

St. James' Episcopal Church December 22, 2024 10:30 AM The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at this table.

Prelude

Service of the Light

In Advent, we light the candles of the Advent wreath to mark time as we journey together to the celebration of Christ's birth and await his return.

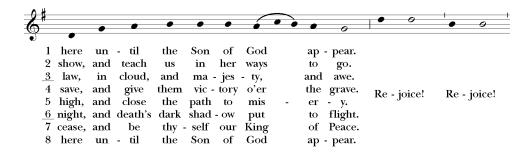
O Come, O Come Emmanuel v. 2

H56 St. James' Choir

Celebrant People	Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.
Deacon	Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel."
People	Restore us, O Lord.
Celebrant	We give you thanks and praise, O Lord, for making a way for us through the desert and darkness of our lives.
Deacon	(We light the first candle of the Advent wreath, the Prophets' candle.) Today, as we light the Prophets' Candle, we ask that you open our hearts and minds to your insistent call to love and peace, and we give you thanks for the witness of those who have gone before us.
	(We light the second candle of the Advent wreath, the Holy Family candle.) As we light the Holy Family Candle, we ponder the mystery and joy of human kinship, your first gift to each born into this world.
	(We light the third candle of the Advent wreath, the Shepherds' candle.) As we light the Shepherds' candle, we remember that in the midst of our ordinary lives you call us to be bold messengers of joy.
	(We light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath, the Magi candle.) As we light the Magi candle, we ask that your wisdom would renew the face of the earth and draw all of the nations into your peace.
Celebrant People	Our hope is in God who makes us one. Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord

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4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny	that trust thy might - y power to
5 wide our heaven - ly home;	; make safe the way that leads on
$\underline{6}$ by thy draw - ing nigh;	dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind;	bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el,	that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile





Celebrant People	Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.
Celebrant	There is one Body and one Spirit;
People	There is one hope in God's call to us;
Celebrant	One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People	One God and Father of all.
Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	Let us pray.
	Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus
	Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Micah 5:2-5a

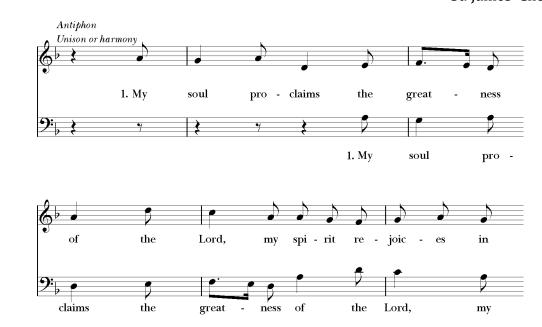
The First Reading

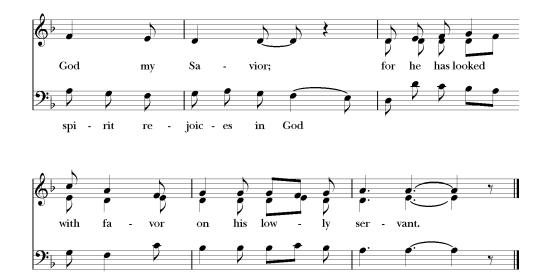
Lector	A reading from the Book of Micah.
	You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
	who are one of the little clans of Judah,
	from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
	whose origin is from of old,
	from ancient days.
	Therefore he shall give them up until the time
	when she who is in labor has brought forth;
	then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.
	And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
	And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;
	and he shall be the one of peace.
Lector	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.



Cantor

S247 St. James' Choir





Choir	My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
	 He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Reading

Lector

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; Hebrews 10:5-10

in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

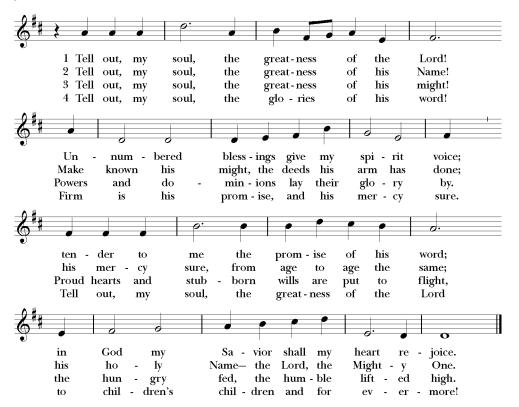
Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Lector	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

Tell out, my soul

H438



The Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

Deacon **People**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

DeaconThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Kathryn Ryan Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

CelebrantThe candidates will now be presented.PresenterI present these persons for confirmation.I present these persons to be received into this communion.I present these persons who desire to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

The Celebrant asks the candidates

The Gelebrane a.	sh's the cumulates
Celebrant	Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?
Candidates	I do.
Celebrant	Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?
Candidates	I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.
Celebrant	Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in
	their life in Christ?
People	We will.
Celebrant	Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own
	baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant	Do you believe in God the Father?
Doonlo	I believe in Cod the Father almight

People	I believe in God, the Father almighty,
	creator of heaven and earth.
Celebrant	Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People	I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
_	He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
	and born of the Virgin Mary.
	He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
	was crucified, died, and was buried.
	He descended to the dead.
	On the third day he rose again.
	He ascended into heaven
	and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
	He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant People	Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Celebrant	Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People	I will, with God's help.
Celebrant	Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People	I will, with God's help.
Celebrant People	Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? I will, with God's help.
Celebrant People	Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? I will, with God's help.
Celebrant	Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?
People	I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidates

Celebrant <i>Silence</i>	Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.
Intercessor	Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People	Lord, hear our prayer.
Intercessor	Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
People	Lord, hear our prayer.
Intercessor	Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People	Lord, hear our prayer.
Intercessor	Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People	Lord, hear our prayer.
Intercessor People Silence	Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit. Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confirmation

The Celebrant lays hands upon each one and says

Celebrant Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N*. with your Holy Spirit; empower *them* for your service; and sustain *them* all the days of her life. **Amen.**

Reception

Celebrant *N.*, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

Reaffirmation

Celebrant N., may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

The Celebrant concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant	The peace of the Lord be always with you.	
People	And also with you.	
As we share the sign of God's peace, please be mindful of each other's varied boundaries.		

Announcements and Blessings

Birthday Prayer

People Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary Prayer

People Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, for which your Son gave his life, and surround this couple with your love. Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. Amen.

Offertory



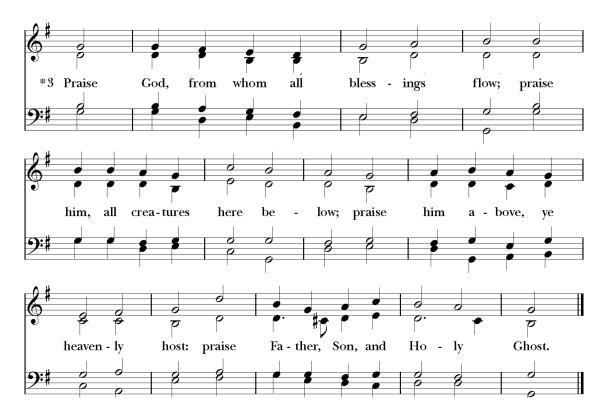
The plates will be passed during the offertory, but you may also make an offering through the Offering Box in the Narthex (lobby) or by using this QR code.

Lo, How A Rose/ The Rose

arr. Craig Hella Johnson

The Doxology

Please stand as you are able.

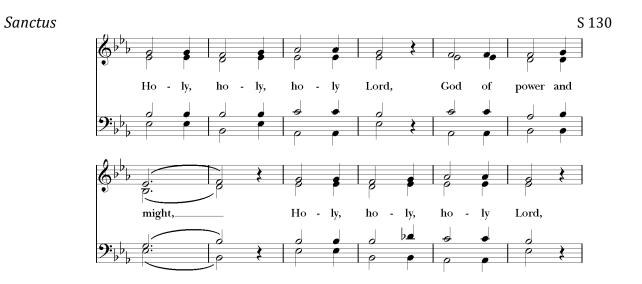


H380

The Holy Communion The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C BCP 369

Celebrant People	The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Celebrant People	Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant People	Let us give thanks to our Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.
Celebrant People	God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. Glory to you for ever and ever.
Celebrant People	At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. By your will they were created and have their being.
Celebrant	From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
People	Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.
Celebrant	Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
People	By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.
Celebrant	And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:





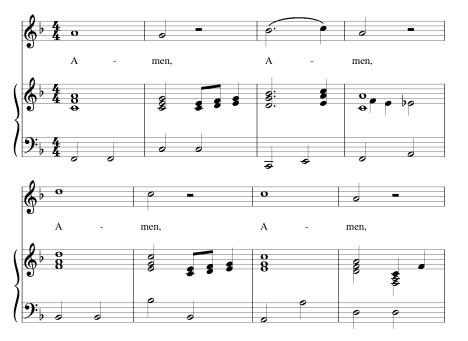
Celebrant And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

	On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."
	After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."
People	Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.
Celebrant	Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of our mothers, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah; and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.
People	Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

The Great Amen

LEVAS 261



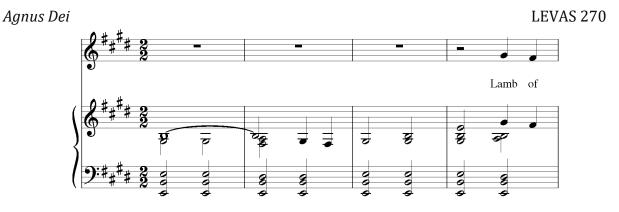


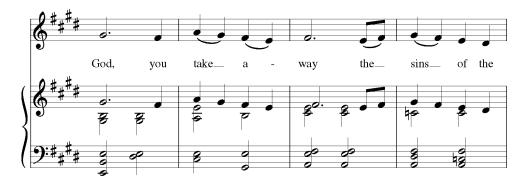
Celebrant **People** And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

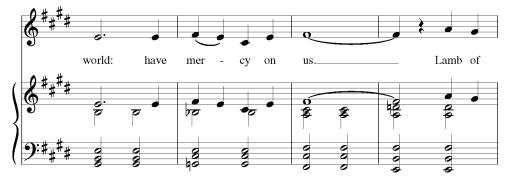
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

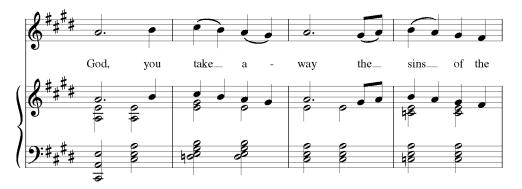
The Breaking of the Bread

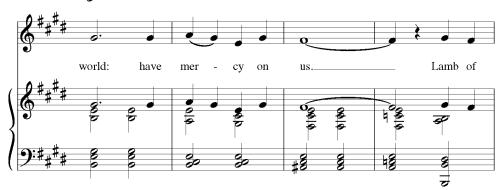
Celebrant	Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People	Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.













CelebrantThe gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died
for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith,

People You are welcome at this table.

Please follow the guidance of the ushers to approach the altar to receive communion. Gluten free wafers are available.

The angel Gabriel



H265



Oh thou that tellest



Celebrant Let us pray.

People Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

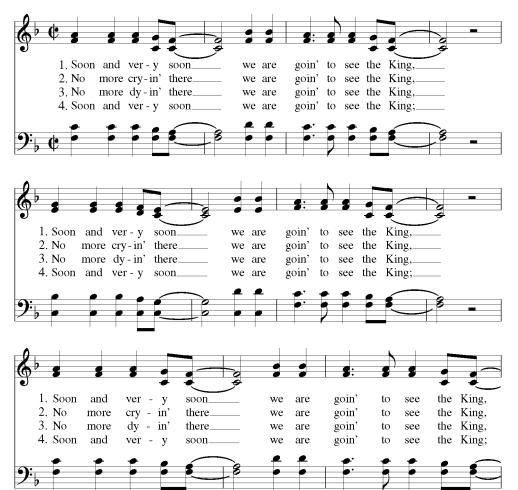
The Blessing

Celebrant

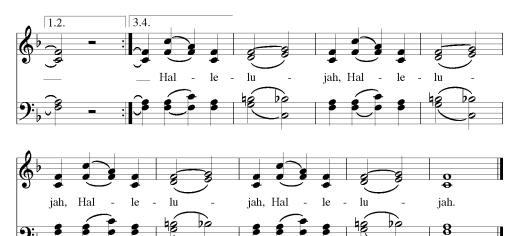
May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Soon and very soon

LEVAS 14







Dismissal

Deacon	Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
People	Thanks be to God!

Prayer List

The Prayer List is prayed on a regular basis by our Monday night Intercessory Prayer Group. We invite you to incorporate praying the list into your own prayer practices. To add a name to the prayer list, email <u>prayerbox@stjamesaustin.org</u>. Prayer requests from the website will be auto-forwarded to the pastoral care ministry and the office.

We pray for (3 weeks list): Gloria Kennedy, Emma McPherson, Wesley Curtis, Barbara Brown, Mathilde Hyam- Flores, Huitzin Chavez, Leopoldo Chavez, Ericka Orta, and the Bradshaw family.

We also pray for those with long-term needs: Scott Alfano and family, , Kevin Reed, the Rev. Dr. Sondra Coleman, Cliff Keeling, Historic St. Matthias Episcopal Church, Asheville, NC., Geneva Elliott, Larry Schanki, Amy, Horace Bledsoe, Jeremy and Shelby, Jimmy Alexander, Mahealani, Robin Clough Powell, Melinda King, John Baxton, Mary Ellen, Curt Jones, James Gibson, Michele Bondy, Jeremy Alexande, Donna Plowman, Johann and Susanna, Judy Jenkins, Nancy Gabin, Wiley Williams, Michael Hughes, Anqet, Susan Gunn, BJ Taylor, Russel Taulli, Pedro E., Robin Fuller, Kisa Niewenhuis, Frank Weir and his family, Candice Brown, Jacob Schumacher and his family, Shirley Gordon, Bowen W., Vanessa Williams, Jim Burgess, Cindy, Jason and Jalen Castillo, Niesha Jones, Truitt Ray, Jerry, Marty, Emma McPherson, Pat, Kamilah Myrie, Tom and Dee Esquivel, Sammie A. Eppright, David Batty, Samuel Carothers, Anna Pecorino, Philip and family, John White, Brigitte Rhedin, Dan Shaw, Kirk Richter, Raymond Coleman, Cecilia Harris, Lily Thomas, Sandra Gilkey, Leslie Rose, Sean Calloway, Miles Calloway, Carrie Eppright-Givens, Clayton Givens, Roland Brown, Joy Roswell, Gave Evans, Rose Watley, Carolyn Caffrey, Joseph Naranjo, Margaret Ann Bledsoe, Brandy, Andrea, Vanessa, Lorenza, Mrs. Lakeyshia Brown, Pam Beachley, Stephanie Smith, Elizabeth Sherar Gammon and Steven Sherar, Rebecca Kary, Sherry Ward, Carrie Schumacher, William Collier, Adrian Spears, Mark Werner, Myrna, Evelyn Marie Taylor, Nellie White, Gail Jackson, Richard Ezell, Mary Glennie, Edith Conde and family, Jacob Blake, John Paul Guajardo, Richard White, Andre Watkins, Jana Murphy, Justin Howell and his family, Bruce Blackwell, Doug Lawrie, Tara Turner, Gertrude Fowler, Claudette Milne, Frankie Scott, Mark McCrary, Kési Anderson, Rev. James Palmore, Cleo B., Jason A., Reed B., Angelina, Mike C., Diane Hoffman, Brian M, Joyce, Ganelle, Noah, Thor, Troy, Allissa, Charlene Moore, Eugenia Hayes, Tim and Shalmah, Carol Daughtry, Rachel and Daniel, Rebekah, Diane Neill, Cecile, Mildred Grimble, Margie Lawson, Melvin Alfred, Natrice Harding, Anne Osbourne, Richelle Easley, Patricia Harding, Brandon Williams, Joey Ramirez, Marvin Sykes, Max and his mother, Paul Gill, Samuel Kraemer-Dahlin, Jacquelyn Ferrell Mccadden, Ursula Ferrell Jackson, Ronnie Yarmuck, Bertha Malone, Samah Al Adawi, Hazel Livingston, Arthur Shelton; and for all who are incarcerated and for their families, and all the refugees throughout the world. God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

We pray for all who have died, including the Rev. Daryl James, Juanita Ross, and Norman Lanier Miller.

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

4pm Holy Communion with Children's Pageant6 pm La Santa Eucaristía9 pm Lessons and Carol Eucharist by Candlelight

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

10 am Holy Communion with Carols

For more information, go to stjamesaustin.org.

Announcements

Don't forget to turn your pledge cards in for 2025. You may drop them in the offertory box.

You can make your pledge using the QR below. If you need to know your remaining 2023 balance, email the office at office@stjamesaustin.org.



Volunteers needed!

Welcome Table needs volunteers for Neighbor 2 Neighbor. Did you know that we have been distributing almost as many bags of food on Tuesdays as we did during the height of the pandemic? The need is great! Small teams of work colleagues are welcome. Contact Emily at <u>emily@welcometable.org</u> for more information.

Emergency Pastoral Care Line • 512•677•7991