

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

Message of the Moment

The Congregation Comes Together

You are invited to join us at 4:00 p.m. Friday, January 8, on Zoom for a time of sharing in the safe space known to us as The St. James Communion of Saints (family and friends you know and trust). Those of us who gather will begin by sharing our hopes and concerns about current events and conclude with a time of corporate prayer.

May God be with you all.



Join Friday's 4:00 p.m. Zoom meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91739929187pwd=ZVVVTjJBdEw3SnJcXZ5aWtRbzFxZz09>

Meeting ID: 917 3992 9187 Passcode: 110127

The St. James monthly worship schedule cooperates with this important time in the life our nation. This Sunday our parish family goes to the Washington National Cathedral for corporate worship.

[The LIVE service begins at 10:15 a.m. central time Sunday morning.](#)

All worship services can be found online on our YouTube channel

www.youtube.com/c/stjameswichita

Numerous links to these services are posted on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/stjameswichita>

First Things First

We're amazed by and grateful for the generosity our congregation showed at the end of the year. We raised nearly \$2,200 for the Kansas Food Bank and provided food baskets and gift cards of \$75 to \$100 for 30 families. Read more about our Pocket Change Ministry below in the "Service to the Community" section. In addition, we appreciate your pledges to the church. If you haven't made your pledge for this year, you may still do so. We will receive it with gratitude! **Every gift, no matter its size, is incredibly meaningful to our congregation.** Please give if you can. Thank you for the way you love the church, the people of St. James and our greater community, and God.

Starting today, you'll find a new feature in the eTower . Our Administrative Assistant Deb Gruver is

a former newspaper reporter. She has volunteered to write short profiles of church members to help us all stay connected while we can't worship in person. See the first profile below under the "Parish news" section.

Readings This Week

The Collect of the Day - Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized in His name keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

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

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

Lessons appointed for the 1st Sun. after the Epiphany, The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord:

[Genesis 1:1-5](#)

[Mark 1:4-11](#)

[Acts 19:1-7](#)

[Psalm 29](#)

Service to the Community

During 2020, our **Pocket Change Ministry** gave \$1750 to three agencies serving children and families in our community. Specifically, we gave \$750 to Breakthrough ESS, \$500 to the Kansas Children's Service League, and \$500 to St. Francis Ministries. Our most recent gift to St. Francis Ministries paid for the purchase of two car seats for on-call drivers and for the purchase of beds for foster parents wanting to take another child. Since 2014, this project has contributed \$13,750 to community charities. The Pocket Change Ministry is now collecting funds for the [Wichita Children's Home](#). To contribute, please send a check made out to St. James to the church, 3750 E. Douglas, Wichita, KS, 67208 and write "Pocket Change" on the memo line.



The Calendar This Week

Sunday, January 10

Click here to join the Sunday [Worship Service Online](#)

9:00 a.m. - **Adult Forum Online**

Join us for Christian formation and fellowship. [Click here to join Zoom meeting](#)

[Contact Tristan Holmberg](#)

Monday, January 11

4:30 p.m. - Executive Committee Meeting

[Contact Mother Dawn](#)

5:30 p.m. - Contemplative Prayer Group Online

[Contact Mary Kay Chavez](#)

7:00 p.m. - Graduate EfM Online

[Contact Jeff Roper](#)

Wednesday, January 13

5:00 p.m. - Worship Committee Online

[Contact Mary Halley](#)

6:00 p.m. - Evening Bible Study on Zoom

[Contact Phil Speary](#)

6:30 p.m. - Youth Group Online

[Contact Chelsea Whipple](#)

Thursday, January 14

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Congregational Book Read on Zoom

[Click here for more information](#)

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - Congregational Book Read on Zoom

[Click here for more information.](#)

Parish News

Meet Joan Bledsoe

Joan and her husband, Gene, moved to Wichita about a year-and-a-half ago from Texas to be closer to their son and grandchildren who live in Wichita. They had attended an Episcopal church in Oklahoma when they lived there and chose to attend St. James, Joan said, because the "focus is on inclusion and love. Those things are important to us." Joan volunteers at the front desk once a week, answering phones and greeting visitors. She has spearheaded St. James' participation in Sack Lunch Saturdays at St. John's, putting together the master schedule each week and collecting food and other items. She plays the recorder and also volunteered at last year's Oyster Dinner. "I help out where I can," she said. The Bledsoes also have a daughter in Texas and are grandparents to four children.



Congregational Book Read Begins

Our book read focusing on racial justice begins January 14. Our book selection to start the year is ["So You Want to Talk About Race"](#) by Ijeoma Oluo. Discussion groups meet at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00

p.m. Thursdays through March 4. Mother Dawn and Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs, will lead the group. [All the information you need to get involved is available by clicking here.](#)

Sunday Worship Schedule at St. James Church

This is the schedule for Sunday worship services while we temporarily suspend in-person services in the church for the sake of protection against corona virus infection.



First and Fifth Sundays of the month:

Spiritual Communion, music, and sermon.

Online worship service at St. James Church - watch on YouTube at your convenience



Second Sundays of the month:

10:15 a.m. Washington National Cathedral live online worship service



Third Sundays of the month:

The service of Holy Communion, music, and sermon in the

Online worship service from St. James Church - watch on YouTube at your convenience

AND

10:45 a.m. in the St. James Parking lot.

A brief service for the distribution of Holy Eucharist from the reserved Sacrament
(this service supplements the complete worship service online)



Fourth Sundays of the month:

8:30 a.m. Grace Episcopal Cathedral in Topeka online worship service



Children and Youth

Listen as Director of Programs Chelsea Whipple reads about the Magi and the journey they take to meet a very special person, play games, and talk about what gifts we would bring baby Jesus. [Play the video by clicking here.](#)

We are hoping someone may be able to donate a device that can be used for Zoom for a young person from our church. If you can help, [please reach out by email.](#)

Youth Group is gathering again, so please join [Tristan Holmberg](#) and [Anne Clark](#) on Wednesday evenings.

Miqra and Mini-Miqra will be Jan. 15 to 18 and online this year. [More information is available by clicking here.](#) Questions? Contact Karen Schlabach, kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org.

Youth game night has started. Join game night for all youth in the diocese in grades 6 to 12. The upcoming schedule is:

- 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7
- 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, March 7

To join on Zoom, use meeting ID: 857 4195 0793 and the passcode is the current season of the church year. Don't know? That's OK. Email kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org or text 913-708-5927.

Diocesan News

Reminder of two ordinations this Saturday, January 9

The Rev. Jennifer Allen and the Rev. Mary Donovan will be ordained to the priesthood in a scaled-back, small service on Saturday, Jan. 9 at 10:30 a.m. in Grace Cathedral, Topeka. **NOTE: Only those invited by each ordinand can attend**, but the service will be livestreamed on the diocese's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/episcopaldioceseofkansas>. Allen is serving as the bishop's curate for mission, working with Bethany House and Garden. Donovan is assisting with ministry at Canterbury House of Lawrence and Canterbury House at K-State in Manhattan. Anyone wanting to send greetings to the ordinands by card, note or letter may send them in care of the diocesan office, 835 SW Polk St., Topeka, KS 66612.

Bishop reiterates guidelines for indoor activities through Palm Sunday

On Jan. 5 Bishop Cathleen Bascom reiterated pandemic-related guidelines regarding indoor activities and worship that she had earlier provided in a Dec. 7 letter to the diocese. Through Palm Sunday, March 28, indoor worship and activities for each church of the diocese will be governed by the level of virus spread in each county within the diocese, as tracked on a spreadsheet posted every Wednesday afternoon by diocesan staff: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1M4AdBvYp2qfoD-JAmrrRL1bhmZ6fl_vhy-6rjhpqkbQ/edit#gid=1876889827. She is requiring all parish clergy to check the spreadsheet weekly. The text of her letter, which also can be downloaded, is on the diocesan website: <https://episcopal-ks.org/bishop-reiterates-indoor-activity-guidelines-through-palm-sunday/>

Prayers

Parish Prayers for the Week of January 10

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Anglican Church of Australia

In the World Council of Churches Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the people of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Iran and Iraq

In the Kansas Cycle of Prayer: Pray for Trinity, Arkansas City

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

Pray for those who have died: David Farnsworth.

Pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity: Pray for Marge Rine, her son Wes, and the rest of the family. Please pray for 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. Please pray for Pam, LouAnn M., Jayne, Iola, Martha, Betty, Gus, Jessica, Bob, Amanda and Adam, Robin, Mary, Joan J. and her daughter, Catherine, Joe, Jean, Jerry, Teresa, Larry S., Jan and Joan, Mary, Joann and Mike and their granddaughter, George, and George II.

Pray with those who give thanks. Give thanks and pray for those being baptized this weekend.

Our Prayer List in the New Year — The most up-to-date parish prayers appear here weekly. All members of our parish 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 of a death, please call 316-683-5686 or email office@stjameswichita.org.

Let Us Pray

To read a call to prayer for the nation from our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry: [click here](#).

Give Us Hope

When evil darkens our world, give us light. When despair numbs our souls, give us hope. When we stumble and fall, lift us up. When doubts assail us, give us faith. When nothing seems sure, give us trust. When ideals fade, give us vision. When we lose our way, be our guide! That we may find

serenity in your presence, and purpose in doing your will. Amen.

For Trust in God

O God, the source of all health: So fill my heart with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy I may make room for your power to possess me, and gracefully accept your healing; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Prayers from the service of Compline

Book of Common Prayer pages 133-134

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illumine this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Helpful Links

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

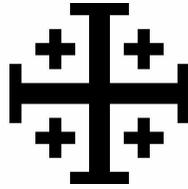
[Parish Web Calendar](#)

[Contribute to St. James Church online](#)

[Parish Leadership](#)



Contact Us



St. James Episcopal Church

[Deb Gruver](#), Administrative Assistant

[Susie Stallings](#), Bookkeeper

[Marlene Hallstrom](#), Organist and Director of Music

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