



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
SAINTS JAMES AND ANDREW

**Christmas Day**  
**December 25, 2018**  
**9:00 AM**

**We are glad that you are with us on this sacred day to receive Jesus, the Christ child, God's greatest gift and promise to us. We look to the New Year with joyful expectation and renewed spirits as we embody the very event we celebrate tonight. Christ is with us, Alleluia! All things are possible, all things are extraordinary. Wherever you are in your journey, we welcome you to Saints James and Andrew, and we invite you into the life of this faith community. We hope you will return soon and often, and we wish you and yours a blessed Christmas.**

**Our Mission**

We believe God is calling us to cultivate a community of love, joy, hope, and healing. Jesus is our model for a life of faith, compassion, hospitality and service. We strive to be affirming and accessible, welcoming and inclusive; we seek to promote reconciliation, exercise responsible stewardship, and embrace ancient traditions for modern lives.

## Welcome and Preparation for Worship

*Welcome to Worship! We are blessed by your presence with us today. Please take this time of quiet and peace to prepare your hearts and minds for worship. Everything you need for today's worship is in this service booklet, but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask our ushers or your fellow worshippers.*

### Opening Acclamation

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

**You come to your people and set them free.**

The Word was made flesh and came to live among us.

**Come, let us adore him.**

Today a savior is born for us, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

**Come, let us adore him.**

Our Redeemer's name is Emmanuel, God with us.

**Come, let us adore him.**

### Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### The Collect

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ:**

**Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The First Reading** Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--  
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 96**

**1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \***  
**sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.**

**2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \***  
**proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

**3 Declare his glory among the nations \***  
**and his wonders among all peoples.**

4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! \*  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.

13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

### **The Second Reading** Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **Sermon**

## **Silence for Reflection**

## The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The Prayers of the People

God of unimaginable love, on the first Christmas you became one of us.  
**We celebrate your love for every person in every place and time.**

God of all humanity, you offered your Peace to all who seek your presence.  
**We celebrate your Peace in this community and accept your commission to share it in all the world.**

God of the shepherds, you announced your arrival among us to the poorest, the most humble.  
**We celebrate your good news to each of us and to everyone, right here where we are.**

God of the manger, you came to us through your Son in a small and simple place.  
**We celebrate your presence with us this day in this small place made glorious by your presence in it.**

God of deliverance, you came to be one of us in order to deliver all of us.  
**We celebrate your protection and mercy toward all who are sick or in trouble, and we ask your blessing on all of those whom we remember and love.**

God of birth, when you became as we are, you opened yourself to each of us.  
**We celebrate the promise of your reign on earth.. Help us to be open to you, as you are to us, and keep us close, now and in the life to come.**

God of Christmas, bless us as we once again celebrate your outpouring love. **Amen.**

### **Exchange of Peace**

*Having received God's word of hope and new life, we share a sign of God's peace with one another.*

The Peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

To donate online: Text "Give" (978) 525-0712

All things come of thee, O Lord  
**And of thine own have we given thee.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving** *Please stand as you are able.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God;  
through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,  
the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.  
You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;  
You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;  
And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings  
and all creation as we shout with joy:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent;  
you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations,  
you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.  
Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life,  
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.  
Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin,  
brought us into your life, reconciled us to you,  
and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread,  
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:  
Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:  
Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,  
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me..

And so, remembering all that was done for us:  
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory,  
and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made,  
we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine  
that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.  
Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with  
blessed James, Andrew, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

**Blessed are you now and forever. AMEN.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

## Distribution of Communion

*All are invited to come forward to receive communion, or a blessing. If you wish for gluten free wafer, please tell the clergy.*

## The Prayer after Communion

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## The Blessing

**Announcements** *(see back pages)*

## Dismissal

This service has ended. Now let ours begin.

Let us go forth to love and serve. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## Worship Team

<b>Clergy and Staff</b>	<b>Altar Party</b>
The Rev. Heather Blais	Vicky Maleno
The Rev. Dr. Molly Scherm	
The Rev. Deacon Ann Wood	<b>Altar Guild</b>
Joseph DiMarino	Charlie Houghton
	Nancy Maleno

## Scripture for December 30, 2018

View the texts at:

<https://www.lectionarypage.net/YearABC/SpecServ/KingsCollegeLessonsAndCarols.html>

## Christmas Worship

Come worship with us during the 12 Days of Christmas to celebrate the coming of Christ in the nativity and his coming again in power and great glory. The weekend following Christmas is one combined service of lessons & carols at 9 a.m. All are welcomed at the manger.

### Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25

9 AM  
Holy Eucharist  
Church

### The First Sunday after Christmas, December 30

9:00 AM  
Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

**Please note the office will be closed December 24-January 1.  
Clergy and Staff will check messages daily and respond to pastoral emergencies.**

## Announcements

**Christmas Special Offering Envelopes:** This week and next we welcome an additional donation with the use of Christmas Offering Envelopes as a special offering to the glory of God and the work God does through the church. If you do not receive pledge envelopes, please consider making an extra donation with 'Christmas Offering' written in the memo line or Text "Give" (978) 525-0712. Thank you for your generosity!

**Whitney's Pantry** is collecting socks to distribute to folks on the margins at our December pantry, which is December 31. Please add socks to your shopping list and note that cotton should be avoided in favor of wool or synthetic blend – socks that retain heat and are quick-drying make a huge difference if ones boots or shoes leak! The pantry volunteers appreciate your willingness to make this happen.

**Winter Sanctuary:** We will be making our move into the Winter Sanctuary (our Parish Hall) on Sunday, January 6, where we will stay until March 31st. We do this as a way to experience a different approach to worship and fellowship, as well as to save approximately \$3,000 in heating costs. The worship schedule from Sunday, January 6th until Sunday, March 31st will be as follows: Sunday 8 a.m. in Chapel, and Sunday 10 a.m. in the Winter Sanctuary within the Parish Hall. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the clergy or Vestry.

**Pledge Drive:** Please consider committing a financial contribution to the mission and ministry of SsJA for 2019 by filling out a pledge card. Offering God our first fruits is a spiritual practice which helps us to grow, and it also helps our community know what we can expect as we try to build a realistic budget. Pledge cards are available in the entry of the church and outside the office. You can make your contribution by check or cash in a pledge envelope, through EFT with your banking institution, or by setting up an account with Tithe.ly, which allows you to Text-to-Give at 978-525-0712. If you would like to learn more about giving, please speak to a member of the clergy, Charlie Houghton, our Stewardship Chair at [charlie.houghton@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.houghton@gmail.com) or Karen Greene, our Assistant Treasurer, at [ssJAFinance@gmail.com](mailto:ssJAFinance@gmail.com).

## **Welcome to Newcomers and Visitors**

Welcome to The Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew! Whether you are passing through or looking for a church home, we invite you to explore this community. We are eager to welcome you and look forward to an opportunity to meet you. Please fill out a Welcome Card, hanging on the back of the pew. Place it in the offertory plate, or hand it to an Usher after the service. Please sign the Visitor's Sheet in the front entryway. We invite you to join us for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall, immediately following the 10 a.m. service.

Children of all ages are always welcome and encouraged to attend any worship service. We seek to make it as meaningful an experience for them as possible, and we encourage their participation throughout the service. We invite little ones to explore our children's corner in the back of the church and the rest of the sanctuary. In this corner you can find drawing and coloring materials, quiet toys, books, a blanket to crawl on, and comfortable chairs.

Our worship is drawn from the Book of Common Prayer, Enriching Our Worship 1 & 2, Hymnal 1982, Wonder, Love, and Praise, and Lift Every Voice and Sing II, and other approved liturgical resources. All that you will need for worship is inside this worship leaflet. We invite you to help yourself to the items in the Literature Rack on the door in the entryway that provide information about us and about our life and work, especially the Newcomer's Guide. Please introduce yourself to our clergy, who greet parishioners and visitors at the front door after the service. We welcome you in the Name of God!

From time to time Saints James and Andrew will record our worship services and events on video and film to share on our social media as a way to increase our evangelism to the larger community. If you would prefer that you not be included on video or film, please notify our Rector, and she will ensure your wishes are respected.

### **The Episcopal Church of Ss James and Andrew**

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Twitter: [saintsjimmyandy](https://twitter.com/saintsjimmyandy)

### **Clergy**

The Rt Rev. Dr. Douglas J. Fisher, Bishop  
The Rev. Heather J. Blais, Rector  
The Rev. Dr. Molly Scherm, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Ann Wood, Deacon

### **Office Hours:**

Monday: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Tuesday: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Thursday: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Friday: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.