



St James's
PICCADILLY

The Eucharist for the Feast of St James the Apostle

Sunday 20th July 2025
at 11am

With a congregation in the church
and live on YouTube



Welcome to St James's Church for the Feast of St James, the patron saint of this church. We are delighted to be able to celebrate his life and witness, and the life of this church and parish, out in the open air, right in the centre of London.

Today we are gathering for the Parish Eucharist in the courtyard. An original feature of St James's, the 'paved churchyard' as it was known, was a distinctive setting for Wren's (according to accounts) favourite church.

The outdoor pulpit, used for this service, was added in 1904 for the then Rector, Joseph McCormick to preach from. He and subsequent rectors used the pulpit to preach at outdoor choral evensongs on Sundays, a tradition we are reviving today.

Wherever and however you join St James's today, you are very welcome: and do keep up to date with all that's happening on our website at www.sjp.org.uk



ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

[Tune: Blaenwern; Words: Jane Preest]

On this day of celebration
Holy God, our hearts we raise,
thankful for all we are given,
each of us would sing your praise.
As we gather with you beside us,
bless our worship, work and play,
may we strive to build your kingdom
and enact your love always.

In the shadow of the hospice
dedicated to St James,
where the dispossessed were cared for,
loved and sheltered in God's name -
we are gathered centuries later,
and we boldly make the claim,
seeing Christ in all our fellows,
we affirm we'll do the same.

In the church that Wren erected
by the elegant new square,
in the space he was so proud of,
with its carvings rich and rare -
we are gathered with doors open,
and with hearts that gladly dare
welcome all who seek the sacred
give this special place our care.

In the garden, calm, secluded,
fine trees shade a precious place.

**Hungry, tired and busy people
stop and rest in this green space -
we can contemplate Earth's beauty,
tend Creation, slow life's pace,
thankful for God's gen'rous bounty,
celebrate God's wondrous grace.**

**To this church on Piccadilly
we have come from far and near,
with our different understandings,
with our varied hopes and fears -
we are gathered in communion,
sharing what we each hold dear,
with respect for one another
friends and strangers praise God here.**

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 welcomes everyone and introduces the service.

**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

Let us call to mind the fractured relationships and injustices
of our world;

Let us remember our own part in this and make our confession
in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

**Ever-loving God,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you our God.
Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

The priest says

May the God who is both power and love
forgive you and free you from your sin;
give you healing and strength,
and raise you to new life in Christ.

Amen.

THE GLORIA (*Chris O'Hara*)

Sing refrain after the cantor

Glory, sing glory to God!
Sing glory to God in the highest!
And peace to all people on the earth.

Lord God, ruler of all, your love renews creation;
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Glory, sing glory to God! ...

Lord Jesus Christ, only child of the Creator,
Lord God, lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Glory, sing glory to God! ...

You are seated in your kingdom, in your kingdom of glory,
receive our prayer, receive our prayer, receive our prayer.
Glory, sing glory to God! ...

For you alone are the Holy One;
for you alone, you alone are the Lord;
for you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory, the glory, the glory of God;
in the glory, the glory, the glory of God;
Creator, Amen;
Creator, Amen.

Glory, sing glory to God!
Sing glory to God in the highest!
And peace to all people on the earth.

**And peace to all people on the earth.
And peace to all people on the earth.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Collect

The priest says

Merciful God,
whose holy apostle Saint James,
leaving his father and all that he had,
was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ,
and followed him even to death:
help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world,
to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay,
through Jesus Christ your Son,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 11.27-12.2

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126

*Response: **The Lord has done great things for us; yes, the Lord has done great things for us.***

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter
and our tongue with songs of joy.

Then said they among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has indeed done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoiced.

Restore again our fortunes, O Lord,
as the river beds of the desert.
Those who sow in tears
shall reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping,
bearing seed for the sowing,
will come back with shouts of joy,
bearing their sheaves with them.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 20.20-28

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

Glory to you O Lord.

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease

A period of silence is kept for personal reflection.

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

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 for prayers led by a member of the
congregation.*

THE PEACE

The priest says

Peace to you from God, eternal Creator:
Peace to you from Christ, who is our peace:
Peace to you from the Holy Spirit,
the giver and sustainer of all life.

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 offertory hymn, a collection will be taken.
If you have cash, please fill in the Gift Aid envelopes in the pews with the pens available.*

If you don't have cash, please use the tap donate device in the collection plate, which is set to £5, or the QR code on page 19.

OFFERTORY HYMN

[Tune: Here I am; Words: Daniel L. Schutte (b. 1947)
based on Isaiah 6.]

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.**

I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The priest says

Holy God,
Holy and strong,
Holy and immortal,

Give us the bread of everlasting life,
And make us branches of the true vine.
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.

SANCTUS (*Williams*)

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

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.

All 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.

All 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 for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Silence is kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

You are invited to pray in your own language.

The priest says

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 this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The priest says

This is the table of Christ.

It has been made ready for those who love God,
and those who want to love more.

So come; you who have much faith and you who have little.

You who have been to this sacrament often
and you who have not been for some time.

You who have tried to follow Christ and you who have failed.

Come. It is Christ who asks us to meet him here.

THE COMMUNION

*During Communion, the Lay Singers and Singing Scholars will sing **The Sacred Saints**, words by Philip Howard, Saint and Martyr (1557-1595), music by John Mundy (c.1555-1630); and **When We Get To Where We're Going**, music and lyrics by George Bacon.*

The Sacred Saints

The sacred Saints remain in perfect peace.
Which Christ confessed, and walked in His ways,
They shine in bliss, which now shall never cease.
And to His Name do sing eternal praise:
Before His throne in white they ever stand,
And carry palms of triumph in their hand.

When We Get To Where We're Going

When we get to where we're going we'll be there.
When we get to where we're going we'll be there.
No more doubt, no more worry;
We'll take our time, no more hurry.
When we get to where we're going we'll be there.

When we get a little further, we'll be nearer.
Down the road a little further we'll see clearer.
With our conscience as our guide,
On and on, side by side,
When we get to where we're going we'll be there.

With you Lord, to protect me, I will prevail.
If I stumble you pick me up without fail.
With your love in our hearts
We've already made a start;
When we get to where we're going we'll be there.

There's a welcome where we're going for everyone.
Friend and foe all together we're going home.
Peace and love, joy and laughter,
In that sweet, sweet hereafter;
When we get to where we're going we'll be there.

When we get to where we're going we'll be there.
When we get to where we're going we'll be there.
No more pain, no more sorrow,
Our time done, no more tomorrow;
When we get to where we're going we'll be there.

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

**God of life and love,
we thank you for feeding us with the bread of heaven.
Hear our prayer for all your hurting world,
that we may grow together in unity and go out with joy,
as witnesses to your generosity and love.
Amen.**

Notices are given by the congregation, wardens, and clergy.

HYMN

[Tune: Walk in the light; Words: Damian Lundy (1944-1996)
adapted]

**The Spirit lives to set us free,
walk, walk in the light;
she binds us all in unity,
walk, walk in the light.**

Refrain:

***Walk in the light (x3)
walk in the light of the Lord.***

**Jesus promised life to all,
walk, walk in the light;
the dead were wakened by his call,
walk, walk in the light.**

**We know his death was not the end,
walk, walk in the light;
he gave his Spirit to be our friend,
walk, walk in the light.**

**The Spirit lives in you and me,
walk, walk in the light;
her light will shine for all to see,
walk, walk in the light.**

THE BLESSING

The priest says

May God give you grace to travel with St James,
wherever you are led and however long the road.
And the blessing of God almighty;
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you now and always.
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
scan this QR code with your smartphone to
make a one-off or regular donation.*

*Alternatively, please visit sjp.org.uk/donate,
or us one of the tap donation points in the
church.*

St James's Day - community lunch celebration

TODAY - Sunday 20th July at 1pm in the courtyard

All are welcome to join us for a community lunch after the Eucharist this morning. There will be baked potatoes with a selection of delicious fillings, plus cakes and biscuits.

A very warm welcome to the clergy and congregation of our partner church, St Pancras Euston Road.

In the spirit of Henri Nouwen we each bring ourselves, our time, talents and money to the table as we are able. Thanks to all who have provided food for our lunch. We also need donations to cover the cost of food, and will have a tap donation set at £2 per person towards this.



Thank you to everyone - we will have a wonderful time celebrating.

Choral Evensong

TODAY - Sunday 20th July at 3pm, in the courtyard

The choir of Lay Singers, Singing Scholars and Friends of St James's will sing music by Charles Stanford, Elaine Hagenberg, and Joanna Forbes L'Estrange.



There will be congregational hymns, prayers and a sermon, all within the traditional framework of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, to celebrate the Feast of St James.

The Revd Lucy Winkett will officiate, with the Revd Dr Ivan Khovacs preaching.

Choral Evensong from St James's Piccadilly

BBC Radio 3 - Wednesday 13th August at 3pm



Tune into BBC Radio 3 on Wednesday 13th August for Choral Evensong from St James's, with Genesis Sixteen, singing Palestrina with The Revd Lucy Winkett officiating and Michael Haslam organist.

London Trans Pride

Saturday 26th July at 1pm

Join us on Saturday 26th July as we share our love and support for London Trans Pride. The trans community needs support and care this year more than ever – your presence makes a difference.

Marchers will gather in front of All Souls, Langham Place from 1pm, before setting off down Regent Street towards Piccadilly



Circus and then on to Green Park and Wellington Arch for community speeches at 4pm.

How you can help:

- Come and hold signs of welcome as marchers pass by St James's.
- Bring cake and help us to offer hospitality (tea, cordial and cake)
- Spread the word and invite others to join.

All are welcome!

St James's Parish Retreat

Friday 17th to Sunday 19th October 2025

After the great success of the retreat last year, we are planning to return to Wychcroft House, in the Surrey countryside, for our 2025 Parish Retreat from 17th to 19th October. In this beautiful and peaceful setting, you will get to meet other St James's folk, both socially and spiritually. It's both restful and enjoyable.



Since applications opened last week, we've experienced heavy demand for places on the retreat.

Bookings to include accommodation are now full, but we are accepting

applications to add to a waiting list as cancellations do sometimes happen. There are still spaces available for daytime participants (i.e. without overnight stay).

Please register as soon as possible. The online registration form can be found at:

<https://sjp.churchsuite.com/-/forms/c5029m1a>

Paper copies of the form are available from Sarah Gillett or Trevor Lines after the service on Sunday.

We would like to ensure that financial circumstances are not a barrier to attendance, so if you need support to come, in the first instance, please contact Trevor Lines at:

trevord986@gmail.com

If you would like to make a donation towards supporting others on retreat, this would be very gratefully received.

For your prayers this week

Parish life and events

All members of our online community.
Our partnership with St Bart's New York.

Those who have asked for our prayers

Meg Stewart

Those who are ill

Steve, Luke, Heather

Recently departed

Rosa, and for Mia and family who mourn her.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

As part of the Anglican Communion, and the Diocese of London Prayer Cycle, we pray today for:

For the service sheet

The Church of Pakistan (United):

Azad Marshall (Moderator, and Bishop of Raiwind).

Skara (Sweden): Ulrica Fritzson (Bishop).

ALMA Sunday: give thanks, with all attending the ALMA service at St Paul's Cathedral today, for our diocesan links with Angola and Mozambique, and pray for all the clergy and people there.

Confident Disciples: we pray that the holy inspiration of the Gospel may give us strength to share the Good News.

Chelsea Deanery: Dave Matthews (Area Dean).

Deanery Synod: James Behrens (Lay Chairman),

Joanna Hackett (Secretary).

The work of Sheila Matthews, Area Bishop's Visitor.

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