Dear friends,

Advent has been for a long time one of the most significant seasons in the church year. Like the season of Lent, Advent is set apart to focus our spiritual attention. Because Christmas and Easter are the two central celebrations of our life in Christ, they each have a preparatory period meant to awaken our spirits from sleepwalking. The Holy Spirit wants to stir up our spirits to a life of thanksgiving, not just on one day of national observance, but to a whole life that rejoices in the Lord.

In order to make room for the Spirit to get to work on us in this season we’ll need to spend some time in self-examination. The goal is not navel-gazing. The point of Advent is to look expectantly for the light of our savior Jesus Christ in the midst of a dark world and in the knotted depths of our own souls. What we’ll discover, if we take the time to slow down and look, is that Christ is already gazing at us with his mercy and truth. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus wants to make a difference in our lives this December. St. Paul puts it this way, “You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light” (Romans 13). This Advent, let’s dare to slow down with purpose and look expectantly for the one who is always yearning to dwell in us more fully so that we might know his peace and everlasting joy.

In Christ,
The Rev. Zack Thompson, Associate Rector
**Next Sunday: December 8**

The Second Sunday of Advent
*Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19*

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

**9:10 a.m. Children’s Eucharist**
Sermon by the Rev. Ryan Fleenor. The Canterbury, Cherub, Primary, Junior & Youth Choirs offer the music of Barry Rose and Michael Sirett.

**11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist**
Sermon by the Rev. Zack Thompson. The Compostela Choir offers the music of William Byrd, Paul Manz, and Bruce Saylor.

**6:00 p.m. Advent Procession**
Modeled on a service at Salisbury Cathedral, the Compostela Choir will lead us in an evening of glorious music and seasonal readings as we move from a dark church to one bathed in candlelight. This service, which will replace the Candlelight Communion for the week, will be a beautiful opportunity to enter the Advent season!

**Christmas flower donations names due by December 8**
Remember or honor a loved one at Christmas by making a gift to the Altar Guild Christmas Flower fund! Visit stjames.org/altarguild to submit names for print in the Christmas bulletin.

**Christmas Boutique 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
Bring your Christmas list (and a friend!) and shop our unique vendors for clothing, candy, jewelry, gifts, and much more. 20% of sales support those in need through the St. James’ Grants Program.

**The Forum 10:30 a.m., Sunderland Hall**
The Rev. Eva Suarez continues our Advent series on the Bible’s sweeping story of salvation as told through the stories of four gardens. This week, we explore the garden of Gethsemane and the God who comes to be with us in all the joys and struggles of life.

**Food Drive for St. James’, Fordham**
Our partnership with St. James’, Fordham, helps that parish stock a food pantry to serve their immediate community. A basket in the Parish House is available for donations of 1lb packages of spaghetti. Please bring donations on or before December 8.

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This week’s Bible Memorization verse

The night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. —Romans 13:12
**News & Notes**

**Share the Joy: Gift Drive**  Now through December 17
Help make the holiday season extra special for the children of incarcerated parents by participating in our annual Gift Drive. Visit stjames.org/sharethejoy to make a personal gift. Monetary donations can also be made at stjames.org/give. Please contact Windsor Jones to learn more.

**Advent Quiet Evening**  Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
Spend an evening in prayer, with meditations on “A Rose Ever Blooming: Songs and Readings of Hope and Expectation,” led by the Rev. Benjamin Straley; with supper at 6:15 p.m., meditations at 7:00 p.m., and candlelit Compline at 8:15 p.m.

**Advent Wreath Workshop**  Thursday, 3:30-6:30 p.m.
A creative evening for ALL ages (small children require supervision)! We supply fresh greens, straw frame, red berries, and candles ($25). Seasonal music sets the mood and supper is also available ($5).

**St. Nick’s Young Adult Party**  Friday, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Join with young adults from around the Diocese to celebrate the Christmas season at St. Bartholomew’s Church, Midtown. Contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more or to RSVP.

**Advent Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery**  December 6-8
Join Lay Associate, Matthew Leavcraft, to explore prayer as a part of life in beloved community. Treat yourself to spiritual refreshment and reflection! Space is limited; contact Matt to learn more.

**Gingerbread House Family Friday**  Fri. Dec. 13, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Get ready for this year’s gingerbread house party! Watch for online registration to reserve your house; $40 covers the cost of one house, as well as pizza and snacks. Contact Vicki Hall to learn more.

**Volunteers needed for Food Pantry service day**  Sat. Dec. 14
As part of our new partnership, we will be volunteering at St. James’, Fordham’s, Food Pantry Day. All ages are welcome for different tasks! Contact Windsor Jones for details.

**Mission Brunch**  Sun. Dec. 15, 12:30 p.m.
Interested in mission and service at St. James? Please join our staff and ministry chairs to learn about how you can serve others and deepen your life of faith. Contact the Rev. Eva Suarez to learn more.

**Children’s Christmas Pageant**  Sun. Dec. 15, 4:00 p.m.
The Christmas story comes to life for our youngest parishioners (ages 4-17)! Sign up now for the Christmas Pageant. With two rehearsals, December 7 and 14. Register online at stjames.org/pageant.

**Caroling on the Church Steps**  Tue. Dec. 17, 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.

**Last Call for Hymnal Drive gifts!**
A few hymnals are available for purchase in memory of or thanksgiving for your friends and loved ones!Did you miss your chance or forget a name? Visit stjames.org/hymnals to make a gift!

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**Prayer List**

**Thanks to be given**

- for the generosity of all who have made 2020 financial commitments.
- for the faithful volunteers who made the Second Time Around Sale a great success, raising over $50,000 to help those in need in our city.
- for our shared ministry with St. James’ Church, Fordham, and our mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

**Your prayers are requested**

- for our parish Church in this Season of Advent, that by God’s grace we might become a people who make room for the light of Christ to shine forth in the world.
- for our partners at St. Vincent’s School and in the Diocese of Haiti, during this time of conflict and civil unrest.
- for members and friends of the parish who are sick, sorrowful, or in any kind of trouble: Donald, Henry, David, Terry & Mary Jane, Elena, Cynthia, Pam, Caroline & Michael, Walterene, James Edward, Joan, Lois, Brian, Michael, Eula Mae, Carol, Lily, Laura, Ann & Ben, Bob, Chris, Amanda, Victor, Valli, Jeanette, Iris, Sophie, Maria & her parents, Frank, Lisa, Milton, Alice Mary, Isabel, Rick, Peter & Dianne, Ben, Bill, the Kirkpatrick family, Tom, Douglas, Pelham, Anthony, Nancy, Zoey, Nadine, Isabelle & Viviane, Tracey, Jeannette, Dorothy, Elnora, Harriett, Alex, Christopher, Margot, James, Peggy, Katharine, Casey, John & Catherine, Ruth, Sandy, Dick, John, George, Peter, Jose, Laura, Pam, Barb, Craig, Megan, Grace, Matthew, Isabel, Margaret, Barbara, MaryAnn, Bill, Dale, Carol Sue, Robert, Jonathan, Ben, Bryce, James, Elena, Kelly, Mackenzie, Jason, Carter, Angelo, Kathryn, Tereza, Ben & Juergen, Liam, Ann, Emily, Andrew, Charlie, John, Monique, Cilla, Rich, Janet, Behida, Ray, John, Frank, Karen & Craig, Gary, Aaron & family, Anita, Dwain, Caris & Blake, Charlotte, Peter, Anne, Jason, Vicky, Bill, Dorothy, Peg, Chase, Alice, Claude, Matthew, John, Blake & Pamela, Gabrielle, Pamela, Paula, Elena, Allison, Jane & Peter, Emily, Pat, Robert, Jorge, Brad, Ryan and the Malosh family, Karen, Olivia, Grace, Kim, Kenneth, Philip, Drew, Taylor, and Layla, Justin & Jennifer, Joseph (JP), Florence, Phyllis, Ivan, Suzanne, Elizabeth, Thomas, Lorraine, Francis, Mary Beth, Annette, Terence, Caroline, Dan, Tony, Ward, Sophie, Sharon, Nate, Jim, Richard, Joseph, Anne, Darby, Susan, Mary, Armen, Vicki, Jimmy, Tom, Beth, Elizabeth, Christine, Rafa, Emily, Christopher, Karen, Susan, Ann, Liz, Sam, Ruth and John, John's family, Suzanna, Sebastian, Nico, Lola, Susan, Lynda, Joseph, Katy, Christina, Miriam, Stephen, Paula, Jerry, John, Madeline, Benjamin, Richard, Diane, Lucy and Nicholas, Tim, Teresa and Jackie, John, Laura, Daniel, Charlie, Paul, Randy, Larry, Nathan, Charlie, August, Lena, Beverley, Pete, Dayanand, Joyce, Cynthia, Simon, and Julia.
- for St. Andrew’s Church, Bronx, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
- for mission agencies and their work throughout the Anglican Communion.
- 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 Nations, 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.

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**We commend to God’s never-failing 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, including Nancy Dickinson and Mary Breed Brink.

To have your prayer requests printed in this space, or to provide an update, please e-mail the clergy at pastoralcare@stjames.org.
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.
Open for prayer and meditation
Sunday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Visit Us

ST. JAMES’ CHURCH
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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.