Dear friends,

“Where were you when...?” It’s a question that comes up sometimes, isn’t it? Depending on your age, the conversation might begin around Kennedy’s assassination, or the wedding of Charles and Diana, or the 9/11 attacks, or Obama’s election. But whenever we ask about it, we do so as a way of connecting with others by sharing how we all experienced the same exact event, but in a particular way, in a particular place, among particular people, embedded in a particular set of circumstances.

Today’s Gospel reading from Luke opens with one of those “where were you when” statements. The word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, calling him to begin his public campaign of baptisms in the Jordan River, “in the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius.” We are told that Pilate is serving as governor of Judea, Herod is on the throne in Galilee, and Annas and Caiaphas are serving terms as high priests in the Temple in Jerusalem. It’s all Luke’s way of saying: this is real; it happened then and there, pay attention!

Sometimes spiritual principles like God’s love, or God’s grace, or God’s intervention and activity in human lives can feel abstract, like things that happen (we trust) but to other people. The hope and promise of Advent, however, is that these principles would be real for us, known in our lives, amidst the particular circumstances in which we live. For while the Good News of Jesus Christ is timeless—the same yesterday, today, and forever—it also has the power to change the here and now.

In Christ,
The Rev. Ryan Fleenor, Vicar

Today at St. James’

New Member Welcome
We are thrilled to recognize new members of our congregation at each of our services. If you would like to learn more about membership at St. James’, please contact the Rev. Zack Thompson.

The Sunday Forum 10:30 a.m., Coburn Hall
We continue our series exploring the spiritual practices for a Jesus-centered life, using Luke’s gospel as a pattern for understanding how we can live the Way of Love.

Baptism Prep 10:30 a.m., Library
Would you like to have your child baptized at St. James’? Parishioners come together to learn more about this important sacrament. Contact the Rev. Zack Thompson to learn more.

Gifts of Performance 1:00 p.m., Coburn Hall
Use the techniques of acting and performance to better perceive and experience the presence of God within and all around you. Parishioner Sabra Jones invites you to an acting intensive series.

3rd Grade “Story time” with the Rector 3:00 p.m., 5th Floor
The Rev. Brenda Husson will read C.S. Lewis’ classic, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, in her office for our third-graders. Join us, whether you’ve read them or not (reading not required)!

Afternoon Bible Study 4:30 p.m., Sunderland Hall
A Bible Study opportunity to explore the lectionary readings appointed for the week and how they relate to our lives. Join us when you are able!

Every Sunday

Fellowship
• After the 9:10 a.m. service, coffee outside Coburn Hall
• After the 11:15 a.m. service, coffee in Sunderland Hall

Nursery Care available downstairs
Nursery care is available from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., during the 9:10 and 11:15 a.m. services, and the adult formation offerings.

Formation for all ages!
At St. James’, we believe that if you come here, you will grow. To learn more, visit the First-time Families podium in the Narthex.
• Toddler (ages 2-3) and Primary (ages 4 - 6) 9:05 - 11:00 a.m.
• Church School, Youth Group (grades 1-12) 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.
• The Forum 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.
• Afternoon Bible Study 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Healing Prayer
Is there something you would like prayer for—a joy or a concern, for yourself or someone else? Join our Healing Prayer ministers in the Chapel following worship at 9:10, 11:15 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

New? START HERE TO BEGIN YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST
• Pick up a “Start Here” brochure and return the welcome card.
• “Meet me at the bell” (after 9:10, 11:15 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.)

Meet next to the bell at the back corner of the church for an informal conversation with a priest about what led you here and where you might be called to go in your spiritual life.
This Week

* Special this week  Learn more at stjames.org/calendar


Morning Prayer  8:00-8:30 a.m.
Caregivers Playgroup  10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer  5:30-6:00 p.m.
Lectio Divina  6:00-6:30 p.m.
Overnight Shelter open (Sunday - Friday)

Tuesday, December 11  Luke 21:29-38

Morning Prayer  8:00-8:30 a.m.
Tuesday Morning Small Group  8:30-9:30 a.m.
Tuesday Lunch Program  9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
3-5 year old Playgroup  3:30-4:45 p.m.
Cherub Choir rehearsal  3:45-4:15 p.m.
Junior Choir rehearsal  4:30-5:30 p.m.
Evening Prayer  5:30-6:00 p.m.
Centering Prayer  6:00-6:30 p.m.
Canterbury Choir rehearsal  6:30-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12  John 7:53-8:11

Holy Eucharist  8:00-8:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study  8:30-9:30 a.m.
0-12 month Playgroup  10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Centering Prayer  12:00-12:30 p.m.
Evening Prayer  5:30-6:00 p.m.
* Advent Quiet Evening  6:15-8:15 p.m.


Morning Prayer  8:00-8:30 a.m.
12-24 month Playgroup  10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Bible Stories & Legos  4:00-4:45 p.m.
We Love to Sing  4:00-4:45 p.m.
Primary Choir rehearsal  4:00-4:45 p.m.
Thursdays for Families  4:45-6:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer  5:30-6:00 p.m.
Education for Ministry  6:30-8:45 p.m.

Friday, December 14  Luke 22:14-30

Men’s Group  7:00-8:00 a.m.
Morning Prayer  8:00-8:30 a.m.
24-36 month Playgroup  10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Centering Prayer  12:00-12:30 p.m.
Evening Prayer  5:30-6:00 p.m.
Friday Dinner Program  5:00-9:00 p.m.


* Christmas Pageant Rehearsal  10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
* Share the Joy party  11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Next Sunday: December 16


8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  Homily by the Rev. Zack Thompson.


6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion  Sermon by the Rev. Brenda Husson. Music for piano, cello, and harp.

The Sunday Forum  10:30 a.m., Coburn Hall
We continue our Advent series, Journeying the Way of Love, exploring the spiritual practices for a Jesus-centered life. We will await the coming of Christ by moving through the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Luke’s gospel provides a pattern for understanding how we can live the Way of Love as individuals, as families and friends, as a community, and out in the world.

Children’s Christmas Pageant  4:00 p.m., Sanctuary
The Christmas story comes to life for our youngest parishioners (ages 4-17)! Enjoy this festive pageant, fun for parishioners of all ages. Learn more at stjames.org/pageant or contact Vicki Hall.

Afternoon Bible Study  4:30 p.m., Sunderland Hall
A Bible Study opportunity to explore the lectionary readings appointed for the week and how they relate to our lives. Join us when you are able!

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent  Sun. December 16
Services of Holy Eucharist at 8:00, 9:10, 11:15 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent  Sun. December 23
Services of Holy Eucharist at 8:00, 10:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve  Mon. December 24
Children’s Service at 3:00 p.m.
Lessons & Carols at 5:00 p.m.
Festal Eucharist at 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day  Tue. December 25
Festal Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas  Sun. December 30
Services of Holy Eucharist at 8:00, 10:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

Bible Memorization Project

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 9

“See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me.”

—Malachi 3:1
Thanks be to God

- for our new members welcomed at today’s services.
- for the generosity of all who have made 2019 financial commitments.
- for the faithful volunteers who serve at the Lunch Program, Dinner Program, and Homeless Shelter ministry.

Your prayers are requested

- for St. James’ this Advent, that we would be inspired to faithful watchfulness, preparing the way for God in Christ to enlighten the darkness of our lives and our world.
- for parishioners preparing for Baptisms, especially the Varney and Meade families.
- for St. James’ Advent retreat at Holy Cross Monastery.
- for members and friends of the parish who are sick, sorrowful, or in any kind of trouble: Donald, Henry, David, Susan, Terry & Mary Jane, Mal, Elona, Cynthia, Pam, Caroline & Michael, Welterene, James Edward, Joan, Lois, Brian, Sara, Michael, Janet, Eula Mae, Carol, Kathy, Jane, Lilly, Laura, Ann & Ben, Bob, Chris, Amanda, Blanche, Victor, Vally, Charles, Seth, Jeanette, Alice, Iris, Sophie, Asher, Marielle, Maria & her parents, Frank, Lisa, Carmen, Milton, Alise, Andy & Sabra, Izabel, Rick, Peter & Dianne, Ben, Bill, John, Prune, the Kirkpatrick family, Martha, Tom, Douglas, Vicky, Ramon, Pelham, Anthony, Nancy, Zoey, Nadine, Isabelle & Viviance, Tracey, Kevin, Greg, Betsy, Jeannine, Rodney, Mary, Iny Frances, Dorothy, Grace, Mary, JoAnne, Sue, Ellen, Dorothy, Elnora, Harriett, Alex, Marc, Travers, Susan, Madge & Bill, Christopher, Margot, James, Peggy, Katharine, Jerry, Casey, John & Catherine, Theresa, Ruth, Filip, Sandy, Dick, John, George, Peter, Samuel, Jose, Laura, Pam, Josefinna, Jorge, Barb, Nick, Craig, Peter and Jana, Megan, Grace, Wayne, Matthew, Isabel, Babis, Kiley, Margaret, Paul, Blake, Barbara, MaryAnn, Bill, Carl Janderino family, Alida and Martin, Dale, Wendy, Carol Sue, Robert, Jonathan, John, Ben, Bryce, Elena, James, Elena, Kelly, Mackenzie, Jason, Carter, Angelo, Kathyrn, Hilary, Jake, Laura, Nicholas & Nancy, Donnice, Teresa, Ben & Juergen, Liam, Ann, Aaron, Molitior, Emily, Madeline, Deborah, Andrew, Charlie, Felicia & Alex, Roger & Jovie, John, Monique, Susie, Cilla, Rich, Sharon, Janer, Julie, Behida, Sarah, Ray, John, Diane, Frank, Karen & Craig, Gary, Sarah, Aaron, family, Anita, Dwain, Helen, Caris & Blake, Charlotte, Josh, Peter, Nellie & Ray, Bill, Anne, Lisa, Jason, Jeffrey, Alexandra, Ed & family, Kenneth, Tony, Vicky, George, Ryan, Steve, Peggy, Bill, Marilyn, Thehma, May Dean, Dorothy, Peg, Nereida, Andrea, Monica, Chris, C.T., Chase, Jean, Kimberly, Erroll, James & Micchle, Rui, Alice, Jeff, Claude, Matthew, Jada, Lauren, Sarah, James, Steven, John, Amy, Kay & Ken, Paul, Blake & Pamela.

We commend to God’s never-falling care

- victims of war and violence throughout the world, including all victims of terrorism; all migrants and refugees who have died fleeing danger; and all those killed in the military service of our nation.
- all whom we love but see no more, especially Jane Gregory Moore, and Maria Magdalena Acosta.

To have your prayer requests printed in this space, or to provide an update, please e-mail the clergy at pastoralcare@stjames.org, or visit stjames.org/prayer.

Clergy Discretionary Fund - Christmas gifts
The Clergy Discretionary Fund makes financial assistance available to persons in need, both within the parish and for those neighbors who come to us in moments of crisis. The ministry of the Clergy Discretionary Fund is particularly dependent upon gifts at Christmas and Easter. This season, help your clergy feed, clothe, shelter, educate, refresh and restore the minds, bodies, and spirits of those in need by making a gift in the amount of your choosing.

Mexican Border Trip
In response to the continuing humanitarian crisis on our border, the Rector, our IRC partnership chair Charles Curtis, and the Rev. Eva Suarez will join a group of Episcopalians to visit refugee ministries in the Rio Grande valley, beginning in El Paso, Texas. The group will cross-over to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and meet with three of the Anglican Bishops of Mexico to visit shelters for asylum seekers. While there, they will bear witness, pray, and begin to plan together the Anglican Bishops of Mexico to visit shelters for asylum seekers.

Advent Reading: The Jesse Tree, by Geraldine McCaughrean
The Jesse Tree tells the stories of Jesus’s family and is a great way to learn stories from the Bible! Join parishioners of all ages in this wonderful tradition. McCaughrean’s The Jesse Tree brings the story to life especially for children.

Parishioners (and friends) young and old are invited to join Director of Music Davis Wortman for some old-fashioned caroling! A festive reception will follow from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Pew Candle set-up
Help to deck-out our sanctuary for Christmas services alongside other St. James’ children and families. We’ll put up pew-candles and set up the creche at the foot of the chancel. Please contact Vicki Hall to learn more or to get involved.

Advent Reading:
The Jesse Tree

Come together around what matters
Advent is a season for coming together around what matters most. At St. James’, that means joining together to offer our best gifts for the mission and ministries of our parish. To date, 75% of parishioners have committed 80% of our 2018 financial goal. Will you join us and help us to reach 100%? Visit stjames.org/give to make a year-end gift to our 2018 Commitment Fund.

News & Notes

Prayer List

Light in Darkness: Advent Quiet Evening
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
Take a deep-dive into God’s Way of Love this Advent by joining fellow parishioners for an evening of fellowship, contemplation, and prayer, led by the Rev. Janet Vincent. Supper at 6:15 p.m., program at 7:00 p.m., candlelit Compline at 8:15 p.m.

Share the Joy Gift Drive
Help make Christmas extra magical for the children and youth of incarcerated parents through our partnership with the Osborne Association. Visit stjames.org/advent2018 to make a personal gift.

Carol on the Church Steps
Tues. Dec. 18, 5:30 p.m.
Parishioners (and friends) young and old are invited to join Director of Music Davis Wortman for some old-fashioned caroling! A festive reception will follow from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Pew Candle set-up
Fri. Dec. 21, 2:00 p.m.
Help to deck-out our sanctuary for Christmas services alongside other St. James’ children and families. We’ll put up pew-candles and set up the creche at the foot of the chancel. Please contact Vicki Hall to learn more or to get involved.

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The Clergy & Lay Staff

The Vestry
Sam Hutcheson, Sr. Warden - Jennifer Charrington, Jr. Warden

David Andryc
Sue Bennett
Hugh Boston
Gerlinde Brixius
Tristan Bultman
Stephen de Francesco

Susanna Guffey
Elizabeth Littlejohn
Marcy Sendax
Lisa Smith
Anne Strassner
George Wade

Mary Malhotra,
Vestry Officer for Stewardship
Kathleen Connelly,
Youth Representative

St. James’ Church is a community that actively shares the love of Jesus Christ with each other, our city and the world.

Worship

SUNDAYS
8:00 a.m. · Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
9:10 a.m. · Family Eucharist
11:15 a.m. · Choral Eucharist
6:00 p.m. · Candlelight Communion

WEEKDAYS
M, T, Th, F 8:00 a.m. · Morning Prayer
Wed. 8:00 a.m. · Holy Eucharist
Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m. · Evening Prayer

CENTERING PRAYER
Tue. 6:00 p.m.
Wed. 12:00 p.m.
Fri. 12:00 p.m.

LECTIO DIVINA
Mon. 6:00 p.m.

Open for prayer and meditation
Sunday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Visit Us

PARISH HOUSE HOURS
Mon. - Fri. · 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesdays · 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

ST. JAMES’ CHURCH
865 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK, NY 10021

To reach any of us during the week, or in case of pastoral emergency at any time, call 212-774-4200.

STJAMES.ORG