

# St. James Parish Church

*Holetown, St. James, Barbados*

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



CHRISTMAS EVE - YEAR A

THE CHRISTMAS VIGIL

DECEMBER 24, 2025

9:00 p.m. Christmas Carols

10:00 p.m. Procession, Sung Holy Eucharist and Sermon

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

**ASSISTANT PRIEST: REV. GRAVENEY BANNISTER**

**ASSISTANT CURATE: REV. STEVENSON SOBERS**

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# **THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

**DECEMBER 25, 2025**

**REV. CANON BEVERLEY SEALY-KNIGHT**

## **THE QUIET RADIANCE:**

A REFLECTION ON BEING A BLESSING THIS CHRISTMAS

Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ,

We thank God that we are together this Christmas as we remember our loved ones whom we love but see no longer. They have been a blessing to us in word and deed and we are encouraged to be the same for others.

Christmas is a time when many are hoping for a miracle - when many are hoping to be blessed and the Christmas story is the greatest incentive for being that vehicle of God's grace.

To be a blessing is not necessarily about performing grand, public gestures, or achieving monumental acts of charity. Instead, we find it is a far quieter, more consistent practice—a daily choice to embody goodness in the small, often unseen, interactions of life. It is the intention to leave every person and every place slightly better than we found them, driven by the understanding that true fulfillment lies not in what one acquires, but in what one contributes.

The essence of being a blessing is a radical shift in perspective: moving from a scarcity mindset focused on

personal lack, to an abundance mindset focused on shared resources of time, empathy, and kindness. It means consciously stepping outside the natural human inclination toward self-preoccupation to notice the needs, visible or invisible, of those around us. This awareness turns simple acts—like listening without judgment, offering sincere encouragement, or simply being a stable presence in a moment of chaos—into powerful gifts. These are the moments when we are most truly "blessed" in the transitive sense, acting as conduits of grace rather than merely recipients of it.

What is perhaps most profound about this practice is the creation of a genuine ripple effect. A single act of intentional kindness is rarely a closed loop. The energy of being supported, seen, or relieved of a burden tends to propagate outwards. The person who received a timely compliment might then pay for the coffee of the person behind them. The colleague who felt truly heard during a stressful meeting might approach their next interaction with renewed patience. It is through this chain of quiet generosity that the world's shared burdens become lighter. Our own well-being is intrinsically tied to the well-being of our community, and by nurturing them, we inevitably nurture the environment that sustains us.

Furthermore, being a blessing is a potent antidote to cynicism. In a world that often feels fractured and overwhelming, actively choosing to bring light, even in a small way, grounds us in purpose. It reminds us that we have agency—that our hands are capable of healing,

even if only by wiping away a tear or typing a supportive message. The deepest, most enduring joy we have experienced has consistently followed an action that eased another's suffering or amplified their happiness. This paradoxical reality—that we gain by giving—is the quiet truth at the heart of the matter.

Ultimately, being a blessing is not a status to be achieved, but a continuous way of living. It requires humility, consistency, and a persistent willingness to see the good in others and to reflect that goodness back to them. It is the gentle, daily work of making one's life a quiet, radiant source of warmth in the lives of others.

Let us be the blessing that our world needs this Christmas.

A joyous Christmas to you and a year filled with countless blessings.

Your friend and pastor

Canon Beverley

# **THE ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY**

## **THE CHRISTMAS VIGIL**

### **(CHRISTMAS EVE)**

#### **THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**FOCUS:** The Light That Transforms All Darkness

#### **READER 1:**

Tonight we light the Christ candle, for the Light of the World has come.

#### **READER 2:**

Christ's light shines into every shadow—homes, hearts, communities, and the digital spaces where many now live and learn.

#### **PRAYER:**

**ALL:** Light of Christ, shine through us. Make us instruments of hope, peace, joy, and love. Give us courage to work for a world free from digital violence, where the dignity of every woman and girl is honoured.

We light the Christ candle.

All sing *Christ Be Our Light* while the other lights are lit.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
Longing for truth, we turn to You  
Make us Your own, Your holy people  
Light for the world to see

### ***Refrain:***

*Christ, be our light  
Shine in our hearts  
Shine through the darkness  
Christ, be our light  
Shine in Your church gathered today*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless  
Longing for warmth, many are cold  
Make us Your building, sheltering others  
Walls made of living stone

### ***Refrain:***

Many the gifts, many the people  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong  
Let us be servants to one another  
Making Your kingdom come

### ***Refrain:***



## HYMN FOR THE PROCESSION: 83

Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

\* At his word they were created;  
he commanded; it was done:  
heaven and earth and depths of ocean  
in their threefold order one;  
all that grows beneath the shining  
of the light of moon and sun,  
evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed!  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bare the Saviour of our race,  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore him;  
angel-hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King:  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers and sages  
sang of old with one accord;  
whom the writings of the Prophets  
promised in their faithful word;

now he shines, the long-expected:  
let creation praise its Lord,  
evermore and evermore.

\* Hail, thou Judge of souls departed!  
hail, thou King of them that live!  
On the Father's throne exalted  
none in might with thee may strive;  
who at last in judgement coming  
sinners from thy face shalt drive,  
evermore and evermore.

Now let old and young men's voices,  
join with boys' thy name to sing,  
matrons, virgins, little maidens  
in glad chorus answering;  
let their guileless songs re-echo,  
and the heart its praises bring,  
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant, and high thanksgiving,  
and unwearied praises be,  
honour, glory, and dominion,  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore.

## 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.

	<b>The Word of the Lord</b>
<i>The people:</i>	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>

### **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.
13. 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 [15-20]**

*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 on earth peace among those  
whom he favours!'.  
[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

**This is the Gospel of Christ**  
**The people: Praise to Christ our Lord.**

(NRSV)

## **SERMON:**

### **THE NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is seen or 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,  
one in 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 was born of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered, died and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in fulfilment of 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.  
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: 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 blessed 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.

**PRESIDENT:**

**A**nd so, Heavenly Father,  
Arejoicing 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.**

**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:**

### **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



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