

A weekly email publication for the community of St. James Church in College Hill.

## Message of the Moment from Mother Dawn



### Advent and Christmas Worship This Year

In addition to Sunday worship services available online each Sunday, St. James Church is making several online holiday services available.

**Each Sunday in Advent, starting at 3:00 p.m.,** a special service of Readings and Music for the season becomes available online.

**On Christmas Eve, a very special online service** becomes available for viewing at noon (you can stay up until midnight if you want to). The service includes many of the traditions we love at Christmas Eve including beloved music, instrumentalists, choir, Holy Scripture, the Celebration of Holy Eucharist, and welcoming the Christ child into the world.

Also on **Christmas Eve, the distribution of Holy Communion** from the reserved Sacrament (bread only) at 7:00 p.m. in the church parking lot. This is a brief service of prayers for a Eucharistic visit without music, readings, or a sermon. All attending stay in their cars.

**On Christmas Day, and the first Sunday after Christmas,** a service of Christmas Lessons and Carols is presented. Listen to the story of the Incarnation told in Holy Scripture and enjoy a variety of your favorite Christmas music.

### Evening Prayer Added Online

A new feature of our online worship is a weekly offering of Evening Prayer.

This presentation of the Daily Office is lay-led. You will see many in our congregation serving as officiant. Each week a new service becomes available online at 4:00 p.m. on Monday. If you are interested in being part of the ministry of officiating and recording Evening Prayer, please email the church office at [office@stjameswichita.org](mailto:office@stjameswichita.org), or contact [Peggy Johnson](#) (click to send her an email).

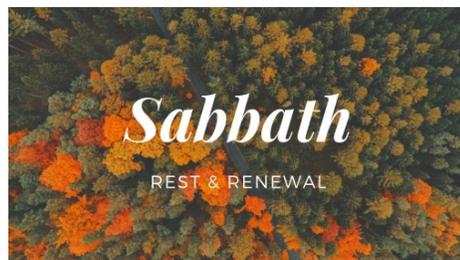
All services can be found online on our YouTube channel

[www.youtube.com/c/stjameswichita](https://www.youtube.com/c/stjameswichita)

Numerous links to these services are posted on Facebook.

### Sabbath Year

Have you seen the article about St. James' coming sabbath year in the current issue of the Seasons newsletter? Your parish leaders (wardens, vestry, treasurer, rector, and nominating committee) have made a proposal for 2021 which you should know about. You will be asked to consent to it at the annual meeting in January. Here is a link if you missed it: [2021 Sabbath Year](#).



To read more about the tradition of a Sabbath Year, [this is a good place to start](#). Perhaps a sabbath year will be a gift COVID-19 has given us.

If you do not receive the newsletter in the mail and you would like to, contact us in the church office at [office@stjameswichita.org](mailto:office@stjameswichita.org). Please give us your name and contact information including your complete mailing address. You can always find recent issues of the Seasons newsletter on the parish website [www.stjameswichita.org](http://www.stjameswichita.org). May God bless you in this holy season.

Peace, Mother Dawn+

## First Things First

### IN-PERSON WORSHIP IS SUSPENDED

**We are not gathering for worship in church. We will worship together spiritually: not in person, but by prayer, intention, and being online.**

Watch here:

[www.youtube.com/c/stjameswichita](http://www.youtube.com/c/stjameswichita)

[A schedule for future online worship \(when necessary\) is available here.](#)



Join St. James this Christmas as we pool our resources to support the Kansas Food Bank in Wichita. So many people are hungry and we can help. Send a check made out to the payment of St. James Church (and write "Food Bank" in the memo line). We will send our full contribution to this local agency which sees that charities and individuals who need our care receive it.

### Our Prayer List in the New Year

As the new liturgical year begins we have refreshed our prayer list. **The most up-to-date parish prayers appear at the end of this email weekly. All members of our community are asked to pray for everyone on our prayer list.** To share your prayers of thanksgiving (births, weddings, new jobs, anniversaries, etc.), to notify us that someone you love is serving in the military, to share that you or someone you love is suffering, or to tell us that someone has died, please call 316-683-5686 or email [office@stjameswichita.org](mailto:office@stjameswichita.org). Our congregation longs to stand with you in your grief, to offer support, and to celebrate with you. You are also invited to email your pastoral joys and concerns to Mother Dawn at [motherdawn@stjameswichita.org](mailto:motherdawn@stjameswichita.org). Please pray for our parish, for our spiritual journey, and for our ministry of sharing the love of God with the world.

It's time for the Christmas Giving Tree!

See "Parish News" below for more information.



## Readings This Week

**The Collect of the Day** - Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

[Click here to go to the Lectionary Page](#)

[Click here for a free PDF download of the Book of Common Prayer](#)

**The Lessons appointed for use on the Second Sunday of Advent:**

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#)

[Mark 1:1-8](#)

[2 Peter 3:8-15a](#)

[Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13](#)

## Service to the Community

**Help with Sack Lunches for St. John's Outreach** — On December 12th, St John's Sack lunch Saturday could use our help providing lunches for the homeless and food insecure. We already have three volunteers making about 25 sack lunches each. They generally need 150 to 200 lunches per week. Each lunch includes a sandwich, a bag of chips, a piece of fruit and a cookie (or trail mix). If you can provide bottled water, that is helpful. Joan Beldsoe (who is coordinating from St. James) says that she can pick up lunches at St. James on Saturday morning about 10 a.m., or you can bring them directly to St. John's and drop them off. St John's address is 402 N. Topeka, 67202. They will distribute the lunches for us. If you want to participate, please contact Joan Bledsoe at [Pansy1918@icloud.com](mailto:Pansy1918@icloud.com). Thank you.

## The Calendar This Week

### Sunday, December 6

Worship online. All are welcome.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/stjameswichita>

9:00 a.m. - Adult Forum on Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/95070519126?pwd=MINPSUzSUF2akFhRmtWOW05c1N1dz09>

9:00 a.m. - MS / HS Sunday School on Zoom

Contact [Tristan Holmberg](#) for Zoom link.

10:00 a.m. - Children's Sunday School on Zoom

Contact [Chelsea Whipple](#) for Zoom link.

Musical Service of Advent Reflections for Advent Two

<https://www.youtube.com/c/stjameswichita>

### Monday, December 7

5:30 p.m. - Contemplative Prayer Group Online - [Mary Kay Chavez](#)

7:00 p.m. - **Graduate EfM on Zoom** - contact Deacon [Jeff Roper](#)

Weekly [Online Evening Prayer Service](#)

**Tuesday, December 8**

10:00 a.m. - **Staff Meeting**

5:30 p.m. - **Executive Committee Meeting** - contact [Mother Dawn](#)

**Wednesday, December 9**

5:00 p.m. - **Worship Committee Online** - contact [Mother Dawn](#)

6:00 p.m. - **Evening Bible Study** on Zoom - contact [Phil Speary](#)

6:30 p.m. - **Youth Group** on Zoom - contact [Tristan Holmberg](#)

**Thursday, December 10**

6:00 p.m. - **Finance Committee** on Zoom - Contact [Woody Swain](#)

## Parish News

### THE 2020 GIVING TREE

We're doing our best to fill 30 food baskets this year: 15 for families assisted by the St. Francis Ministries' Kinship Care program, eight for Kansas Children's Service League and five baskets for Breakthrough/ ESS. Two are for clergy requests.

The emphasis this year is on food and a gift card for each family. (Dollar Tree, Wal Mart, Target or Dollar General cards may be the most practical). FOOD for the food baskets is now being collected. [Please click here to see the list of foods and household items](#) still needed. It's helpful if you can let us know what you plan to purchase ([mdruding@cox.net](mailto:mdruding@cox.net)).

Drop your food off at the church. Someone is there on weekdays between 9:30 and 2 p.m. Weekends: If you e-mail ([mdruding@cox.net](mailto:mdruding@cox.net)), call (316-684-1895) or text (316-516-6359), just state when you'd like to drop your food off and we'll be there to open the door!

To participate without leaving home, could you send a check to St. James Church, with GIVING TREE on the memo line? This greatly appreciated money will go towards gift cards.

Looking ahead: Can you deliver a basket or two on between noon and 3 p.m. on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20? This will be a car-to-porch or car-to-apartment door procedure. Since there is only a basket (with gift card attached), deliveries should be easy and safe. Many recipients will be able to carry the basket in for you. Delivering a Christmas food basket could add a special moment to your holiday season!

**Thank You and Please Pledge**

Thank you to everyone who has returned their 2021 estimates of giving. We are humbly grateful for your generosity and you are helping us so much in our budgeting process now. If you haven't returned your completed pledge form for 2021, you still can, and we will receive it with gratitude! Every gift, no matter its size, is incredibly meaningful to our congregation. Please give if you can, and please complete your 2020 pledge. We thank you for the way you love the church, the people of St. James, and God. May you be blessed for being a blessing.



**Racial Justice Book Discussions Continue in 2021** - After Christmas, we'll start book discussion groups again in January.

Many books in the category of racial justice are available from the church.

**Lending Library.** Stop by to check one out. Please call the church office if you have any questions: 316-683-5686.

## Prayers

### Parish Prayers for The Week of December 6, 2020

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for our Full Communion Partner, the Moravian Church, Northern and Southern Provinces

**In the World Council of Churches Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone

**In the Kansas Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for St. John's, Wichita

**Pray for those serving in the military:** Alexis (Lexi) Reed, Will Corkins, and J. David Anderson-Lusk.

**Pray for those who have died:** Dick Williams, Marilyn Milligan Groves, James William Lindsay (Alison Brookin's father), Dorothy F. Leeker (Paul Leeker's grandmother), Christopher Stephen Angulo (Susie Stallings' brother), Kathleen Grace Cox.

**Pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity:** Diana, in her grief. Dal Harrison, her husband Rick, and their family. Pray for the recovery of Gary, Marsha, Tom, Bill, and Pete. Lift up all people with COVID-19 and all health care workers, including: Aunt Erma, Jessica, Loren, Brad, Elizabeth, Preston. Please pray for Pam, LouAnn M., Jayne, Iola, Martha, Betty, Gus, Jessica, Bob, Amanda and Adam, Robin, Mary, Joan and her daughter, Catherine, Joe, Jean, Jerry, Teresa, Larry S., John Roper, Jan and Joan, and Mary.

**Pray with those who give thanks:** In thanks for everything Dick Williams did in and for the world. Peg and Richard Bowman, whose grandson, Charles James was born to Anita and Chet November 8, 2020.

### Short Prayers and Collects for Right Now

*Prayer for putting on a mask*

We bless you and praise you, Lord Christ, for commanding us to love one another. Let this mask be a sign of your love, and let my behavior be filled with love for my neighbor. Amen

*Prayer for those returning to work (Mags Trim)*

Lord, you know what it is like to be alone and be afraid. You know what it is like to be sent where you did not want to go. And so we pray for those who are soon returning to their workplaces. And we pray especially for those who are returning to places which now hold memories of sickness, of trauma, of pain. Walk ahead of them and walk beside them. And especially we ask, with your loving gaze, watch

over them.

*Prayer for those affected by COVID-19 and disparities therein (Mags Trim)*

Oh God of all comfort, we pray for those who have been, who are, and who will be, affected by all that encompasses Covid-19. The physical, mental, spiritual, emotional, and financial burdens are great. And we know that not everyone is affected equally, or justly. We pray especially for those who are risking their lives for the protection and sustenance of others. And we pray mightily with, and for, those whose voices often go unheard. We ask that You will look upon those who the world tries to look away from. May they know especially that they are heard, they are held, and they are loved. May they know Your truth in a world full of lies. May they know your protection in a world full of violence. And may they know your abundance in a world full of poverty. No one child should have to fight so hard for the inheritance that You so freely gave to all. By Your name we are beloved, we belong, and we are beautiful. Amen.

*A prayer for our community or church in this time (Kathleen Staudt)*

Loving God, we pray for this church community in this time of crisis. Deliver us from simply desiring to go "back to normal," and give us grace instead to be open to the opportunities that your Spirit brings in this time of separation. Grant that we may come out of this crisis with open eyes, more fully available to the needs of those most vulnerable and those whose labor we have always depended on. Give us creative hearts to embrace and carry forward the new ways we have found to connect with one another; and in your good time bring us safely back together as a people renewed in the knowledge of your faithfulness and abiding love and strengthened for the work ahead. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*For Those Who Suffer COVID-19 (Juan Oliver)*

Loving God, hope of the poor and source of all health: Look with compassion upon your creatures who suffer under the weight of this pandemic. Fill us with love toward our neighbor; deliver us from partisan motives as we strive for the common good; and strengthen those who labor for our health. We ask this through the healer of your creation, Jesus Christ, our health and our salvation. Amen.

*For Christ's Presence (Vidai Genovez-Andrés)*

Resurrected Lord: Dwell in each of our hearts, in each person who has been hospitalized, in all medical personnel, in priests and pastors, in the rulers of the nations and civic leaders, in our families at home, in our grandparents, in those who are in prison, who are afflicted, who are oppressed and mistreated, in those who do not have their daily bread, in those who have lost a loved one because of covid-19 or some other condition. May the Resurrected Christ bring us hope, strengthen our faith, fill us with love and kinship, and grant us his peace. Amen.

*For the Outcast (Jairo Chirán)*

O God, creator of the human race: We humbly pray for the men and women who suffer discrimination because of the color of their skin or country of origin, and those who are destitute and deprived of access to health care. Inspire the church to serve them better and to be a prophetic voice in the midst of sorrow and inequality; though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For Workers and Day Laborers (Richard Acosta)*

Provident Father, Creator of humankind: Your Son our Lord lived among us as a day laborer, earning thus his daily bread. We pray for these your children who are reopening their businesses in the midst of this pandemic. Support and protect them from all harm; in their adversities, give them strength to carry on; through Jesus our Lord, Amen.

*For Deliverance from Selfishness (Daniel Mafla)*

God, Father and Mother: Life is constantly renewed in you; as the heavens deliver the rain and the earth yields its abundance, grant that our hearts may so move in harmony with your creation that we may be delivered from selfishness, from the destructive «rat race,» from the longing for hoarding, and from the blindness and insensitivity that economic models can trigger; and thus, in your great love, may we be one with you, who lives and renews our lives. Amen.

*For Those Who Work Outside Their Homes at this Time of Sickness (Francisco Valle Barahona)*

God, Creator and Provider, in this time of trial we pray for all those who must go to their workplaces, whom sometimes we take for granted: Those who work in restaurants, grocery stores, school kitchens, food banks, waste collection, maintenance, etc. Bless their lives and the lives of their families. Renew their strength so that they can do their best work. Give them generous hearts to help every person with kindness and not to be indifferent to their needs. Above all, give them, O Lord, profound faith to believe your word and a resolute will to act correctly and do good. When they are confused, guide

them; when they feel weak, strengthen them; when they are weary, renew and fill them with the light of your Spirit. As they finish their shifts today, take them in safety to their homes. All this we pray in the name of your Son Jesus, to whom be honor and glory for ever. Amen.

*Collect for Hope during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Alejandra Trillos)*

Bountiful God, source of the greatest good for all of us: Guide us in the right direction towards a better future for your creation. Help us to overcome our own limitations during this pandemic, and grant us steadfast love to look after each other. Give us humbleness of heart to accept that without you we cannot be real stewards of your creation. Show us ways to spread the gospel that will touch hearts and change minds for a better tomorrow for all humanity, the preservation of every creature, and the planet. In the name of your beloved Son, we ask it. Amen.

[Click here for these and other prayers from the Episcopal Church for use during the COVID-19 pandemic.](#)

## Helpful Links

[Watch and listen to Last Week's Service](#)

[Children and Youth Ministry Update](#)

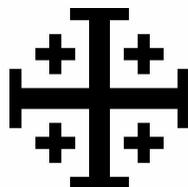
[Parish Web Calendar](#)

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[2020 Parish Leadership](#)



## Contact Us



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**Whoever you are and wherever  
you find yourself on your journey  
of faith, you are welcome here.**