

# ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH

*Holetown, St. James, Barbados*

TO BE A BEACON RADIATING GOD'S LOVE AMONG ALL PEOPLE

## THE CHRISTMAS VIGIL (CHRISTMAS EVE)



*9:30 p.m. Christmas Carols*

*Advent Wreath Ceremony*

*10:00 p.m. Sung Holy Eucharist and Sermon*

*December 24, 2023*

**RECTOR: REV. CANON BEVERLEY SEALY-KNIGHT**

**REV (DEACON) MICHELLE LEACOCK**

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**Advent Wreath**

**Nicole Johnson**

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## **FROM THE RECTOR:**

### **THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2023**

An all-time Christmas favourite and loved by many is none other than A Christmas Carol, told by Charles Dickens. It has its humour and its tragedy. The characters are varied and help to make the story come alive and of course the main character is Scrooge who had this fearsome and loathsome persona. In the end he is won over and all is well. However, we learn from his life that misplaced priorities can make us insensitive to what is really important and we can lose sight of what is our true calling or the true reason for our existence. Until we are able to discover our purpose, life will not be as fulfilling as it ought to be.

Scrooge finally discovers, with the help of real and ghostly figures, that obsession with the accumulation of money and matter at the expense of family, employees, and neighbours, would eventually lead to loneliness and bitterness as well as to the loss of love and contentment.

Christmas is the season for sensitizing us to the real needs of the communities around us. Our communities are in need of care and love. We can admit that when we enter into close conversations with our neighbours who are the people we meet on the streets time and time again, we realize how meaningful these interactions are and how beneficial too.

It is these interactions, fostered in mutual respect, which open the doorways to rich dialogues, leading to understanding and empathy. We come to the awareness that there is a big universe out there and we are, though a tiny part of it, still significant in its make-up and functioning. Our interactions, if handled wisely and properly, lead to the exchange of aid and support as we help each other along. This is what Christmas is about.

One child, Emmanuel, was born under special circumstances to teach the world that each person is important and is invited to be a co-creator with God in making beauty, peace, hope, joy and love real and renewal resources. Without them, we like Scrooge, are doomed.

As we sing our Christmas Carols, watch our favourite Christmas movie, or read our favourite yuletide book; as we visit with family and friends and worship in our parish churches, let us not be satisfied to see the day pass without acknowledging in every way its significance. As we exchange gifts, let us exchange peace and hope. Let us pledge that we won't wait until next Christmas to do what we should be doing all year round. In truth, Christmas does not need December, or tinsel, or lights to be Christmas. Christmas happens whenever we show the world the Christ who dwell within us every time we 'love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all

your soul and strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.' (Mark 12:22-31)

A joyous and blessed Christmas to you and your family,

Your friend and pastor

Canon Beverley

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## **ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY:**

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

#### **THE CHRIST CANDLE**

#### **SONG**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesu, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father now in flesh  
appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.



**READER 1** - Today is Christmas Day, the birthday of Jesus.

**READER 2**: As we celebrate the birth of Jesus and rejoice in His coming to us, we light the Christ Candle  
We light our last candle to remember the birth of

our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

**THE WHITE CHRIST CANDLE IS LIT, FOLLOWED BY THE OTHER FOUR CANDLES.**

**READER 2**: Let us pray:

**ALL**: Jesus Christ is our hope. He is our peace.

Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the One who was born in Bethlehem. ***Amen.***

**READER 1**: Jesus Christ is our joy. He is love - pure, holy, undying love. Whoever believes in Him will never perish but have eternal life. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.

**REFRAIN**

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

## THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

### OPENING SENTENCES:

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. Alleluia.

*Galatians 4. 45*

### INTROIT HYMN 68

1. Hark! The herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

***Refrain:***

*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

***Refrain***

3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
 Hail, the Sun of righteousness!  
 Light and life to all He brings,  
 risen with healing in his wings.  
 Mild he lays his glory by,  
 Born that man no more may die,  
 Born to raise the sons of earth,  
 Born to give them second birth.

***Refrain***

**PRESIDENT:**

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (*Alleluia! Alleluia*).

**ALL:**

And blessed be His Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.  
 (*Alleluia! Alleluia*).

*The following **may** be said by the President and people:*

**THE PRAYER OF INTENT**

**ALL:**

**Blessed Lord and Father, we have assembled in your Name and in fellowship with one another. Enable us by your grace to offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; to proclaim and respond to your holy word. Teach us to pray for your world and your Church. Grant that we, confessing our sins, may worthily offer to you our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice and eat and drink of your spiritual food in this Holy Sacrament. Amen.**



*The following may also be said:*

### **COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**ALL:** 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.

### **THE KYRIES**

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

### **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to His people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One;  
you alone are the Lord:

**you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**PRESIDENT:** Let us pray.

**THE COLLECT:**

**THE CHRISTMAS VIGIL - CHRISTMAS EVE**

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*or this*

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

*or this*

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born [this day] of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2 - 7

*In the preceding verse, Isaiah has recalled “the former time” when the northern territories, Zebulun and Naphtali, were conquered by the Assyrians. But, he writes, “in the latter time” God will return these lands to Israel: he will honour Galilee.*

*A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 9, beginning at the second verse.*

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness--  
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;  
 authority rests upon his shoulders;  
 and he is named  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
 His authority shall grow continually,  
 and there shall be endless peace  
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
 He will establish and uphold it  
 with justice and with righteousness  
 from this time onward and forevermore.  
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### **The Word of the Lord**

***The people:*** *Thanks be to God.*

## **PSALM 96**

***This psalm is a song of praise to the Lord in which the whole heavens and earth are invited to join.***

1. Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day  
to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.

- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but  
idols; \*  
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his  
presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples;  
\*  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King!  
\*  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be  
moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son:\*  
and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now:\*  
and shall be forever. **Amen.**

## **THE SECOND READING: TITUS 2:11-14**

*The author has just admonished his readers to “teach what is consistent with sound doctrine.” They are to teach and practice good ethical behaviour “so that the word of God may not be discredited”. It is the grace of God, personified in Christ, that will enable them to do this.*

*A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Letter of Paul to Titus, Chapter 2, beginning at the eleventh verse.*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**The Word of the Lord**

*The people: Thanks be to God.*

## **GRADUAL HYMN 65**

**Refrain:**

*Go tell it on the mountain,*

*over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born!*

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.

***Refrain***

2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth.

***Refrain***

3. Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

***Refrain***

## **THE GOSPEL: LUKE 2: 1-14**

***The prophet Micah prophesied that from Bethlehem would “come forth” for God “one who is to rule Israel”, either descended from David or from God. He will be like a shepherd, feeding his flock with God’s help and in his majesty. He will protect the people and bring them peace.***

***Gospeler: The Lord be with you***

**All:**            *And also with you*

**Gospeler:**    *A Reading from the Holy Gospel according  
to Luke.*

**All:**            *Glory to Christ Our Saviour.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

Glory to God in the highest 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.  
 With the Father and the Son he is worshipped  
 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 INTERCESSION: MARCIA GRAHAM**

### **FORM B**

**LEADER:** Father, we pray for your holy Catholic  
 Church;

**ALL: That we all may be one.**

**LEADER:** Grant that every member of the Church may  
 truly and humbly serve you;

**ALL: That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

**LEADER:** We pray for all Bishops, Priests, and  
 Deacons;

**ALL: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

**LEADER:** We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**ALL: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

**LEADER:** Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**ALL: That our works may find favour in your sight.**

**LEADER:** Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**ALL: That they may be delivered from their distress.**

**LEADER:** Give to the departed eternal rest;

**ALL: Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

**LEADER:** We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**ALL: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

**LEADER:** Let us pray for our needs and those of others.

**ALL: Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords to your will; and the good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **THE ACT OF PENITENCE**

### **PRESIDENT:**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *(1 John 1: 8 - 9)*

Let us therefore confess our sins.

**ALL:** Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and one another, in thought, word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are sorry and repent of all our sins. For your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name. ***Amen.***

## **THE ABSOLUTION**

### **PRESIDENT:**

Almighty God, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL: Amen.**

## **THE GREETING OF PEACE**

**PRESIDENT:** We are the Body of Christ. By the one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, and have all been made to drink of the one Spirit.

**ALL: Let us then pursue the things that make for peace and build up the common life.**

**PRESIDENT:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

*The President and people shall greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

***SONG OF PEACE: :***

**LET THERE BE PEACE**

Let there be peace on earth,  
 And let it begin with me.  
 Let there be peace on earth  
 The peace that was meant to be.  
 With God as our Father  
 Brothers all are we.  
 Let me walk with my brother  
 In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me  
 Let this be the moment now.  
 With every step I take  
 Let this be my solemn vow.  
 To take each moment  
 And live each moment  
 With peace eternally.  
 Let there be peace on earth,  
 And let it begin with me.

***OFFERTORY HYMN: 61***

1. Christians, awake! Salute the happy morn,  
 whereon the Saviour of the world was born;  
 rise to adore the mystery of love,  
 which hosts of angels chanted from above:  
 with them the joyful tidings first begun

Of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

2. Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,  
 who heard the angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,  
 I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth  
 to you and all the nations upon earth:  
 this day hath God fulfilled his promised word,  
 this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'
3. He spake; and straightway the celestial choir  
 in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;  
 the praises of redeeming love they sang,  
 And heaven's whole orb with alleluias rang:  
 God's highest glory was their anthem still,  
 peace upon earth, and unto men good will.
4. To Bethlehem straight the enlightened shepherds  
 ran,  
 to see the wonder God had wrought for man,  
 and found, with Joseph and the blessèd Maid,  
 her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid;  
 then to their flocks, still praising God, return,  
 and their glad hearts with holy rapture burn.
5. O may we keep and ponder in our mind  
 God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;  
 trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,  
 from his poor manger to his bitter cross;  
 tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,  
 till man's first heavenly state again takes place.
6. Then may we hope, the angelic hosts among,  
 to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song:  
 he that was born upon his joyful day

around us all his glory shall display;  
 saved by his love, incessant we shall sing  
 eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

## **THE PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS**

### **PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE**

**Father, we offer you these gifts which you have given us: this bread, this wine, this money. With them we offer ourselves, our lives, and our work, to become through your Holy Spirit a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice. As this bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, so may we and all your people become channels of your love; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**PRESIDENT:** The Lord be with you

**ALL:**           **And also with you**

**PRESIDENT:** Lift up your hearts.

**ALL:**           **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**PRESIDENT:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**ALL:**           **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**PRESIDENT:**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father almighty, everlasting God:

**CHRISTMAS:**

**Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the**

**Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.**

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**ALL:**

**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!**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER FORM A:**

**PRESIDENT:**

**A**ll Holy and glorious Father,  
our Creator God,  
we give you thanks  
because in your loving wisdom  
you brought all things into being,  
and are truly worthy of praise  
from every creature you have made.

Again and again  
we have turned away from you;  
yet in every age your steadfast love  
has called us to return,  
to live in union with you:



for it is your eternal purpose  
to put new life into all things  
and make them holy.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who took our human nature upon Him  
you have redeemed the world  
from the bondage of sin:  
and by the power of your Holy Spirit  
you have gathered a people to yourself,  
to make known in every place  
His perfect offering which He made  
to the glory of your Name.

Hear us, therefore, Father,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;  
And grant that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be unto us His Body and Blood.

For, on the night He was betrayed  
He took bread,  
and when He had given thanks to you,  
He broke it and gave it to His disciples  
and said: "Take this, and eat it:  
This is my Body which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."

And 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."

**PRESIDENT:**

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

*One of the following Acclamations shall be said:*

**ALL:**

Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.

***or***

Jesus is Lord.  
He has reconciled us to Himself:  
Christ makes all things new.

***or***

Christ is Lord.  
Through His death  
we were made children of God:  
He is our hope of glory.

**PRESIDENT:**

And so, Heavenly Father,  
rejoicing in His Holy Incarnation;  
His Blessed Passion and His Perfect Sacrifice  
made once for all upon the Cross;  
His Mighty Resurrection from the dead;  
His Glorious Ascension into heaven;

and looking for His Coming in glory;  
we offer to you this Bread and this Cup.

We pray that you will accept this sacrifice of  
praise and thanksgiving;  
and grant that all who eat and drink of the Body and  
Blood  
of your Son, our great High Priest,  
may be renewed by your Holy Spirit,  
and be one Body, one Spirit, in Him.

Let faith and love increase in us.  
Unite us with all Bishops,  
all other ministers of your Word and Sacraments,  
and with the whole people of God,  
living and departed,  
whom you have made for yourself.

Confirm us in holiness,  
that we may be found ready to join the company  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Apostles,  
and all your saints,  
when our Lord Jesus Christ comes again:  
Forever giving you thanks and praise  
through Him from whom all good things do come.

With Him and in Him and through Him,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father Almighty,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**ALL:**  
**Blessing and honour and glory and power**

**be yours for ever and ever. *Amen.***

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**PRESIDENT:**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your Name;**

**your kingdom come;**

**your will be done**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours now and forever. *Amen.***

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD. FORM C:**

**PRESIDENT:**

This is the true bread which comes from heaven

**ALL:**

**Whoever eats this bread will live forever.**

## **THE AGNUS DEI**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
grant us peace.**

## **THE INVITATION: FORM B**

### **PRESIDENT:**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### **ALL:**

Our souls will feast and be satisfied, and we will sing  
glad songs of praise to Him.

## **COMMUNION HYMN: 82**

1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by:  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.
3. How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts  
 the blessings of his heaven.  
 No ear may hear his coming;  
 but in this world of sin,  
 where meek souls will receive him, still  
 the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
 descend to us, we pray;  
 cast out our sin, and enter in:  
 be born in us to-day.  
 We hear the Christmas angels  
 the great glad tidings tell:  
 O come to us, abide with us,  
 Our Lord Emmanuel.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER: FORM C**

### **ALL:**

Almighty and everliving God,  
 we thank you for feeding us  
 with the spiritual food  
 of the most precious Body and Blood  
 of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;  
 and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
 that we are living members  
 of the Body of your Son,  
 and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out  
 to do the work you have given us to do,  
 to love and serve you as faithful witnesses

of Christ our Lord.  
 To Him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
 be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **THE DISMISSAL**

Christ, who by His incarnation gathered into one, all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with His joy and peace; and the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen**

### **RECESSIONAL HYMN 77**

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
 Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

#### ***Refrain***

*O come, let us adore him,  
 O come, let us adore him,  
 O come, let us adore him,  
 Christ the Lord.*

2. God of God, Light of Light,  
 Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
 Very God, begotten, not created:

#### **Refrain**

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
 Sing all ye citizens of heaven above:  
 'Glory to God in the highest:'

**Refrain**

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing:

**Refrain*****ORGAN POSTLUDE***

*Please feel free to depart during the postlude, mindful of those who remain to listen.*

MAY THE CHRIST OF  
CHRISTMAS BE  
WITH YOU TODAY  
AND ALWAYS.

***MERRY  
CHRISTMAS !!!!***





# ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH



**P.O.Box 3009, Holetown, St. James,  
Barbados**

**Tel: (246) 422-4117**

**Email: [jamesthegreat@caribsurf.com](mailto:jamesthegreat@caribsurf.com)**

**Web Page: [stjames-barbados.church](http://stjames-barbados.church)**

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