

# Liturgy at Home

---

## St. James' Anglican Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 21, 2025 | 9:00 am



# Welcome

---

We acknowledge with gratitude and respect our presence on the ancestral, traditional and un-ceded territory of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations.

Welcome to this St. James' "Liturgy at Home", which gathers together a community of worship for those prevented for various reasons from being in church for the celebration of Solemn Mass at 10:30 am on Sundays. For times for weekday Mass (in church) and Daily Office (online), please see the Notices pages at the end of this bulletin.

You are invited either to share in this Liturgy at 9:00 am on Sunday via Zoom, or to use its as an aid to your prayers at home. You will draw strength, we hope, from the knowledge that fellow-parishioners will be praying alongside you.

The Parish Intercession Lists are being prayed daily. Please make any requests to the Parish Office at [office@stjames.bc.ca](mailto:office@stjames.bc.ca).

**You are warmly invited to the following special services:**

- ❖ Nine Lessons & Carols: Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 pm
- ❖ Solemn Mass of Midnight: Wednesday, December 24 at 10:30 pm
- ❖ Nativity of our Lord: Thursday, December 25 at 10:30 am

**Everyone welcome!**

# About St. James'

---

St. James' is an inclusive Christian community, worshipping in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. For more information, please see our website: [www.stjames.bc.ca](http://www.stjames.bc.ca)

## **VISION STATEMENT**

Discovering the beauty of holiness in our lives and neighbourhood, by living a Christ-centred sacramental life rooted in the Anglo-Catholic tradition.

## **MISSION OBJECTIVES**

- To be a beacon for all as a neighbourhood and destination church where we invite and welcome friends, family, and strangers into our midst;
- To deepen our life of prayer and formation in Christ;
- To develop relationships and fellowship in open, honest, and spiritual ways among parishioners, with our neighbours, and those in need;
- To pursue and practice justice and mercy for the imparting of the Kingdom of God within and beyond the Parish;
- To strive to maintain financial equilibrium, develop our reserves, and optimize the use of our assets to ensure the preservation of our sacred space and ministry from generation to generation, to the everlasting glory of God.

# A Reflection

---

O Morning Star,  
splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:  
Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death.

*Cf. Malachi 4:2 (O Oriens)*

— — —

God speaks to each of us as he makes us,  
then walks with us silently out of the night.

These are the words we dimly hear:

You, sent out beyond your recall,  
go to the limits of your longing.  
Embody me.

Flare up like the flame  
and make big shadows I can move in.

Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.  
Just keep going. No feeling is final.  
Don't let yourself lose me.

Nearby is the country they call life.  
You will know it by its seriousness.

Give me your hand.

*Rilke's Book of Hours, I, 59.*

# Opening Rite

---

## INVOCATION

Gathering together on the ancestral, traditional and un-ceded territory of the  
x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>ə́əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́ilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh)  
First Nations, we meet

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## HYMN

Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of his word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

## PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
“Make straight the way of the Lord.”  
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations  
into the peace of your kingdom:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament  
to strengthen us in holiness:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory  
with salvation for your people:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins, and keep us in eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,  
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour,  
now fill us with your grace,  
that we in all things may embrace your will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

# Liturgy of the Word

---

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 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. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

(Isaiah 7:10-16)

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## **PSALM**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**You have made us the derision of our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

(Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,  
To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Romans 1:1-7)

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA

**Alleluia.** Come, O Lord, and tarry not: forgive the misdeeds of thy people. **Alleluia.**

## THE GOSPEL READING

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

(Matthew 1:18-25)

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## HOMILY

Father Stephen Rowe



## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God almighty,  
**who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,  
who created all things:  
**for by his will they were created  
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,  
who was slain:  
**for with his blood,  
he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:  
**the Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!"  
Even so come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Celebrant:*

In joyful expectation of the coming of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

*Intercessor:*

Come to your Church as ruler and judge.

Help us to live in the light of your coming

and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Bless Bishop Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury-elect;

Archbishop Shane, our Primate; Archbishop John, our Metropolitan;

and all ministers of your Church;

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as Sovereign of all.

Bless Charles our King, the leaders of the nations, and all in authority;

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.

Bless Peter Symons; Rocky Rocksborough-Smith; Norman; Beverly; Julia Glass;

Dustin & Jess; Alex McKenzie; Gillian Budd; Aisha & Hellen; David Gagnon;

Rikke & Bjorn; Kasen Baker; Kenzie Baker; Gordon Wrightman; Roger Laviolette;

and in our Street Outreach: Martin; Lindsay; Antonio; Ian Bee; Darren; Francesca;

the Howard family; Baker Mike; Joey; Jenny; Vinnie; Dr Susan Burgess,

Dr Brian Conway, and all doctors serving this community.

Break into our lives,

where we struggle with sickness and distress,

and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. Receive in your mercy those who have died recently: Sheila Wallace; Elizabeth Feeley; Peggy Hughes; Nathan Howard,

and those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time: Ida Bailey; Harold Edwards; Douglas Grant; James Hornby; Molly Hay; Irene Clarke; Leong Nyuk Suing; Kee Buoï Yeo; Douglas Williams, priest; Peter Maslenka; Ethel Rolfe; Irene Canning; Eileen Forshaw; Robin Forshaw; and Bonnie Patterson.

Give us with all the faithful departed  
a share in your victory over evil and death.  
+Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

**And may light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace.

**Amen.**

*Celebrant:*

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;  
give new courage to your people,  
who trust in your love,  
that with Holy Mary, the Mother of God,  
St James our patron, and all the saints,  
we may share in the joy of your kingdom  
where you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

# Spiritual Communion

---

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: grant us thy peace.

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*As we are unable to receive the Blessed Sacrament at this time,  
meditate quietly for a moment on these words of Jesus from St. John 6:*

"I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, whoever believes in me will never thirst."

*Then, in union with the Body of Christ in every time and place, pray:*

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus. There is room in my heart for thee.



## HYMN

O come, O Dayspring from on high  
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

# Concluding Rite

---

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.  
Gracious God,  
by the power of the Spirit  
who sanctified the mother of your Son,  
make holy all we offer you this day.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **THE GRACE**

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine upon us,  
scatter the darkness from before our path,  
and make us ready to meet him when he comes in glory.  
**Amen.**

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
+and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore.  
**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER**

O loving mother of the Saviour,  
ever the open gate to heaven,  
and star of the sea,  
O hasten to aid us,  
who though falling strive to rise again.

Bearing as a virgin, while nature stood in awe,  
your own Maker, your own holy Lord,  
ever virgin, after as before,  
when the mouth of Gabriel  
uttered that great 'Ave,'  
O take pity on us sinners.

# Advent & Christmas Services at St James'

## ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, November 30 at 4pm

## CHRISTMAS FOR ALL

Sunday, December 14 at 2:30pm

## NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 pm  
(30 min. organ prelude at 6:30 pm)

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24

Said Mass at 4:00pm

Solemn Mass at 10:30pm

## CHRISTMAS DAY

Liturgy at Home at 9:00am on Zoom

Solemn Mass at 10:30am in church

[www.stjames.bc.ca](http://www.stjames.bc.ca)

303 East Cordova Street,  
Vancouver, BC, V6A 1L4  
email: [office@stjames.bc.ca](mailto:office@stjames.bc.ca)  
phone: 604-685-2532

# Clergy Notes

---

On the last Sunday of Advent this year, our Gospel gives us a glimpse into Joseph's mind and heart, and the life-changing decision he must make. Honour in his time is a huge part of life, and in order to maintain honour after finding out his betrothed is already pregnant, Joseph must act quickly. No matter what he decides, it is likely going to involve serious complications for everyone involved. Believing the angel and obeying God's command comes with serious risks, and Joseph chooses to take a risk and trust God.

But there is another life-altering decision in this week's readings. The prophet tells Ahaz to ask for a sign from God, which he knows (under normal circumstances) is a sin – he even quotes the Scripture that warns against doing so. And yet, he is chastised for it – why? Because the request comes directly from God, through the mouth of the prophet. Ahaz is paying more attention to the letter of the law than he is to its source.

In both situations, Joseph and Ahaz are asked to do something unexpected; they are invited to trust that God is the source and the goal. Perhaps these two readings give us a chance to reflect on how sometimes the things we offer to God in worship and obedience can also become a barrier when they replace loving relationship with, and faithfulness to, the God we serve. All of the worship, music and beauty we offer as a sacrifice to our God is worthless if our hearts are not also being offered. May we commit ever more fully to true worship – the offering of ourselves, our souls and bodies – this season and in the year to come. And may we recognize and respond to the voice of our Saviour when he comes.

*Mother Amanda*

# Notices

---

## REGULAR SERVICE TIMES

<b>Saturday</b>	4:00 pm: Vigil Mass in church
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am: Liturgy at Home via Zoom 10:30 am: Solemn Mass in church
<b>Weekdays</b>	12:10 pm: Monday, Wednesday, Friday in church 9:30 am: Tuesday, Thursday in church

## NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS: TODAY

In the tradition of King's College, Cambridge, and led by the MOTET choir, this service is to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind go even unto Bethlehem to see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. **Organ prelude starts at 6:30 pm, service at 7:00 pm.**

## ORDO KALENDAR 2026

The new St. James' Ordo Kalendar is available now at the back of the church. A minimum donation of \$20 is suggested for those able.

## SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK

On December 24 there will be Said Mass at 4:00 pm and Midnight Mass at 10:30 pm. On December 25 there will be Solemn Mass at 10:30 am. **Daily Mass is cancelled on December 24, 25, and 26.**

The parish office will be closed from **Thursday, December 25 until Monday, January 5.** For pastoral matters, please contact Mtr. Amanda directly.

## CHRISTMAS DAY POTLUCK, GAMES AND GATHERING

Let's spend time together! Join us for a come-and-go gathering in the parish center **December 25 from 3:00-9:00 pm.** We will share a potluck meal at 6:00 pm. The rest of the time we will be playing games, chatting and getting to know one another. Hope to see you there! For questions, talk to Michelle, 236-512-9915.

### **COMING HOME SOCIETY'S ANNUAL NEWSLETTER IS NOW AVAILABLE**

Please [click here to read it](#). This is the 25th year that we have been working on behalf of St. James' Church and this diocese at Reconciliation. We are in partnership with Urban Native Youth Association, which is changing the future for Aboriginal youth, and with Warriors Against Violence Society, which is helping families heal domestic abuse rooted in the trauma of our Residential Schools. This church is loved and respected in both organizations. Please help us continue to support them. *Linda Adams, Chair, Coming Home Society*

### **ARCHIVED LIVE STREAM OF INDUCTION SERVICE AVAILABLE NOW**

Share in the beauty of the moment from anywhere! Mother Amanda's induction as Rector of St. James' Anglican Church, Vancouver was live-streamed on December 1 and the archived video is available on demand now at [legacystreaming.com/st-james-anglican-church-vancouver](http://legacystreaming.com/st-james-anglican-church-vancouver).

### **PRAY THE ROSARY IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL**

Bring your rosary if you have one on **Saturdays at 3:30 pm**. No experience necessary: instructions and booklets will be provided. All are welcome!

### **BIBLE STUDY**

On **Wednesdays at 1:00 pm**, we hold Bible Study in the library of the Parish Centre and via Zoom. Each week we explore a passage of scripture and wonder together about its meaning and implications for our lives as Christians today. All are welcome! No registration required. If you would like to be sent the reading and questions ahead of time, please contact Mother Amanda.

Zoom Meeting ID: 841 6396 2965 / Zoom Passcode: 247805

### **THE DAILY OFFICE**

The Daily Office is said online via Zoom **Monday through Saturday at 9:00 am and 5:00 pm**. Join via Zoom app or by phone at 778-907-2071.

Zoom Meeting ID: 986 3976 8391 / Zoom Passcode: 762469

### **FRIDAY NIGHT COMPLINE**

You are invited to join this small but lively group of people, praying Compline together from the BCP. We meet at **9:00 pm Friday nights**. Bring your own book, or contact Mtr Amanda for the PDF order of service. Join via Zoom app or by phone at 778-907-2071.

Zoom Meeting ID: 272 505 973 / Zoom Passcode: 688517

# Lectioary

DATE	MORNING PRAYER 9:00 AM	DAILY MASS	EVENING PRAYER 5:00 PM
MON December 15 Simon Gibbons, First Priest from the Inuit, 1896	Ps 41, 52; Zech 1:7-17; Rev 3:7-13	Num 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:3-8; Mt 21:23-27	Ps 44; Is 8:16-9:1; Mt 24:15-31
TUES December 16 Feria	Ps 45; Zech 2:1-13; Rev 3:14-22	Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:1-8, 15-22; Mt 21:28-32	Ps 47, 48; Is 9:1-7; Mt 24:32-44
WED December 17 <i>O Sapientia</i>	Ps 119:49-72; Zech 3:1-10; Rev 4:1-8	Gen 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-8; Mt 1:1-7, 17	Ps 49; Is 9:8-17; Mt 24:45-51
THUR December 18 <i>O Adonai</i>	Ps 24, 29; Gen 3:8-15; Rev 12:1-10	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:11-19; Mt 1:18-25	Ps 8, 84; Is 42:1-12; Jn 3:16-21
FRI December 19 <i>O Radix Jesse</i>	Ps 61, 62; Zeph 3:14-20; Tit 1:1-16	Jg 13:2-7, 24-25; Ps 71:1-8; Lk 1:5-25	Ps 112, 115; Is 11:1-9; Lk 1:1-25
SAT December 20 <i>O Clavis David</i>	Ps 66, 67; 1 Sam 2:1b-10; Tit 2:1-10	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Lk 1:26-38	Ps 116, 117; Is 11:10-16; Lk 1:26-38
SUN December 21 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <i>O Oriens</i>	Ps 72; 2 Sam 7:1-17; Tit 2:11-3:8a	Is 7:10-16; Ps 80:1-7, 16-18; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-25	Ps 111, 113; Is 28:9-22; Lk 1:39-48a



## **CLERGY**

Rector: Mother Amanda Ruston: [mtr.amanda@stjames.bc.ca](mailto:mtr.amanda@stjames.bc.ca)

Non-Emergency #: 604-685-2532 xt 504    Emergency #: 604-825-2379

Street Outreach: Father Matthew Johnson: [matthew@streetoutreach.net](mailto:matthew@streetoutreach.net)

Non-Emergency #: 604-685-7522 or #: 604-685-2532 xt 502

Honorary Assistants: Father Neil Gray; Father Neil Fernyhough ;

The Reverend Joyce Locht, Deacon (ret'd); Sister Mary Christian Cross, Deacon (ret'd)

## **PARISH STAFF**

Parish Administrator: Fiorella Mauro: Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri: [office@stjames.bc.ca](mailto:office@stjames.bc.ca)

Music Directors (Interim): Brigid Coult/Susan Ohannesian

Music Series: [musicseries@stjames.bc.ca](mailto:musicseries@stjames.bc.ca)

Building Manager: Darren Campbell: Tues-Sat: 7 am - noon, 778-839-4432

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

Chair: Louisa Farrell

## **PARISH OFFICERS**

Rector's Warden: Reece Wrightman [wardens@stjames.bc.ca](mailto:wardens@stjames.bc.ca)

Warden: Leah Postman [wardens@stjames.bc.ca](mailto:wardens@stjames.bc.ca)

Warden: Joanna Lam [wardens@stjames.bc.ca](mailto:wardens@stjames.bc.ca)

Trustees: Ross Hornby; Michelle Heshka; Bev Wilson

Treasurer: Andrew Campbell [treasurer@stjames.bc.ca](mailto:treasurer@stjames.bc.ca)

Envelope Secretary: Wayne Sample [envelope.secretary@stjames.bc.ca](mailto:envelope.secretary@stjames.bc.ca)

Parish Privacy Officer & Vestry Clerk: Linda Adams



St. James' Anglican Church | Diocese of New Westminster |

Anglican Church of Canada | 303 East Cordova Street, Vancouver, BC, V6A 1L4

T: 604-685-2532 E: [office@stjames.bc.ca](mailto:office@stjames.bc.ca) | Web: [www.stjames.bc.ca](http://www.stjames.bc.ca)