



WELCOME TO ST PJs!

If you're visiting St. PJs for the first time, or for the first time in a while, we extend a special welcome to you. Whether you are joining us in the building or via Facebook, we're so fortunate to be together. Know that whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on life's journey, and whatever questions dwell in your heart, you are welcome here. Whatever your race, class, sexuality, beliefs, or talents, we hope that you join us in the radical hospitality of God's table.

If you are worshipping with children today, welcome! And please don't worry—crying, laughter, and wandering little feet don't bother us!

OPENING HYMN

Lead me, guide me

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,
For if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and power to
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

1. help me o - ver my weak - est hour; Help me
2. aid when sa - tan and sin op - press; I am
3. blind with - out thy light to see; Lord, just

1. through the dark - ness thy face to see,
2. put - ting all my trust in thee.
3. al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

1. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.
2. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.
3. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

D.C.

INTRODUCTION

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory, Glory, hallelujah!

1. Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
2. I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter,

1. — Since I laid my bur - den down.
2. — Since I laid my bur - den down,

1. — Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
2. — I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter,

1. — Since I laid my bur - den down.
2. — Since I laid my bur - den down.

3. Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" etc.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26–40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *

“May your heart live for ever!”

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; *

he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

the saving deeds that he has done.

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7–21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love,

but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise in body or spirit.

GOSPEL HYMN

Zimbabwe Alleluia



THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Nathan Empsall

JAZZ RESPONSE

A musical response to the sermon

THE NICENE CREED

Please rise in body or spirit

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Edited reflections from Bankson & Sokolove

Holy God, we celebrate the power of new life that surrounds us in budding trees in various shades of green and the flowers that burst out and color our world. May we protect this earthly home you have created so that future generations may enjoy it as well.

God of love, abide with us,
So, we may abide with you.

God of healing love, show us how to love one another, for we know that we are your body here and now, in this time and this place.

God of love, abide with us,
So, we may abide with you.

God of Encounter, as Philip met the man from Ethiopia and explained the scriptures to him, may we open our eyes to meet a neighbor in need.

God of love, abide with us,
So, we may abide with you.

God of healing love, we lift up our prayers for those on our prayer list, for those who see no dayspring in their lives, the homeless and those who are lonely, the sick and dying and for those whose bodies and spirits cry out in pain. We pray for others by name, either silently or aloud...

God of love, abide with us,
So, we may abide with you.

God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants Jeff, Ross, Aidan, Ava, Sharyn, and Will as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of love, abide with us,
So, we may abide with you.

Celebrant: Hear our prayers, O God, for those in need, as we raise them for healing in the name of Jesus, our savior and redeemer, who walks with us, guiding our feet into the way of peace. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence

All: God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. **Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: La paz del Señor sea siempre con ustedes. **People: Y con tu espíritu.**
Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you. **People: And also with you.**

Please greet one another with a sign of God's peace and then be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Celebrant offers a sentence from Scripture.

PRESENTATION HYMN

Santo, santo

Please rise, in body or spirit.



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My



cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O God,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Paul, James, Mary, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray, in the language of our hearts,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

**Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos
santificado sea tu Nombre
venga tu reino
hágase tu voluntad
en la tierra como en el cielo**

Danos hoy el pan de este día y

**Perdona nuestras deudas
como nosotros perdonamos
nuestros deudores**

**y no nos dejes caer en al tentación
sino que libranos del mal.**

**Porque tuyo es el reino,
tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria,
ahora y por siempre. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,
have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,
have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world.

Grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for you, the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All baptized Christians (you don't have to be Episcopalian)
are welcome to receive Holy Communion here at St. PJ's.*

We have gluten-free and alcohol-free options for those who need them.

*In order to protect the health of our community, we are refraining
from intinction (dipping the Bread into the Wine) at this time. You are welcome to
drink from the chalice or to receive only the Bread if you prefer.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me in - to life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please rise, in body or in spirit.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

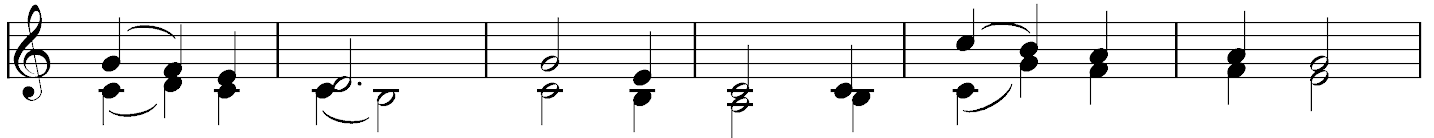
THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

God is Love, let heaven adore him



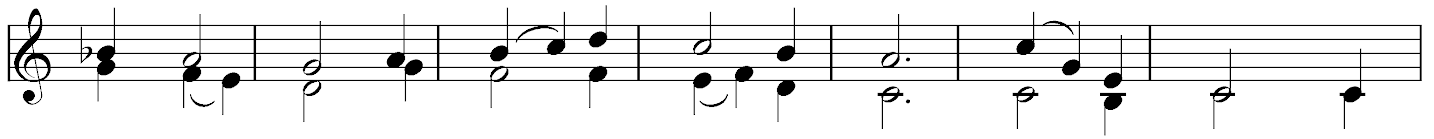
1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
 2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
 3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all



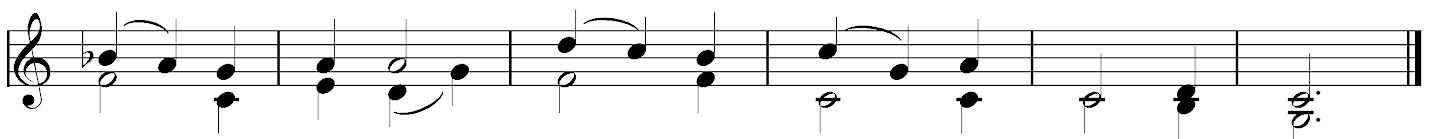
earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
 one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness



and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun-
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall



da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so



all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.



GRACE NOTES



— YOU ARE WELCOME HERE —

Sunday Worship | 10:30 a.m.

In person and livestreamed

Wednesday Noonday Prayer | 12:30 p.m.

In person in the Chapel

Thursday Zoom Compline | 8:00 p.m.

Link available on our website

Office Hours

Tue, Fri (8 a.m.–11 a.m.) | Thu, Fri (6 p.m.–8:30p.m.)

SERVING TODAY

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Celebrant:

The Rev. Nathan Empsall

Preacher:

The Rev. Nathan Empsall

Worship Leader:

Lynne Severance

Liturgical Assistant:

Andrew Stump

Musicians:

Will Cleary

Alec Pedersen

Dylan Rowland

OUR STAFF

The Rev. Nathan Empsall
Seasonal Supply Priest

William Cleary, Director of Music
Dylan Rowland, Assoc. Music Dir.

Monifa Atkinson
Office Manager
office@stpaulstjames.org
203-562-2143 (office)

Samuel Rodriguez, Sexton
The Rev. Steve Crowson, Priest Associate
Andrew Stump, Seminary Intern

OUR VESTRY

Co-Wardens: Bill Evans and
Juhani Jaske

Treasurer: David Hill

Clerk: Maggie King

Marilyn Bergen
Roni Holcomb
Pam Sayre
Maurice Harris
George Moore
Steve Crowson

We acknowledge the Quinnipiac, Paugussett, and Wappinger people, the traditional custodians of the land on which St. PJs is located. We pay respect to their elders, past and present. We respect their people and traditions as a continued call to live out the ministry of reconciliation to which we are called.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Photos

As we work on updating and renovating our website, we'd like to include photos of our YOU, our parishioners! If willing to participate, please send photos of yourself (better yet, of you with other parishioners!) to the church office for inclusion.

Upcoming Parking Lot Closure

Our parking lot will be getting a much-needed repaving the week of May 5. Due to this work, the parking lot will be unavailable for use from Tuesday, May 7 through Saturday, May 11. It will be open again in time for our Sunday service on May 12.

Updating the Prayer List

We're in the process of updating the PJs prayer list. If you would like for you or your loved one(s) to stay on the new list, or if you would like to add someone to the new list, please contact the office to let us know!

Sign Up to Serve!

We are always looking for people to volunteer with various liturgical and community roles in the church. If interested, please sign up for one or more roles/times using the sign-up sheets in the church.

2024 Stewardship Campaign

Pledge cards are available for our 2024 Stewardship Campaign, in which we are invited to prayerfully consider how we will pledge our support of God's mission at St. PJs in the next year. You can place completed cards in the offering plate or send them to the office via the mail.

PRAYER LIST

Charles	Marcia
Edd	Mary Jane
Ron	Tiras
Charles	Pete
Andy	Ralph
Michael	Jean
Cynthia	Matt
Theresa	Edwina
Gary & Family	John
Herman	Alyce
Anne	Martha
Gwen	Julie
Isaiah	Andrew,
Greta	Anastasia &
Simone	Katherine
Judi	Gwen
Dwayne	Misha
Nanci	Michael
Patricia	Al
Leota	Sal & Family
Enid	Tony
Brenda & Juhani	Patty and Bill
Lwebuga-Mukasa	Janie and Family
Family	Paul and Family
Kohl Family	Laurel
John	Vanetta
	Carla & Family

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff Zelem, Ross Miller (Apr. 29)
Aidan Thomson, Ava Thompson (May 2)
Sharyn D'Urso (May 3)
Will Cleary (May 4)

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY

St. PJs is a "mask-friendly" environment. Please respect everyone's personal decisions whether or not to wear a mask. In addition, please be aware that by attending church, you are participating in our live stream, which means you may appear in a video which is streamed and archived on our YouTube or Facebook page.

Give to St. PJs
Online



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
St. Paul & St. James

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Sign-up for
E-news

