

St. James' Episcopal Church March 30, 2025 5 pm Fourth Sunday in Lent

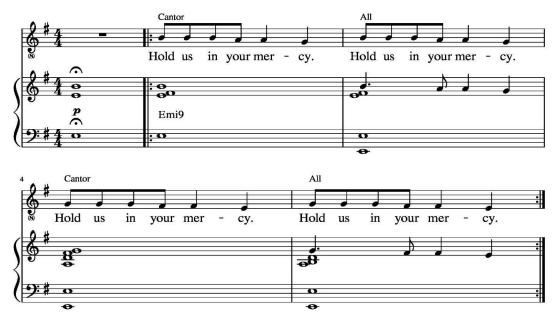
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at this table.

The Gathering of the Community

Please stand as you are able.

Penitential Litany

Hold us in your Mercy



Maker's love poured out from heaven, **hold us in your mercy.** Mercy's word made flesh among us, **hold us in your mercy.** Born as one of homeless pilgrims, **hold us in your mercy.** Sent to bring the poor good news, **hold us in your mercy.** You, who shared the sinner's table, **hold us in your mercy.** You, who cleansed the leper's flesh, **hold us in your mercy.**

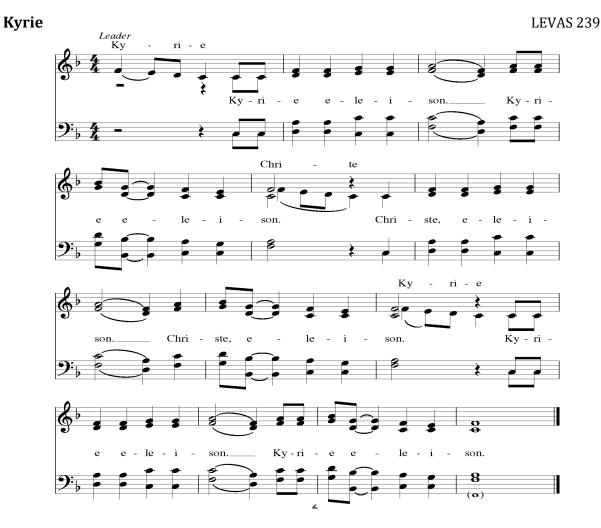
You, who shared our life and labor, **hold us in your mercy.** You, who chose to walk our roads, **hold us in your mercy.** You, who silence raging demons, **hold us in your mercy.** You, who bid the storm be silent, **hold us in your mercy.** You, whose cross has gone before us, **hold us in your mercy.** You, who bear our cross with us, **hold us in your mercy.** Innocent, you faced the guilty, **hold us in your mercy.** One in death with us forever, **hold us in your mercy.**

	Come and break the chains that bind us; hold us in your mercy. Free us from addiction's prison; hold us in your mercy. Break the power of the darkness; hold us in your mercy. Let us rise to life with you; hold us in your mercy.
Presider	Blessed be the God of our Salvation.
People	Who bears our burdens and forgives our sin.
Presider	Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned.
People	I will confess my sins to the Lord, I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

In the silence, we are invited to examine the brokenness in our own lives and in the world and to pray that, with God's merciful help, we might set our feet upon paths of repentance.

Presider God forgives and heals us.

People We need your healing, merciful God: give us true repentance. Some sins are plain to us; some escape us, some we cannot face. Forgive us; set us free to hear your word to us; set us free to serve you.



Presider	God forgives you.
	Forgive others;
	Forgive yourself.
	Silence
	Through Christ, God has put away your sin: approach your God in peace.

The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Almighty God, you called your servants Óscar Romero and Cesar Chavez to be a voice for the voiceless poor, and to give their lives as a seed of freedom and a sign of hope: Grant that, inspired by the example of the martyrs of El Salvador, and those who gave themselves to the farmworkers movement, we may without fear witness to your Word who abides, your Word who is Life, even Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be praise and glory now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

The First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

Lector A reading from Joshua.

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **People Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 32

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said," I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; * I will guide you with my eye.

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

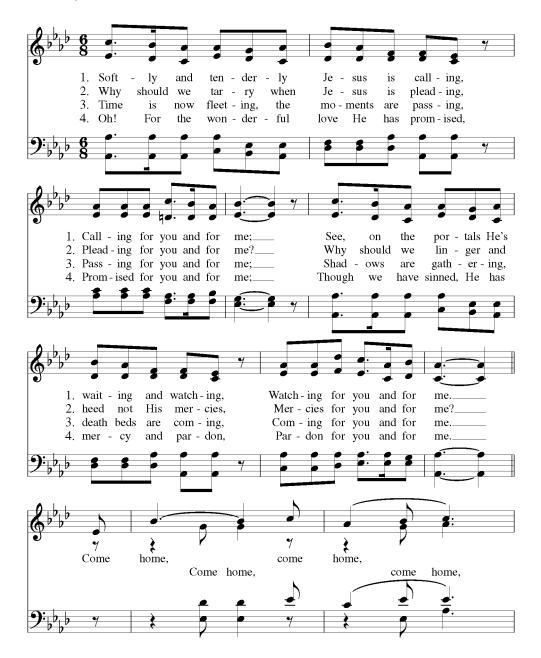
Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

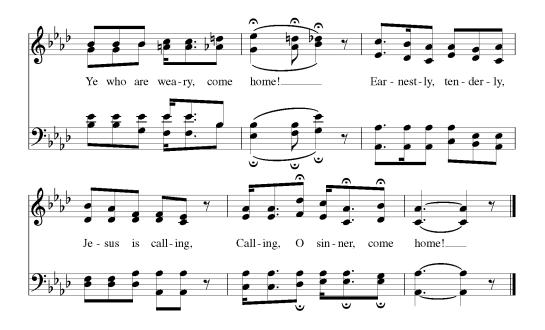
The Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Lector A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

LectorHear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.PeopleThanks be to God.





The Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

DeaconThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.PeoplePraise and glory to God.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for

this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Rev. Eileen O'Brien, Rector

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

The Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Please stand as you are able.

People	You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God.
	You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now. You are God.
	You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship you.

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor	Gracious God, you fill us with faith and courage to confront the world's injustice and to carry your abundant love to all the world: Hear us as we pray, saying: We give thanks to God in prayer; fill us with your Spirit.
Intercessor People	Raise up evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, who will preach the Gospel to those who are far off and to those who are near, and bring the unsearchable riches of Christ to all people. We give thanks to God in prayer; fill us with your Spirit.
Intercessor	Direct the counsel and knowledge of all leaders, Almighty One, that they may
	confront injustice and racism with words and acts of wisdom and compassion. We give thanks to God in prayer;
People	fill us with your Spirit.
Intercessor People	Visit with your healing power all who live in places of thorns and threat, violence and racism, the rocky soil and scorched earth of poverty and injustice: Sow your seeds of love into the soil of good hearts, that the earth may bring forth an abundant harvest of justice and truth. We give thanks to God in prayer; fill us with your Spirit.
Intercessor	Revive our souls, O Gracious One, and fill our communities with perseverance and enduring faith, that with warm, emotional and impulsive energy we may reclaim neighborhoods in kindness and in peace. We give thanks to God in prayer;
People	fill us with your Spirit.
Intercessor People	Into your abundant heart, O God, we offer the cares and thanksgivings of our hearts, (prayers may be offered, either silently or aloud) fill us with your Spirit.
Presider	Loving and gracious Father, you called Oscar Romero, Cesar Chavez, and all your faithful servants to bring leadership and hope to your Church: Fill us with your Spirit, that we may continue the work, building institutions and relationships of justice, truth, and reconciling peace, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.
The Peace	

Presider	Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace.
People	Who breaks down the walls that divide.
Presider	The peace of God be always with you.
People	Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.

Please be mindful of each other's varied boundaries while greeting during the peace.

Announcements and Blessings

Offertory

We offer our gifts to God: our lives, our abilities, our resources.



Instead of passing the plates during the offertory, we invite you to make an offering through the Offering Box in the Narthex/lobby or by using the QR code.

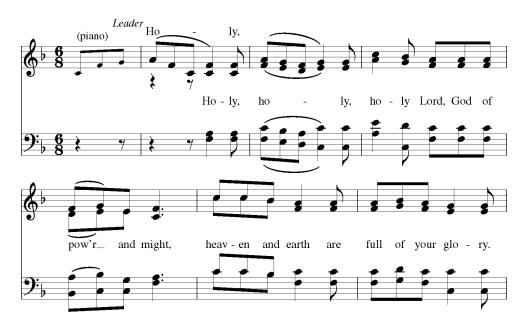
Holy Communion

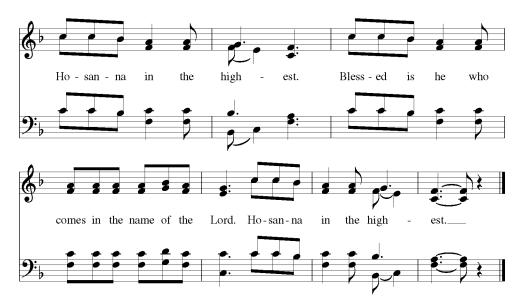
Please stand as you are able.

Presider	The Lord is here.
People	God's Spirit is with us.
Presider	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Presider	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to offer thanks and praise.
Presider	In your Son you suffered with us and for us, offering us the healing riches of salvation and calling us to freedom and holiness.
	Therefore with people of every nation, tribe and language, joyfully we give you thanks and sing:

Sanctus

LEVAS 256





Please kneel or remain standing.

Presider All glory and honor to you, God of grace, for you gave your only Son Jesus Christ once for all on the cross to be the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

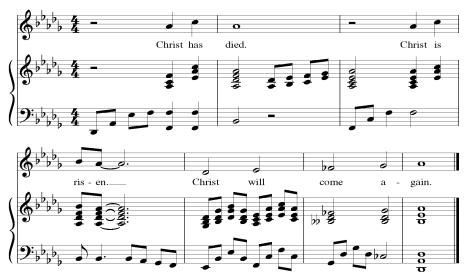
The night before he died he took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Therefore, loving God, in this sacrament of the suffering and death of your Son, we now celebrate the wonder of your grace and proclaim the mystery of our faith:



LEVAS 258



Presider Redeemer God, rich in mercy, infinite in goodness, we were far off until you brought us near and our hands are empty until you fill them. As we eat this bread and drink this wine, through the power of your Holy Spirit feed us with heavenly food, renew us in your service, unite us with Christ, and bring us to your everlasting kingdom. O the depths and the riches of your wisdom, O God: how unsearchable are your judgments and untraceable your ways.

People From you, and through you, and for you are all things. To you be the glory forever.

The Great Amen

LEVAS 261



The Lord's Prayer

Presider As Christ has taught us to pray, we are bold to pray,

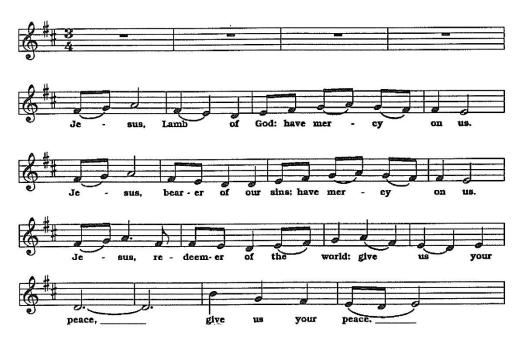
PeopleOur Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine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

The Breaking of the Bread

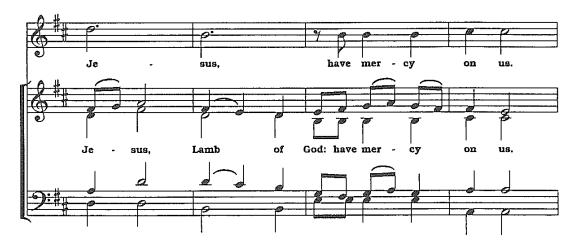
Presider	Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People	Therefore let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei

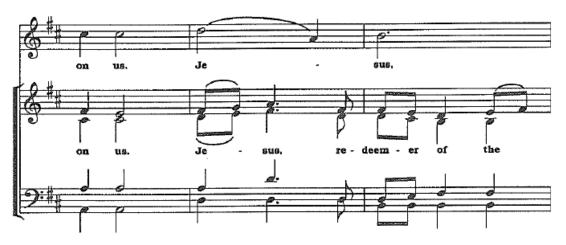
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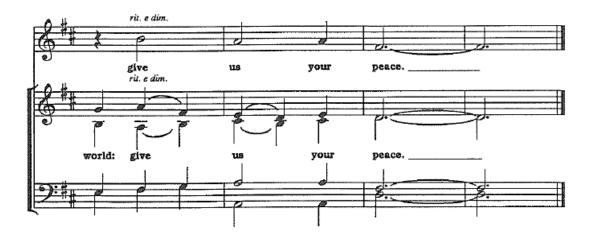










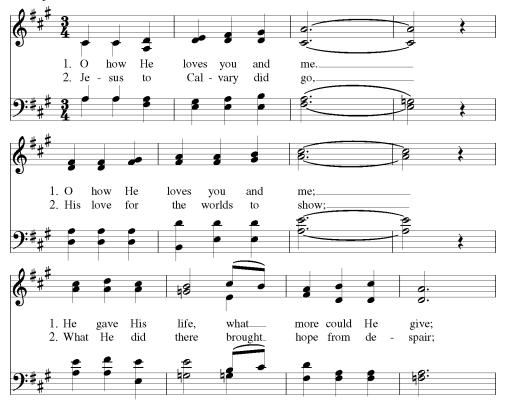


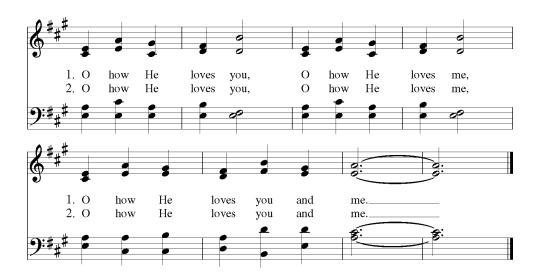
Presider	Bread and wine, the gifts of God for the people of God.
People	May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.
Presider	Wherever you are on your journey of faith,
People	You are welcome at this table.

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

O how He loves you and me







Prayer after Communion

People Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Night Prayer for Lent

Presider People	Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the Presence of God. <i>Silence</i>
Presider People	It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be. <i>Silence</i>
Presider People	The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and our lives rest in you. <i>Silence</i>
Presider People	The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace. Silence
Presider People	The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. Amen.

Solemn Prayer over the People

Presider Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



The Dismissal of the Community

DeaconGo now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.PeopleAmen. We go in the name of Christ.

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): Sylvia White, Ken Dawson, and the Sandra Clark- Bell Family, and the Wormley Family.

We also pray for those with long-term needs: Andrea Richardson and family, Eden Poon, Cara Ann Cummins, and her partner Kenneth, Fletcher Michael Francis and his family, Joel, Kurt, Sandy and the Armstrong family, Scott Alfano and family, Rene Beteille, Arlene Youngblood, Emma McPherson, Joann Darr, Kevin Reed, Amy Weir, the Rev. Dr. Sondra Coleman, Cliff Keeling, 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, Anget, 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, 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, Gaye 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, 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 Sandra Clark- Bell, sister of Gail Wormley.

Announcements

Wednesday, April 2: The Way of Hope

6:30-7 pm: Light Dinner; 7-8:30 pm Program

The Rev. Addison McMillan will introduce you to the Easter Vigil as the central service of the Church Year, exploring the history, theology and practice of this ancient and always new liturgy.

Thursday, April 5, 6:30 pm, Restaurant Group

We will meet at the Brewtorium, 6015 Dillard Cir A, Austin, TX 78752. It's helpful if you can email Teresa Chang at <u>turner.teresa@gmail.com</u> so we know how many seats to save. We meet on the first Thursday of the month.

Saturday, April 9, 9-12 pm, Parish Workday

It's time for a workday to help maintain and improve our church facilities. This is a great opportunity to come together as a community and care for the place where we gather to worship and serve. Breakfast provided! There will be various tasks available for all skill levels, including cleaning, painting, minor repairs, and more. Please bring work gloves if you have them.



Easter Lilies Orders and Dedications

Lilies beautify the church at Easter. These flowers can be given in memory, honor, or thanksgiving this Easter. The cost of the lilies is \$25 per plant. Orders may be placed by using the QR code, or by contacting <u>office@stjamesaustin.org</u>.

Bring Easter Eggs for the kids!

It is that time of year again. We really need your support in providing eggs for our Easter egg hunt. Please provide a dozen plastic Easter eggs filled with individually wrapped candies, stickers, small toys, etc. Please bring your eggs to the narthex by April 13th.

Volunteer with Freedom Schools this summer!

Come join Welcome Table for our 12th summer of fun and inspiration at Freedom School (June 16-July 25)! Backstage volunteers chip in with preparation, behind-the-scenes, and follow-up. On-site volunteers get specialized training to help scholars practice reading, assist with afternoon activities, go on field trips and more. Youth volunteers are essential, too! For more information, contact FSvolunteer@welcometableaustin.org

Join the Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) packing team!



N2N has many regular volunteers from around Austin, but our shifts are often not full, especially during the first months of the year. With the packing team, small groups pack pantry staples, fresh produce, and diapers and then set up for afternoon service to our neighbors. It's meaningful and it's fun! Shifts are from 9-11am or from 11am 1pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. Use the QR code to sign up.

Serve the Immigrant Community

We are in great need of volunteers to help with our Power of Attorney workshops for parents facing possible deportation. The POA gives custody to a family member or friend for kids whose parents are suddenly taken from them. This unfortunately happens more than you would want to believe. The volunteers help parents fill out the forms. It's easy work, and no experience needed. Our team works with you and provides guidance. We have a series of these workshops in various Austin locations throughout March. Notaries are also needed. We have served 37 families this month through the help of volunteers. Please help us pass the word to others who might be interested in this Gospel call. Contact the Rev. Jim Harrington at jim@stjamesaustin.org for more information.