



St James's
PICCADILLY

The Eucharist for the First Sunday of Lent

Sunday 9th March 2025
at 11am

With a congregation in the church
and live on YouTube



Welcome to St James's Church. Whether you are with us in person or joining us online, you are very welcome.

Everyone is warmly invited to receive communion or a blessing so please do come forward at the appropriate time.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

[Tune: Ar hyd y nos; Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)]

**For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe keeping,
thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,**

**for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

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.**

The deacon says

The word of God is living and active.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
trusting in Christ's promise of forgiveness and healing.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

The deacon says

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Let us come to God, who is full of compassion,
ready to listen and forgive.

KYRIE (*MacNamara*)

The cantor sings

When our life is at its strongest.

All sing

When our days are at their longest.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy.

At the first coming of the dawn.

On the life that's newly born.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy.

At the turning of the tide.

On life's ocean deep and wide.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy.

When our powers are nearly done.

At the setting of the sun.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy.

When we come to breathe our last.

When the gates of death are passed.

Kyrie eleison.
Lord have mercy.

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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Collect

The priest says

Let us pray.

Holy God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days
in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves
in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save:
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Amen.

Please sit.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

During the psalm, the Gospel is carried in procession down the central aisle of the church where it is read among the people.

Please turn and face the Gospel as it passes.

PSALM 91 vv.1-2; 10-15

*Response: **Be with me, Lord, in my distress.***

They who dwell in the shelter of the Most High
and abide in the shade of the Almighty
say to God: "You are my refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!"

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.
For God shall give the angels charge over you,
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

You are bound to me in love, so I will rescue you;
I will protect you for you know my name.
When you call I shall answer: "I am with you."
I will save you in distress and give you glory.

Please remain standing.

THE GOSPEL

The cantor sings

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

All sing

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

The reader says

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

The cantor sings

Glory to you O Lord
Glory to you O Lord.

Luke 4.1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." '

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written,

“Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.” ’

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the
pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of
God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,
“He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you”,
and

“On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.” ’

Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God
to the test.” ’ When the devil had finished every test, he
departed from him until an opportune time.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

The cantor sings

Praise to you O Christ
Praise to you O Christ.

The cantor sings

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

All sing

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Please sit.

SERMON

The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease

A period of silence is kept for personal reflection.

Please stand.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

The Apostles' Creed, used during Lent, is a text first mentioned in 390 AD and has been in continuous use since the 8th century.

A text written, as it were, 'under fire', it was probably handed down in an oral tradition crafted at a time of persecution. Although some of its pre-modern imagery is challenging to modern ears, its spare language and trinitarian emphasis connect us with the ancient wisdom of traditions we have inherited.

In saying the Latin for 'I believe', Credo means something closer to 'I trust' than 'I assent to'. Unlike some other creeds, the Apostles' Creed is written in the first person: we say 'I believe' but we never have to say this alone.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
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

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 box 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 21.

OFFERTORY HYMN

[Tune: Regent Square; Words: Ally Barrett]

**Word of life! Such transformation!
bringing light to darkest space;
loving mother of creation,
forging life in every place.
Shine that light on every nation,
gather us in your embrace.**

**Word of truth! You spoke though history,
prophets knew you as their friend;
as you shared with earth the mystery
of your love that knows no end.
Yet your fullest glory must be
more than words can comprehend.**

**Word made flesh! You came to meet us,
pitched your tent among our own,
born on earth so heaven could greet us:
God in human heart and bone.
Teach us, lead us, tend us, feed us
with the life that's yours alone.**

**Words of scripture, here you teach us,
all you speak is here received.
Shared by print and voice to reach us:
written, read and now believed;
speak again to all and each, as
faith is grown and life is lived.**

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The priest says

Gracious God,
we give back to you what we have been given;
fruits of the earth,
and the hearts of your people
in hope and expectation of a world made new.

Amen.

GATHERING CHANT (*Taizé*)

*All are invited to gather round the altar. Should you need to sit,
please use any of the benches or seats around the altar at the
front of the church.*

While moving to the altar, please join in singing ...

**Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom,
Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.**
(repeated)

*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

The cantor sings

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

Holy, holy, holy Lord.*

God of heaven and earth adored.

Ceasing never, God for ever,

Holy Lord.

*(repeat as a round, second part starting at *)*

*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

Praise to you Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Come, O Christ.

Come, O Christ, in glory.

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.**

AGNUS DEI

The cantor sings

**Agnus Dei
qui tollis peccata, peccata mundi
Miserere nobis, miserere nobis,
miserere nobis.**

**Agnus Dei
qui tollis peccata, peccata mundi
Dona nobis pacem,
dona nobis pacem, dona nobis pacem.**

*Lamb of God
that takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God
that takes away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The priest says

Come to this table,
not because you must but because you may,
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.
Come, not because your own goodness gives you the right,
but because you know you need mercy and help.
Come, because you love God and want to love more.
Come and meet Christ, for we are one Body, united with God.

THE COMMUNION

*During Communion, the Lay Singers and Singing Scholars will sing **Crossing The Bar**, words by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-92), music by Rani Arbo (b.1968).*

Sunset and evening star
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell
When I embark.

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

COMMUNION HYMN

[Words and Music: Estelle White (1925-2011)]

**O the love of my God is the essence
of all that I love here on earth.
All the beauty I see, you have given to me
and your giving is gentle as silence.**

**Every day, every hour, every moment
have been blessed by the strength of your love.
At the turn of each tide
you are there at my side,
and your touch is as gentle as silence.**

**There've been times when I've turned from your presence,
and I've walked other paths, other ways.
But I've called on your name
in the dark of my shame,
and your mercy is gentle as silence.**

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

**Generous God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope,
and strengthen our love.
Teach us to hunger for the One who is living bread,
and enable us to live by your word and your truth.
Through Christ we pray.
Amen.**

Notices are given by the congregation, wardens and clergy.

HYMN

[Tune: Aus der Tiefe (Heinlein); Words: George Hunt Smyttan
(1822-1870)]

**Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted and yet undefiled.**

**Burning heat throughout the day,
bitter cold when light had fled;
prowling beasts around your way,
stones your pillow, earth your bed.**

Shall not we your trials share,
learn your discipline of will;
and with you by fast and prayer
wrestle with the powers of hell?

So if Satan, pressing hard,
soul and body would destroy:
Christ who conquered, be our guard;
give to us the victor's joy.

Watching, praying, struggling thus,
victory shall be ours too;
angels minister to us,
as they ministered to you.

Saviour, may we hear your voice;
keep us constant at your side;
and with you we shall rejoice
at the eternal Eastertide.

THE BLESSING

The priest says

May Christ walk with you in any wilderness that you know.
And the blessing of God; Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit
be with 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 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.



Choral Evensong

TODAY - Sunday 9th March at 3pm in church and on YouTube

Sung by the Lay Singers and the Singing Scholars of St James's this contemplative service will follow the order and use the traditional language of the Book of Common Prayer of 1662.



The service will include music by T.T. Noble, Ken Burton and Michael Haslam and will provide an opportunity to reflect on Jesus in the wilderness and our penitential response.

Lent Contemplative Space



A space for prayer, readings and silence on Fridays throughout Lent, 6-7pm from 7th March - 11th April on Zoom.

All are welcome to join for one or all sessions.

For resources and Zoom link, please see:

www.sjp.org.uk/whats-on/lent-contemplative-space

A Community of Hope: Conversations and Contemplation Together

This Lent, the Young St James's Group will co-lead conversations for the whole congregation on the theme of hope. Needed more than ever, hope can be found and experienced in reflections on faith and words of inspiration.



These sessions will take place on Sunday 23rd March, 1-2pm in the church, Sunday 30th March, 1-2pm in the church hall, and Sunday 6th April, 6-7pm on Zoom.

To request the Zoom link, please email David in the Parish Office: administrator@sjp.org.uk

If you have any questions, please email Ayla: associaterector@sjp.org.uk

Easter Eggs for our guests experiencing homelessness and Lilies for remembrance

This year, our guests at FEAST and Sunday Breakfast Club will receive **Real Easter Eggs** produced by The Meaningful Chocolate Company. We will also give away eggs in Piccadilly Circus after the Easter Dawn service.



If you'd like to make a contribution towards the cost of the Easter eggs for our homeless guests, please go to www.sjp.org.uk/support-us

Donations are also being accepted towards the cost of the floral decoration of the church at Easter.

If you would like to **sponsor a white lily** in memory of someone you love who has died, please email David in the parish office with the name(s) at administrator@sjp.org.uk

To make a donation, please go to www.sjp.org.uk/support-us

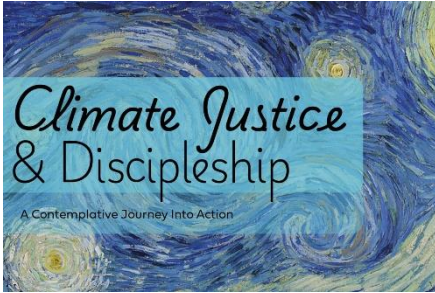


The names of those being commemorated will be included in the order of service on Easter Day - Sunday 20th April.

Diocesan Lent Offering - Climate Justice & Discipleship

Tuesdays during Lent at 7.30pm

Engage with new contemplative practices, deepen understanding of climate justice and how it connects to discipleship and be inspired towards practical action in both personal and communal contexts.



The offering takes place online over five weeks, beginning on 11th March, hosted by our bishops.

Registration for these sessions is at:

www.london.anglican.org/articles/diocesan-lent-offering-2025-climate-justice-discipleship/

Parish reflections on diocesan Lent course themes

Tuesdays during Lent at 8.30pm

An integral part of the diocesan Lent course is an invitation to parishes and groups to follow up each session with their own gatherings to discuss how the learning can be taken forward locally.

The **Westminster Net Zero Forum** will be hosting a 30 minute session for all churches in this local group each Tuesday from 11th March to 8th April straight after the main diocesan session.

Everyone is very welcome to attend using this Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89948224256?pwd=HZvkuCzU69Aparhsbba1oq3Jij2VdA.1>

Meeting ID: 899 4822 4256 Passcode: 659445

Walking Boots - a walk in Sevenoaks ... from Knole House Estate, to Ightham Mote, and One Tree Hill

Saturday 22nd March

Our first SJP Walking Boots walk for this year will take place on Saturday 22nd March, led by Ruth and Justin. The walk is just under 10 miles through a tranquil haven of wildlife in the middle of Sevenoaks, going out through the deer park of the Knole House Estate and on to Ightham Mote, returning along the Greensand Way and is within easy reach from London Bridge on a fast train, taking just 25 minutes.



This circular route is a mixture of footpaths, bridleways, fields and woodland. Paths climb and descend throughout the walk with only one short, steep climb to One Tree Hill and the escarpment of the Kent

Downs with a superb view of the Weald to the south.

We will stop halfway at the café at Ightham Mote (National Trust) for lunch and there's the option of a coffee/tea stop at Brewhouse Café at Knole House at the end of the walk. (It's a further 25 minute walk from there back to the train station.)

We will meet at 9am at London Bridge station ready to take the 9.24am Hastings train. You will need to buy an off-peak day return to Sevenoaks. (Freedom Pass and Oyster 60+ cardholders need only a return from Orpington to Sevenoaks)

Please register your interest for this walk by dropping Ruth an email at ruthiedmiller@gmail.com and further details will follow nearer the date of the walk.

Lunchtime Recitals return

Free weekday Lunchtime Recitals return to St James's on Wednesday 2nd April 2025. We're also launching a new series of free afternoon concerts called Saturday Live, the first of which takes place on Saturday 5th April with a performance by renowned pianist Birsen Ulucan.

We are pleased to acknowledge support from Rolex for the free concerts programme. We are very grateful for this support that, over the next 12 months, will enable us to develop and strengthen the programme in several ways.



One is enabling the new Saturday series that will embrace jazz and genres other than classical, thus welcoming broader audiences. Later in 2025 this will include concerts aimed at families with children.

Other key areas include new opportunities for young musicians, composers and younger audiences and expanding reach to new audiences and isolated people in London for whom the concerts have proven an important informal social support.

For more information and to find out what's one, please go to: www.sjp.org.uk/st-jamess-creative-programme/

Upon Your Heart - A Passiontide Concert Celebrating Women Composers

St Pancras, Euston Road - Sunday 6th April at 6.30pm

Join the music scholars of St James's, Piccadilly (past and present) as they celebrate women composers throughout the ages.

The concert features *Requiem* by Karensa Briggs, and music by Kerry Andrew, Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Ysaye M. Barnwell, Amy Beach, Eleanor Daley, Elaine Hagenberg, Sarah Macdonald, Stevie Nicks, Florence B. Price, Carly Simon, and Lucy Walker.

This concert is a fundraiser for the scholars' summer tour to the South of England.

Tickets are available at: <https://www.sjp.org.uk/whats-on/upon-your-heart-a-passiontide-concert/>



For your prayers this week

Parish life and events

All members of our online community.
Our partnership with St Pancras Euston Road.

Those who have asked for our prayers

Meg Stewart, Amelie, Edna and Ivan, Rachael, Sian and her family.

Those who are ill

Michelle

Recently departed

Mark, and for his family and all who mourn him.
Jean, and for Ron, Viv, Liz, Ray, Mike and Fraser who mourn her.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

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

The Anglican Church of Canada (L'Eglise anglicane du Canada): Anne Germond (Acting Primate).
Karlstad (Sweden): Sören Dalevi (Bishop).
Capital Vision Confident Disciples: for opportunities in the coming week to rest and enjoy creation.
The work of retired priests in the two cities area.



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