



St James's
PICCADILLY

The Eucharist for the Feast of the Baptism of Christ

**Sunday 11th January 2026
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: 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 God's 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 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

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.

KYRIE (Ukrainian)

The cantor sings

Kyrie eleison.
(Lord, have mercy.)

All sing

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Christe eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie 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 10.34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout

Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

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 29

Response: You give your people the blessing of peace.

Please remain standing.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 3.13-end

The cantor sings and all repeat

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
all repeat as a round.

The reader says

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

The cantor sings and all repeat

Glory to you O Lord. **Glory to you O Lord.**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

The cantor sings and all repeat

Praise to you O Christ. **Praise to you O Christ.**

The cantor sings and all repeat

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
all repeat as a round.

SERMON

The Revd Meredith Ward

Senior Associate Rector, St Bart's, New York City, U.S.A.

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

Christ is our peace.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

The old has passed away:

Behold, everything has become new.

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 with your neighbours 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 16.

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 illumining.

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

God of light:
look on us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
from sorrow to feasting.
Make the frailty of our prayers
a dwelling place for your glory.
Amen.

GATHERING CHANT

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 the Taizé chant ...

Jubilate Deo, jubilate Deo. Alleluia.

(Rejoice in God. Alleluia.)

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.

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 **Bethlehem Down**, words by Bruce Blunt, music by Peter Warlock.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.**

Notices are given by the congregation, wardens and clergy.

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 waters' 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 give you grace to follow the light of Christ,
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.



DONATE ONLINE

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

For your prayers this week

Parish life and events

All members of our online community.

Our partnership with St Pancras, Euston Road.

Those who are ill

Charles, Renu and Lathika, Theo, Angie.

Recently departed

Eugene, and for Pam, Krys and Jon, and all who mourn him.

William, and for Carolyn, and all who mourn him.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

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