



St James's
PICCADILLY

The Eucharist for the Conversion of Paul

Sunday 25th 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: Blaenwern; Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)]

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,**

**till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

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.

(*Gloria to God in the highest. Alleluia.*)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Collect

The priest says

Let us pray.

Eternal God,
who caused the light of the gospel
to shine throughout the world
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Amen.

Please sit.

FIRST READING

Acts 9.1-22

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no

one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the

Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

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 67

*Response: **Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.***

Please remain standing.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 19.27-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 Peter said in reply, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of

Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

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 Dr Ayla Lepine

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: How great thou art; Words: Karl Boberg (1859-1940) trans. Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989)]

**O Lord, my God, when I, in awesome wonder,
consider all the works thy hand has made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed:**

Refrain:

***Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,
how great thou art, how great thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
how great thou art, how great thou art.***

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:**

**When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation,
and take me home - what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, 'my God, how great thou art!'**

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The priest says

God of light:
look on us in mercy;
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 **At The River** (Robert Lowry and Victor C. Johnson)*

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: Aurelia; Words: Samuel John Stone (1832-1900)]

**The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word;
from heav'n he came and sought her,
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

**In toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
at last the Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth has union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic, sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
with them, the meek and lowly,
in heav'n your face shall see.**

THE BLESSING

The priest says

Christ give you grace to travel with the saints in faith,
and truth and gentleness.

And the blessing of God almighty:

Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you now 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 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.

Those who are ill

[Charles, Renu, Lathika and Theo, Angie.](#)

Recently departed

[Hillary](#), and for Cat and all who mourn her.

[Honor](#), and for Michael and all who mourn her.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.