Dear friends,

“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…’” (Luke 2:9-10)

It must have been a startling thing. Shepherds, keeping watch over their flocks by night, in the quiet hills outside Bethlehem, minding their own business and certainly not prepared for divine interruption. None of them had gone to work that day expecting “good news of great joy,” and yet, it came. To them. In that remote corner of the Roman Empire. And not in the way they might have imagined.

Christmas is that great feast of divine interruption. It celebrates the most startling and wondrous truth of all: that God comes, sometimes when we least expect it, to be with us and for us. God doesn’t wait for us to have it all together. God doesn’t care if we are the right kind of people. God just comes, and invites us know how deeply loved we are. God comes and challenges us to share God’s love in all we do.

We hope Christ’s light shines brightly for you this Christmas. And we hope you will join us in all the ways we seek to share it. Some of those opportunities are described in this leaflet, and much more information is available on our website, stjames.org. Our pictures, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses are on the back page. Any of us would welcome the opportunity to know you better, and to help you find your way to follow Christ.

Merry Christmas and God bless you!

The Clergy and Lay Staff of St. James’

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Christmas Eve
Monday, December 24
All are invited to attend Christmas Eve services; no tickets or reservations are required. Christmas music at 4:30 and 10:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m. Children’s Eucharist
A joyous, 45-minute service of Holy Communion especially appropriate for our youngest parishioners and their families.

5:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols
A traditional service of Scripture readings and Christmas carols, with a homily from the Rev. Brenda G. Husson, Rector. Begins with a choral prelude at 4:30 p.m.

10:30 p.m. Festal Eucharist
Our version of “Midnight Mass,” this is a beautiful and transcendent celebration of Holy Communion, including all your favorite carols. Begins with a 30-minute prelude of choral music at 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
Tuesday, December 25, 10:30 a.m.
Celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ with a service of Holy Eucharist including sermon and favorite carols.

The First Sunday after Christmas Day
Sun. December 30
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
10:30 a.m. Festal Eucharist (Church)
6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion (Church)

The Feast of the Holy Name
Tue. January 1, 12:00 p.m.
Join us for a meditative and peaceful celebration of Holy Communion in the Chancel to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name.

The Feast of the Epiphany
Sunday, January 6
We conclude the Twelve Days of Christmas with Three Kings Day, remembering the visit of the Magi to the Holy Family.

Our normal Sunday schedule resumes!

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
9:10 a.m. Children’s Eucharist (Rite II, Church)
10:30 a.m. The Forum, Bible Study, and Church School resume

Learn more inside!

11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist (Rite I, Church)
4:30 p.m. Sunday Afternoon Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion (Church)
The joy, peace, and love we know at Christmas aren’t meant to fade away. The good news of Christmas is that God chooses to live here with us all the time. How will we notice and respond in this new year?

Root yourself in worship.

Worship lifts us into God’s presence, feeds us, and forms us into the people Christ would have us be.

- **Sunday Eucharists** 8:00, 9:10, 11:15 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
  Sunday worship is the focal point of our week as Christians. We offer four services, in four styles, each centered on Word and Sacrament. Learn more at stjames.org/sunday.

- **Morning Worship** Mondays - Fridays, 8:00 a.m.
  Begin each day in prayerful attention to God. Morning Prayer is offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Wednesdays, an intimate Eucharist is celebrated.

- **Evening Prayer** Mondays - Fridays, 5:30 p.m.
  Join us for this service of Psalms, Bible readings and prayers. Lectio Divina (a meditative way of reading Scripture) follows immediately on Mondays and Centering Prayer on Tuesdays, both of which meet at 6:00 p.m.

- **Centering Prayer** Tue. 6:30 p.m., Wed. & Fri. 12:00 p.m.
  Do you long for some moments of stillness and quiet attention to God in your life? Join us in meditative Centering Prayer. For more information, contact Matthew Leaycraft.

- **Worship for Families** Thursdays, 4:45 p.m.
  “Thursdays for Families” offers Christian education, fun crafts, accessible worship, and supper for children ages 2-10 and their parents or caregivers. Contact Vicki Hall to learn more.

- **Choirs for Children and Adults**
  Love to make a joyful noise? Contact Davis Wortman to learn about joining our 9:10 a.m. volunteer choir, or Loraine Enlow to get your child involved in our children’s and youth choirs.

Grow in faith.

Growing in faith requires renewing our understanding of God’s unchanging love for us in our ever-changing lives.

- **The Big Questions! Sunday Forum**, resuming January 6
  Got questions? This winter’s forums are for you! We will explore together some of the biggest questions Christians ask and are asked, to see what wisdom the Bible and our Anglican spiritual tradition have to offer about living as people of faith in today’s world. **Sundays, 10:30-11:00 a.m.**

- **Tuesday Morning Small Group** Tuesdays, 8:45 a.m.
  What began as a group of young mothers has become a place where parishioners can and ask important questions about how to live our Christian faith in our contemporary society.

- **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** resumes Jan. 9, 8:35 a.m.
  This weekly clergy-led Bible Study is one of the most energetic and committed groups at St. James’ — and all are welcome!

- **Men of St. James’ Group** Fridays, 7:00 a.m.
  Men of all ages are invited to discern how God is working in their lives, and how Christ’s teachings can be applied in our lives today. Contact Matthew Leaycraft to learn more.

- **The Catechumenate** Thursdays, Feb. 7 - Apr. 11
  For those interested in a more immersive formation process, join the Rector and the Vicar to explore what it means to call ourselves Christians today. This is wonderful preparation for those considering Baptism, Confirmation, or Reception into the Episcopal Church. Visit stjames.org/catechumenate.

- **Children’s & Family Ministries**
  Connect with Vicki Hall to learn about Church School, serving in worship, playgroups, Family Fridays, and our popular Thursday afternoon programs.

- **Youth Groups (6th - 12th Grades)**
  Youth ministries help teens and their friends develop their faith while serving others and having a great time together. Contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more.

- **St. Jamesians 20s & 30s Group**
  Connect with other young adults for Bible study, service projects, and social events. Contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more about upcoming events.

Are you new? Join us for a “St. James’ 101” lunch to learn more from the Rector, clergy, lay staff, and active parishioners about life at St. James’: January 13, February 24, April 28, and May 19, 2019. Contact the Rev. Zack Thompson to learn more or RSVP.
God declares that we are all connected: young and old, rich and poor, gay and straight, raised in the church, new to the church, firm in faith, or full of questions...

- **St. James’ 101 Newcomer Brunches**
  Are you new? Want to meet parish leadership and connect with fellow parishioners? Look out for our next St. James’ 101 brunch on January 13, February 24, April 28, and May 19, between the 9:10 and 11:15 a.m. services.

- **Epiphany Luncheon**
  Sun. Jan. 6, 12:30 p.m.
  Parishioners and friends aged 50-100+ are invited to a festive, seasonal luncheon after the 11:15 a.m. service, including traditional King Cakes!

- **Winter Parish Supper**
  Wed. Feb. 6, 6:00 p.m.
  Enjoy a warm, festive mid-winter meal with fellow parishioners and friends. Save the date and look out for more information in the New Year!

**Serve your neighbor.**

There are countless ways to share Christ’s love with each other, our city, and the world—in acts big and small. Help change the world and transform your heart.

- **Mission & Outreach**
  stjames.org/serve
  Jesus calls his followers to service, compassion, and justice. Serve in our weekly meals programs or overnight homeless shelter ministry. Be in relationship with the children of incarcerated parents in New York state prisons, or our partners at St. Vincent’s Center for Children with Disabilities in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Contact Susana Ferrer to learn more.

- **Youth Mission opportunities**
  8th - 12th Graders are involved in service and outreach, from hosting the Dinner Program on the second Friday of each month to visiting our partners in Haiti this Presidents’ Day weekend. Contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more.

- **100 Ways to Serve**
  Whether you have one day a month or a few hours a week, your gifts, talents, and interests are an invaluable offering to this parish. Contact Grace Beacham to begin exploring.

**Pray with us.**

Holding one another’s joys, sorrows, and concerns before God in prayer is a spiritual practice that characterizes our life together at St. James’. You are invited to join us.

**Thanks be to God**

- **for the St. James’ Christmas pageant on Dec. 16, and for the members of the cast and crew, including more than 100 St. James’ children.**
- **for the birth of Anne Julia Placke, niece of Jennifer Charrington.**
- **for the generosity of all who participated in the Share the Joy Gift Drive, and for our relationship with the Osborne Association.**
- **for the generosity of parishioners who have made pledges for 2018; of those making year end gifts; and for all who share in the financial support of the parish.**

**Your prayers are requested**

- **for St. James’ this Christmas season, that we will know the joy of God with us, and that we make the living Christ known in all the world.**
- **for members and friends of the parish who are ill, those killed in the military service of our nation, or in any kind of trouble: Donald, Henry, David, Terry & Mary Jane, Mal, Elona, Cynthia, Pam, Caroline & Michael, Walterene, James Edwand, Joan, Lois, Brian, Sara, Michael, Janet, Eula Mae, Carol, Kathy, Jane, Lilly, Laura, Ann & Ben, Bob, Chris, Amanda, Blanche, Victor, Valli, Charles, Seth, Jeanette, Alice, Iris, Sophie, Asher, Marielle, Maria & her parents, Frank, Lisa, Carmen, Milton, Alice Mary, Andie & Sabra, Isabel, Rick, Peter & Dianne, Ben, Bill, John, Prune, the Kirkpatrick family, Martha, Tom, Douglas, Vicky, Ramon, Pelham, Anthony, Nancy, Zoey, Nadine, Isabelle & Viviane, Tracey, Kevin, Greg, Betsy, Jeannette, Mary Frances, Dorothy, Grace, Mary, JoAnne, 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, Barb, Craig, Peter and Jana, Megan, Grace, Wayne, Matthew, Isabel, Babis, Kiley, Margaret, Paul, Barbara, Mary/Ann, Bill, Carl Jandernoa family, Dale, Wendy, Carol Sue, Robert, Jonathan, Ben, Bryce, Elena, James, Elena, Kelly, Mackenzie, Jason, Carter, Angelo, Kathleen, Hilary, Jake, Donna, Teresa, Ben & Juergen, Lian, Ann, Aaron, Moltor, Emily, Madaline, Deborah, Andrew, Charlie, Felicia & Alex, Roger & Jovie, John, Monique, Susie, Cilla, Rich, Sharon, Janet, 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, 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, Seth, Orville, Gabrielle, Pamela, Lucia, Paula, Lucy, Lauren, Ji, the Varga family, Carol, and Elena.

- **for Church of the Incarnation, Manhattan, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.**
- **for the Diocese of Kuching (South East Asia), its ministries and people, and the Rt. Rev. Danald Jure, according to the Anglican cycle of prayer.**
- **for our work as stewards of God’s creation, that we may use the earth’s resources rightly in the service of others, and be mindful of our connection to all living things.**
- **for the United States of America, for wisdom and grace for our leaders in the exercise of their duties, that the rights and dignity of all may be protected, and our nation be a blessing to other nations of the earth.**
- **for justice and peace in this city and nation, for those who serve the common good in law enforcement and the courts; and for the victims of racism, injustice, and intolerance.**
- **for all who are persecuted for their faith, including Christians in the Middle East; for all refugees and all who welcome and serve those in need.**
- **for members and friends of the parish serving in the Armed Forces, in the Diplomatic Corps, and with the U.N.: Tracy, Christian, Mads, Michael, Mark.**

We commend to God’s never-failing care

**Come together around what matters**

Christmas is a time 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, 90% of parishioners have committed 91% 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.

**We recommend to God’s never-failing care**

- all whom we love but see no more, especially Alex Varga and Rodney Nichols.
- 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.

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

**The Vestry**
Sam Hutcheson, Sr. Warden · Jennifer Charrington, Jr. Warden
- David Andryc
- H. Bennett
- Hugh Boston
- Gerlind 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**

St. James’ is an Episcopal Church, a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion.