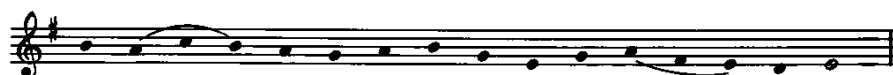
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plain-song, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.;
 adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

LM with Refrain

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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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.. Amen.

Reading

Isaiah 64:1–9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalms 80:1–7, 16–18 (*responsively, the people's response in **bold***)

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *

shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *

stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, *

how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; *

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *

the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; *

give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

HYMN

We are the Lord's people (vv. 1–2)

Hymnal 51

1 We the Lord's peo - ple, heart and voice u - nit - ing, praise him who
2 This is the Lord's house, home of all his peo - ple, school for the
3 This is the Lord's day, day of God's own mak - ing, day of cre -
4 In the Lord's ser - vice bread and wine are of - fered, that Christ may
called us out of sin and dark-ness in - to his own light,
faith - ful, ref - uge for the sin - ner, rest for the pil - grim,
a - tion, day of re - sur - rec - tion, day of the Spi - rit,
take them, bless them, break, and give them to all his peo - ple,
that he might a - noint us a roy - al priest - hood.
ha - ven for the wea - ry; all find a wel - come.
sign of hea - ven's ban - quet, day for re - joic - ing.
his own life im - part - ing, food ev - er - last - ing.

Words: John E. Bowers (b. 1923), alt.

Music: Decatur Place, Richard Wayne Dirksen (b. 1921)

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The Holy Gospel

Mark 13:24–37

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great

power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

HYMN

We are the Lord's people (v. 3)

see previous page

The Sermon

The Rev. George Roberts

The Nicene Creed

BCP pg. 358

**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.**

The Prayers of the People

As we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us offer prayers to God who stirs up strength and comes to help us, saying, Lord, graciously hear us.

For the coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory, for the coming of Wisdom to teach and guide us, for the coming of Emmanuel, the hope of all the peoples. We pray, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For this parish community of St. James Parish, that God would guide us with his truth, fill us with his love, and provide for us from his bounty. We pray, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority; for the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ. We pray, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place. We pray for the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic, for Bishop Moisés, for the people, and for the Dominican Development Group. For the people of Yemen, Nicaragua, and Honduras, we pray, **Lord, graciously, hear us.**

For all who travel this holiday weekend; for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, and for those in prison. We pray, especially, for Kelly, Lisa Nolan, Fran, Barbara, Laura Riss, Moe Shover, Peter and Kam Hufstader, Crissy Raymond, Jonah and Lisa, Dee, Dennis, Samantha Rogers, Henry and Marlene, Peggy, Elaine and all others for whom we pray, silently or aloud We pray, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who have gone before us under the sign of faith, and for all the departed, especially those for whom we pray We pray, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Celebrant: O Lord of all the nations, only joy of every heart, keystone of the mighty act in Christ that makes us one: Come and save your creations who you fashioned from clay. Glory to you forever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be 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.**

The Peace

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

The Doxology

The Great Thanksgiving – Prayer B

BCP pg. 367

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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. James, the Apostle and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**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.**

Agnus Dei

BCP pg. 407

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

During Holy Communion, those at home, who cannot physically receive Communion, are encouraged to say the following prayer, one of spiritual Communion:

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I present to You my soul and body with the earnest wish that they may always be united to You. And since I cannot now receive You, O God, sacramentally, I beseech You to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to You, Almighty One, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate You from me. May I live and die, ever in Your love. Amen.

[Armed Forces Prayer Book, 1951]

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

**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

Announcements

HYMN

Signs of endings all around us

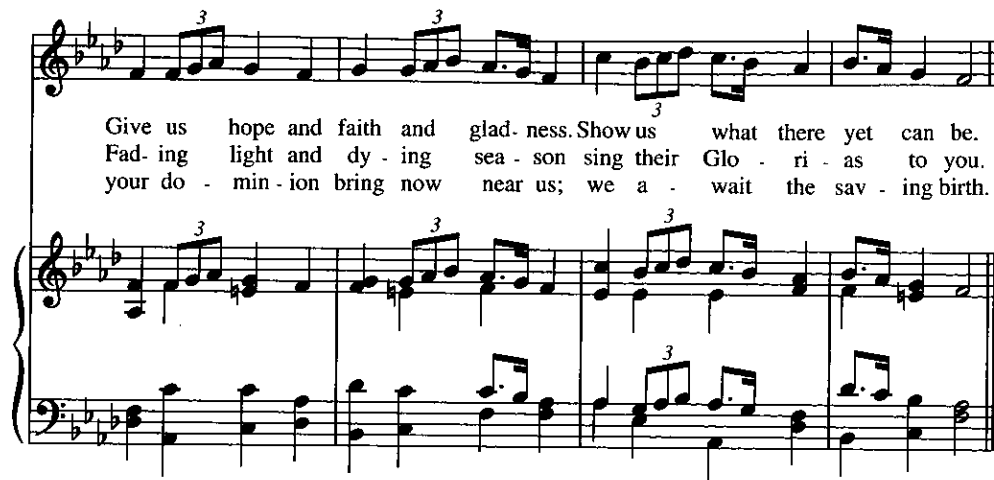
Hymnal 721

1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us dark - ness, death, and win - ter days
2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?
3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.

shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness, numb - ing mouths that long to praise.
Life from death, and from our rend - ings, realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?
Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness, ter - rors calm fore - bod - ings still.

Come, O Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:
Let your prom - ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through - out the earth;

Continued on next page



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 Music: *Ton-y-Botel*, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944)

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The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

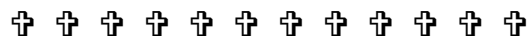
Thanks be to God.



Serving this week

Crucifer	Chloe Roberts
Altar Guild	Joyce Bettencourt
Lector	John Newton
Ushers	Michael & Armen Slusarz
Care Ministry/Flower Delivery	Andrea Harris

Today's altar flowers are a thank offering to celebrate
 Michaela's 21st birthday with gratitude for God's many blessings
 ~ The DeDominicis/Flynn Family



Thank you to Rachel Abrams for sharing her music with us this morning.

Join us online for worship this morning! Watch us on Facebook Live (you do NOT need to have a Facebook account) – <https://bit.ly/StJamesLive>

Sunday Bible Study: Please join us via Zoom as we begin our study of Romans, following worship on Sunday morning. **We will convene at approximately 11:00 a.m.** and share a time of discernment and discussion. The Zoom meeting info is:

<https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 867 0734 7676; Passcode: 571274

Join us for worship during the week on Facebook Live on St. James Parish's Facebook page:

<https://bit.ly/StJamesLive>

Mondays for Morning Prayer at 9 am

Wednesdays for Evening Prayer at 5 pm

Fridays for Compline at 7:30 pm.

Annual Appeal for Stewardship: We hope that you have been actively engaging God in conversation about your gift to our Annual Appeal to and for the continuing life and ministry of St. James. **Please fill out your pledge card and return it as promptly as possible.** If you have questions or concerns, please call the office, or email Fr. George or Sue Deming. As of Tuesday, November 24th, we have received 62 pledges totaling \$190,392. Thank you and God bless you!



Confirmation Class: Calling all confirmands! Our next class will be **next Sunday, December 6th from noon–2 pm** via Zoom. Please use the same link as the last class! If you have any questions or need a copy of the Confirmation Expectations feel free to reach out at amy.sjyouthminister@gmail.com!



St. James Christmas Cookie Cookbook! Christmas bakers! We may not be able to hold our cookie swap as normal, but in these different times, we would like to still hold the tradition alive!

We are looking for all individuals or families to submit a favorite cookie recipe for our first ever *Christmas Cookie Cookbook*! Please submit the following by December 13th so we can have it out to the parish in time for the holidays for those looking for Christmas dessert inspiration! **Please email all submissions to amy.sjyouthminister@gmail.com by Sunday, December 13th to have your recipe included!**

Please provide:

A favorite family "cookie" recipe (can be other types of Christmas-y desserts)

A memory or short explanation of WHY it is your favorite

BONUS: A photo of the dessert or you/your family making them.

Christmas Giving Tree – This is a wonderful opportunity for St James to share joy with those in need in our community. Thank you very much for your continued generosity!!

Farmington Community Services: As was done with the Thanksgiving Baskets, the Town is accepting only monetary donations to be converted to gift cards for the children's gifts. We have committed to providing gifts for at least 10 children in Farmington. **Checks should be mailed to the church, made out to St. James Parish with Giving Tree in the note section. These donations must be received by St. James by Wednesday, December 9th** in order for us to forward the donations to the FCS.

Friendship Service Center: The Angel Giving Tree will be a collection of gift cards. **Anyone wishing to participate can purchase a card (\$20-\$25) and drop it off at the church by Tuesday, December 15th at noon.** Locations

that have been popular in the past, including places where a hot meal could be purchased are: Dunkin, McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, Walmart, C-Town, Stop & Shop, Old Navy, Price-Rite, Target, save-a-lot, Marshall's, Aldi.



Join us for **Greening of the Church: On Sunday, December 20th**, immediately following the **9:30 service (roughly 10:30)**, we will commence with the *Greening of the Church* for Christmas!! Yes, this has been a rough year but, as we think of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, gather with us, socially distanced and wearing your mask, for our traditional Greening. **We are doing more than usual outside this year**, as our early Christmas Eve family service will be outdoors. So if you are more comfortable being outside, there will be “something green” for you to do! Many hands make light work, but please, let us know in advance if you are able to assist us this year, just so we don’t have too many folks congregating inside or outside this time around. Please bring your clippers as we only have a few pair, and we will have coffee (if it is cold enough for it ☺). Blessings and we look forward to seeing you soon!



Youth (Virtual) Christmas Party: Even though it may look a bit different this year, we will still be having our annual Youth Christmas Party for all those in middle + high school! On **Sunday, December 20th from noon to 1:30 pm** we will be gathering virtually to play games (like Trivia and Jackbox) and spend time in community with each other. Families are invited to stop by the narthex and pick up craft bags to do together (virtually) filled with Christmas treats! Please RSVP to amy.siyouthminister@gmail.com if you’re planning to attend!

Christmas Decoration Fund: When we celebrate together during holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas, we are poignantly aware of those who are no longer with us. If you would like to make an offering for Christmas decorations in memory of loved ones, please complete the form below and return it to the parish office. Offerings may also be made in thanksgiving for our many blessings. **The deadline for donations is noon on Monday, December 21st.** Make checks payable to *St. James Parish* marked “Christmas Decorations.” After Christmas, the flowers will be distributed to the sick and shut-in. If you would like to help with that ministry, please call the parish office (860–677–1564). Thank you.



Please print as you wish the donation listed in the Christmas Bulletins

In memory of _____

OR In thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____

We have a wonderful Christian Formation series for our congregation and beyond in this program year. We partner with the Spiritual Life Center (SLC), in West Hartford, to present a year on Christian Spiritual Practices. Part of walking the way of Jesus and truly living the Christian life means drawing forever closer to the Divine presence. In our busy lives, however, finding new, creative, and practical ways to live the Christian life and engage in our spiritual journey (we are all on one, by the way) can be very challenging indeed. Our next workshop on Christian Spiritual practices comes in December. Signup is available at <http://bit.ly/StJamesSpirDir>

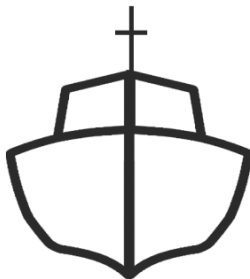


Spiritual Direction, The Rev. Tom Carr. Next Saturday, December 5th, 10 am–noon. Tom is Pastor of Second Baptist of Suffield, CT. His primary interests are in preaching, worship leadership, teaching and spiritual growth. He is a certified Spiritual Director. Spiritual direction is one person, walking with another person or group of people in the process of paying attention to the movement of God in his or her life, as s/he grows in intimacy with God.

Communion on the go: We have had many requests and inquiries regarding Holy Communion in recent months. One of the many challenges of COVID-19 for us, as people of God engaged in Episcopal worship, is that the vast majority of our parishioners are not able to come to in-person worship right now. Anyone who wishes to receive Holy Communion, but cannot come to in-person worship, can call Fr. George (or email him) to set up a time to receive Communion. You can come by the church and Fr. George will come out to your car, socially distanced, and say a prayer with you and give you a pre-packaged "Communion kit" that will contain already consecrated Holy Communion and a prayer card. Fr. George is also happy to come to your home and do this through your screen door, on your deck, porch or patio ... in other words, we can find a way that is safe and still allow for reception of Holy Eucharist. We know this is not perfect or the way that folks would most like to receive Communion but, in these COVID-ravaged times, receiving the blessing and grace of Eucharist cannot be overstated. We hope to hear from you!

The lectionary readings for next week, December 6th are:

Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13; 2 Peter 3:8–15a; Mark 1:1–8



St. James Parish

3 Mountain Road in Farmington, CT 06032

Tel. 860–677–1564

The Rev. George C. Roberts, *Rector*

Amy Steele, *Youth Minister*

Blake Hansen, *Director of Music*

www.stjamesfarmington.org