

St. James Parish Church

Holetown, St. James, Barbados

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



THE ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY - YEAR A

DECEMBER, 2025

RECTOR: THE REV. CANON BEVERLEY SEALY-KNIGHT

ASSISTANT PRIEST: REV. GRAVENY BANNISTER

ASSISTANT CURATE: REV. STEVENSON SOBERS

THE ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

THEME: “Christ’s Light in the Digital World: Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy”

GLOBAL FOCUS: Ending Digital Violence against All Women and Girls

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CANDLE OF HOPE

FOCUS: Hope in a Connected World

READER 1:

Today we light the first candle of Advent—the candle of Hope. Hope is the light that breaks through the shadows of despair and fear. In a world where online spaces can wound or destroy, Christ calls us to be people who bring hope and healing.

READER 2:

Digital violence — harassment, cyberbullying, exploitation — has silenced too many voices. Yet the Advent promise reminds us: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

PRAYER:

ALL: God of Hope, kindle in us the courage to use our words, posts, and messages to uplift and protect. May our digital presence reflect Your light.

We light this candle for Hope.

(LIGHT THE FIRST CANDLE.)

8:00 THE USHERS’ GUILD

THE ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CANDLE OF PEACE

FOCUS: Peace in Our Speech and Screens

READER 1:

Today we light the second candle—the candle of Peace.

Peace is more than stillness; it is justice, respect, and the safety of all God’s children.

READER 2:

Digital spaces should never be battlegrounds of cruelty. Christ, the Prince of Peace, calls us to create online environments where every person can participate without fear.

PRAYER:

ALL: God of Peace, still the storms of anger across our screens. Help us speak truth with kindness and courage.

We light this candle for Peace.

(LIGHT THE SECOND CANDLE.)

7:15 PHILIP AND ARLETTE KING

9:15 HARTLEY AND SANDRA RICHARDS

THE ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CANDLE OF JOY

FOCUS: JOY THAT RESTORES THE VULNERABLE

READER 1:

Today we light the third candle—the candle of Joy.

This pink candle marks Gaudete Sunday, a moment when the solemn waiting of Advent lifts and the joy of Christ draws near.

READER 2:

For many who have suffered digital violence, joy feels distant. But God’s promise restores dignity, heals wounds, and proclaims freedom.

PRAYER:

ALL: God of Joy, may Your Spirit renew all who have been harmed online. Let joy return where shame once lived, and let our actions help create safer digital spaces.

WE LIGHT THIS CANDLE FOR JOY.

(LIGHT THE PINK CANDLE.)

7:15 CECILY HOPE AND DEBBIE BUCKMASTER

9:15 SANDRA LEACOCK AND MARVA LEWIS

THE ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 21

THE CANDLE OF LOVE

FOCUS: Love that Protects and Advocates

READER 1:

Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of Love. Love enters the world through Christ—love that defends the vulnerable and restores the broken.

READER 2:

Digital violence often targets women and girls most severely. God's love calls us to build online communities that value, protect, and uplift every child of God.

PRAYER:

ALL: God of Love, teach us to love boldly. Let our words online and offline reflect compassion, respect, and justice for those who are at risk.
We light this candle for Love.

(LIGHT THE FOURTH CANDLE.)

7:15 A.M. KAITLYN AND KAREN ALLEYNE

9:15 A.M. AHMALI AND DEREK CORBIN

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:

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,

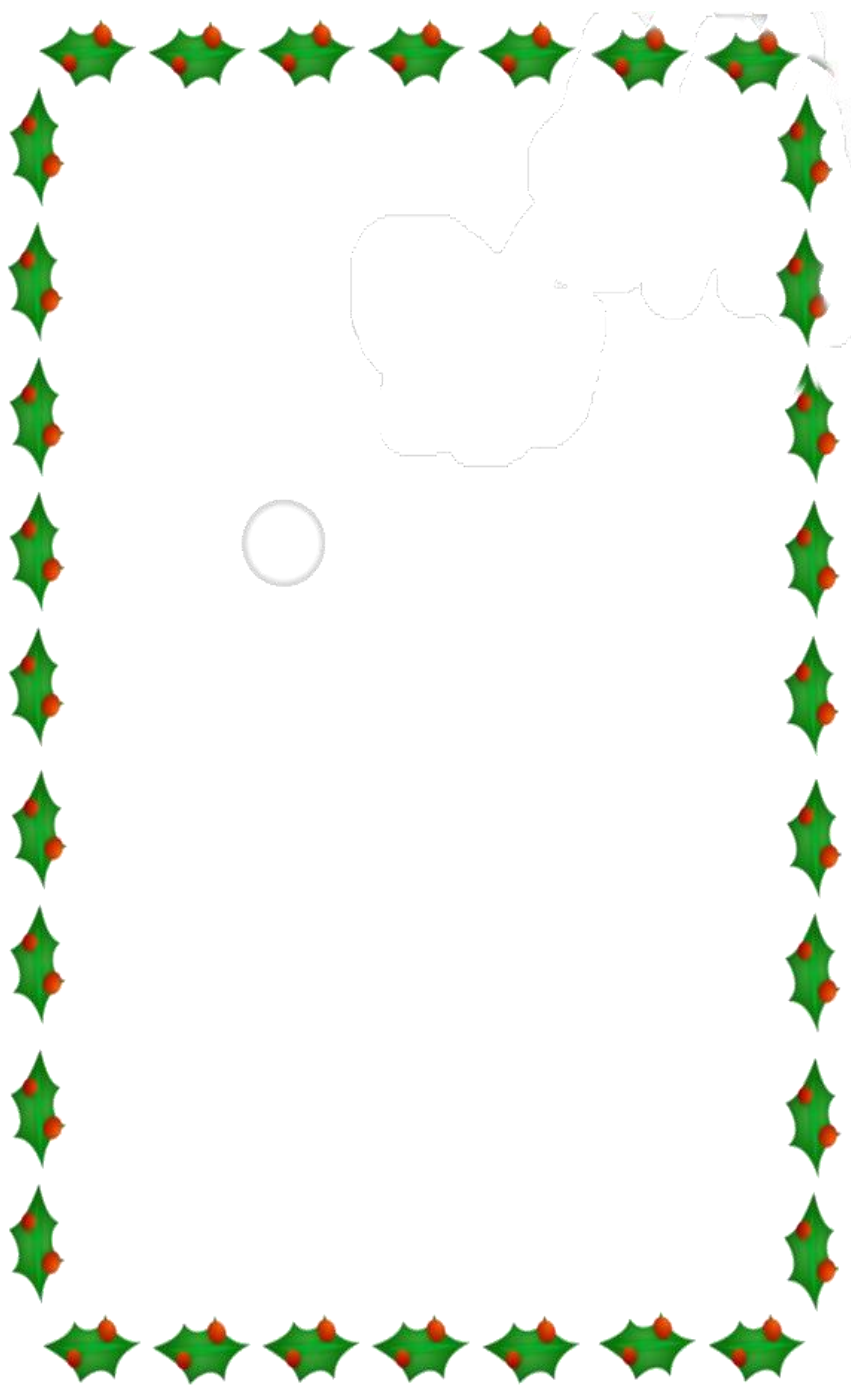
even if only by wiping away a tear or typing a supportive message. The deepest, most enduring joy we have experienced has consistently followed an action that eased another's suffering or amplified their happiness. This paradoxical reality—that we gain by giving—is the quiet truth at the heart of the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



St. James Parish Church



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