

St James's Church, Piccadilly

Rooted in God's earth, we envision a just society and a creative, open-hearted church

The Eucharist for The Feast of the Baptism of Christ Sunday 9th January 2022 at 11am

WITH A CONGREGATION IN THE CHURCH AND LIVE ON YOUTUBE

*Welcome to St James's Church.
Whether you are in the building or online,
we are glad you are here.*

Please note that the wearing of face coverings is mandatory unless you are exempt. The congregation are asked to please keep their face coverings on while singing.

Please remember that social distancing is being observed on the Jermyn Street side of the church (on the right-hand side as you come in) both on the ground floor and at gallery level.

If you arrive late, please observe this social distance zone, and if you are sitting in these pews, please keep at least a metre away from the next person.

If you do not wish to sit distanced, then the Piccadilly side (the left-hand side as you come in) is free seating, both at ground floor and gallery level.

As we continue to evolve our arrangements, please be sensitive to those around you and please also don't hesitate to move to a distance if you are feeling uncomfortable.

We are fortunate to have a large airy building and we hope that you will feel comfortable as we pray our way through these days.

OPENING HYMN

[Tune: Kingsfold; Words: Alan Hinton]

**The prophets' voice comes down the years
to teach and to inspire,**

**to show the nature of our God
in words and deeds and fire;
not to disclose some rigid plan
that God has set in stone,
but to renew the promises
the saints have always known.**

**The prophets' voice speaks of the past –
the actions that reveal
the way God used the people then
this broken world to heal;
and then translates the things gone by
in ways that we find new
so we can judge the world we know
by standards ever true.**

**The prophets' voice holds up a glass
in which to see our day;
events which span the globe around
and things we do and say.
It calls us to repent and turn
from things that tear life down,
to choose the path that Jesus chose
and share his work and crown.**

OPENING RESPONSES

The priest says

Grace, mercy and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

The priest introduces the service.

All say

**Eternal God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden;
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.**

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

The deacon says

God of miracle and wonder
for whom nothing is impossible,
you long to reveal yourself to us
that we might reach out to you
and know ourselves to be your own,
cherished and chosen.

In silence we pause before you to confess
our need for forgiveness and grace.

Silence is kept.

Forgive us if we have been too preoccupied
or distracted to notice the extraordinary in the
ordinary.

The cantor sings

Kyrie eleison, eleison.
Kyrie eleison, eleison.
(Lord, have mercy.)

The deacon says

Forgive us if we have failed to recognize you
in the faces of both friends and strangers.

The cantor sings

Christe eleison, eleison.
Christe eleison, eleison.
(Christ, have mercy.)

The deacon says

Forgive us if we have let the sound of our own
voices drown out your call.

The cantor sings

Kyrie eleison, eleison.
Kyrie eleison, eleison.

THE ABSOLUTION

The priest says

May the God of mercy and truth forgive

you and set you free. May you take God's
forgiveness to heart and be at peace.
Amen.

THE GLORIA *(Taizé)*

*The cantor sings first then we sing once
together and then twice as a 4-part round.*

**Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, Gloria. Alleluia, alleluia.**
(Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Collect

The priest says

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son, anointing him
with the Holy Spirit:

grant to us, who are born again by water and
the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our
calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Please sit.

FIRST READING

Acts 8.14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard
that Samaria had accepted the word of God,
they sent Peter and John to them. The two
went down and prayed for them that they
might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the
Spirit had not come upon any of them;
they had only been baptized in the name of
the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid
their hands on them, and they received the
Holy Spirit.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

PSALM 29

*Response: You give your people the
blessing of peace.*

Ascribe to God you heavenly powers:
ascribe to God all glory and might.
Ascribe due honour to God's holy name:
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
it is the glorious God who makes the thunder
upon the great waters.

The voice of God is power:
the voice of God is full of majesty.

The voice of God breaks the cedar-trees:
the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon.
The voice of God divides the lightning:
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness,
God shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

God sits enthroned above the waters:
God sits enthroned as King for ever.
You, Lord, will give strength to your people:
you will give your people the blessing of
peace.

Please remain standing.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

As the people were filled with expectation,
and all were questioning in their hearts
concerning John, whether he might be the
Messiah, John answered all of them by
saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who
is more powerful than I is coming; I am not
worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and
fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand,
to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the
wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will
burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized,
and when Jesus also had been baptized
and was praying, the heaven was opened,
and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in
bodily form like a dove. And a voice came
from heaven, 'You are my Son,
the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

Please sit.

SERMON

The Revd Daniel Norris

*A period of silence is kept for personal
reflection.*

Please stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from the Iona Community)

**We believe in God,
maker and sustainer of all life.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus
Christ,
the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place
of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven,
to be everywhere present,
and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of eternal life.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Led by a member of the congregation.

The deacon says

Let us pray for the world, for the church,
for all in need and for those who have asked
for our prayers.

Please kneel or sit.

THE PEACE

The priest says

God has made us one in Christ:
we meet from north, south, east and west
to share the peace that makes us whole.

The deacon says

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The priest says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please share the Peace in a socially distanced way if you are in the building, and in the YouTube chat function if you are online.

During the hymn, a collection will be taken.

OFFERTORY HYMN

[Tune: Down Ampney; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1782-1958); Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)]

**Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path
illuming.**

**Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner
clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with
loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the pow'r of human
telling;
nor can we guess its grace,
till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.**

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The priest says

Open the heavens, Eternal God,
and send your transforming Spirit
on us and on these gifts.
May we who are friends in Christ
be strengthened to serve you for ever.
Amen.

The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption in Christ ...

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 thanks and praise.

The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS (*Williams*)

Sing each phrase after the cantor

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna,
Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest.**

The cantor sings

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
the Lord.

Sing after the cantor

**Hosanna,
Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The prayer of consecration continues
recalling Christ's command to his disciples
at the Last Supper, ending with: "... as often
as you drink it, in remembrance of me"*

The cantor sings

Great is the mystery of faith.

Sing after the cantor

Christ has died.

**Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The prayer continues. At the end of the prayer, sing after the cantor . . .

**Blessing and honour,
glory and power,
be yours forever and ever.
Amen.**

Silence is kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

You are invited to pray in your own language.

The priest says

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Bread is broken and the priest says

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us light and life.**

Christ is the true bread come from heaven.
The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

THE COMMUNION

*During Communion, the Lay Singers and Scholars will sing **A New Year Carol**, words by Walter de la Mare (1873-1956) and music by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)*

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
For to worship God with, this happy New Year.
*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion
inspired by Richard of Chichester (1198-1253)

Thanks be to you, Christ Jesus,
for all the benefits you have given me
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to be present with me spiritually in my heart.
O most merciful redeemer,
friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day.
Amen.

Prayers for use during Communion

Christ Jesus, you promised in your gospel 'I am with you always'. Be with me as part of this community today in this Eucharist; Hear my prayers for others and for myself. May I bind myself to you, in communion with all that lives this day, knowing that nothing can separate me from your love.
Amen.

O God, help me to trust you,
and to know that you are with me now.
Help me to know that all are yours,

and you are ours,
in this Eucharist and for ever.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God,
whose Word has come among us in bread
and wine and in the Holy Child of
Bethlehem:
may the light of faith shine in our lives
through the one who is Christ the Lord.
Amen.

Notices are given by the priest.

FINAL HYMN

[Tune: Moscow; Words: John Marriot
(1780-1825)]

God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!

Christ, you have come to bring
on your redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O to all humankind
let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!

Blessèd and Holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide
let there be light!

THE BLESSING

The priest says

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of
water welling up to eternal life,
give you peace this day.

And the blessing of God almighty:
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you on this
day and for ever.

Amen.

The deacon says

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

In addition to the physical collection,
if you do not have cash with you, please
visit sjp.org.uk/donate, or use one of the
tap donation points in the church.