Dear friends,

A mentor and coach taught me that, regarding music: “Interest lies in the denial or delay of expectation.” As this second Sunday of Advent introduces John the Baptist’s message of repentance, have we become so dulled by repetition that we are no longer interested in this message? “Repent and prepare the way for the Lord” isn’t the cheery greeting we’d like to hear as we look forward to (and are battered commercially by) “Merry Christmas!” but the “sting of it” may be gone from hearing this part of the story every year in church or attending annual Handel’s “Messiah” concerts.

Yet the darkening days, which dip to their darkest at this point in the year, never cease to impress us that something important is coming. Before we jump into singing cheerful Christmas carols it is fitting to use the quiet of the darkness to reflect and apply the true meaning of the Greek word metanoia—“to change one’s mind”—translated in the Bible as repent as preparation for Christmas.

The Darkness to Light service at 6:00 p.m. tonight may interest you because it will not be a Christmas-like Lessons and Carols. It is intended to make the darkness feel like a kind and gentle space to calmly enter in and change your mind, giving the delay of the coming light greater interest and meaning with a fresh outlook and an open spirit ready for wonder, awe and joy.

In Christ,
Davis Wortman, Organist & Director of Music

Today at St. James’

Christmas flower donations names due today!
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.
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.

Communion Awareness 10:15 a.m., classrooms
The clergy will offer insight and instruction into Holy Communion for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Graders, and their parents! Please go to your child’s Church School classroom with them this morning.

The Forum 10:30 a.m., Sunderland Hall
The Rev. Eva Suarez continues our 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.

Advent Procession 6:00 p.m.
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.

Food Drive for St. James’, Fordham
A basket in the Parish House is available for donations of 1lb packages of spaghetti today. Please keep an eye out for our next drive, to be collected on January 5.

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 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.

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.

Darkness can feel like a kind and gentle space to enter in and change your mind...
Next Sunday: December 15

The Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11; Psalm 146:4-9

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Homily by the Rev. Brenda Husson.

9:10 a.m. Baptism & Holy Eucharist
Sermon by the Rev. Eva Suarez. The Canterbury, Junior & Youth Choirs offer the music of Andrew Carter and Michael Praetorius.

11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist
Sermon by the Rev. Brenda Husson. The Compostela Choir offers the music of G.F. Handel, Hugo Distler, and Andrew Millington.

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion
Homily by Matthew Leaycraft, Lay Associate and Director of Finance. Music for piano, cello, and harp.

The Forum 10:30 a.m., Sunderland Hall
The Rev. Zack Thompson continues our Advent series on the Bible’s sweeping story of salvation as told through the stories of four gardens. This week, we explore Jesus’ appearance to the woman at the Garden Tomb.

Mission Brunch 12:30 p.m., St. George
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 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary
The Christmas story comes to life for our youngest parishioners (ages 4-17)! All are welcome to join the congregation as children and youth offer beloved carols and dialogue. Contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more.

This Week

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

Monday, December 9 Matthew 22:23-33
Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
Caregivers Playgroup (0-36 months) 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 (Mon. - Thu.)

Tuesday, December 10 Matthew 22:34-46
Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
Moms Small Group 8:45 - 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday Lunch Program 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
3-5 year old Playgroup 3:30 - 4:30 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 11 Matthew 23:1-12
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.

Thursday, December 12 Matthew 23:13-26
Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:20 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.
Small Group Supper 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Education for Ministry 6:30 - 8:45 p.m.

Friday, December 13 Matthew 23:27-39
Men’s Group 7:00 - 8:00 a.m.
Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:20 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.
* Youth host Friday Dinner Program 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.
* Family Friday: Gingerbread House Workshop 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 14 Matthew 24:1-14
* Christmas Pageant rehearsal 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
* Food Pantry day at St. James, Fordham 10:00 a.m.

This week’s Bible Memorization verse

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. —Matthew 3:4
News & Notes

Share the Joy: Gift Drive  Now through December 15
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.

Last Call for Hymnals 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!

Gingerbread House Family Friday  Friday, 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.

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.

Pew Candle & Creche set up  Sun. Dec. 22, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Children are invited to 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.

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. Visit stjames.org/CDF to make a gift.

Upcoming Worship
• Third Sunday of Advent  Sun. December 15
  Holy Eucharist at 8:00, 9:10, 11:15 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.; Christmas Pageant at 4:00 p.m.
• Fourth Sunday of Advent  Sun. December 22
  Holy Eucharist at 8:00, 9:10, 11:15 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.
• Christmas Eve  Tue. 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  Wed. December 25
  Festal Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.
• First Sunday after Christmas  Sun. December 29
  Holy Eucharist at 8:00, 10:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.
• Second Sunday after Christmas  Sun. January 5
  Holy Eucharist at 8:00, 9:10, 11:15 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

Prayer List

Thanks be to God
• 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 those preparing to be baptized next Sunday: Anderson Montgomery Moose, Caroline Cullingford Haney, Robert Butler Marschalk, Jr., Charles Francis Sykes, and William Gardner Hayes.
• 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, Lilly, 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, John, 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, Joe, Laura, Pam, Barb, Craig, Megan, Grace, Matthew, Isabel, Margaret, Barbara, MaryAnn, Bill, Dale, Carol Sue, Robert, Jonathan, Ben, Blyce, James, Elena, Kelly, Mackenzie, Jason, Carter, Angelo, Kathryn, Teresa, 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, Dorothe, Peg, Chase, Alice, Claude, Matthew, John, Blake & Pamela, Gabrielle, Pamela, Paula, Elena, Allison, Jane & Peter, Emily, Pat, Robert, Jorge, Brad, Ryan and the Malek 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, Sophia, 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, Johns family, Suzanne, Sebastian, Nicos, Lola, Susan, Lynda, Joseph, Kate, Christina, Miriam, Stephen, Paula, Jerry, John, Madelin, 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, Julia, Bard, Hugh, Doug, Jason, and Barbara.
• for Trinity St. Paul’s Church, New Rochelle, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
• for the work of the Mothers’ Union around the world.
• 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
• 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 Mary Breed Brink, Erman Louie Crew Clay, Mark Jefferson, Robert White, Carole Anne Moorman, Ann Elting, Lawrence T. Hoyle, Jr., and Alexandra Reisner.

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

**The Vestry**

Jennifer Charrington, Sr. Warden · Missy Condo, Jr. Warden

- Sue Bennett
- Hugh Boston
- Gerlinde Brixius
- Richard Brown
- Tristan Bultman
- Stephen de Francesco

- Dolly Bross Geary
- Susanna Guffey
- Elizabeth Littlejohn
- Marcy Sendax
- Bob Stinson
- Anne Strassner

- Mary Malhotra, Vestry Officer for Stewardship
- Annika Gottfrid, Youth Representative

**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**

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.