St James's
PICCADILLY

The Eucharist for Christ the King

Sunday 22nd November 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: 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.

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.

KYRIE *(Ghanaian)*

The cantor sings

Kyrie eleison.
(Lord, have mercy.)

All sing

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,

Christe eleison, Christe eleison,
Christe eleison. Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,
Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

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 *(Peruvian)*

Sing each phrase after the cantor

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
To God be glory for ever!
Alleluia amen, alleluia amen, alleluia amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus!
To God be glory for ever!
Alleluia amen, alleluia amen, alleluia amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit!
To God be glory for ever!
Alleluia amen, alleluia amen, alleluia amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD
The Collect

The priest says

Creator God,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.
Amen.

FIRST READING
Ephesians 1.15-end

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love* towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God* put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

PSALM: 95 vv1-7

Response: ***Come, let us worship and bow down.***

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.

THE GOSPEL

The cantor sings

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All sing

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The reader says

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

The cantor sings

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

Matthew 25.31-end

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?

And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,* you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

The cantor sings

Praise to you O Christ
Praise to you O Christ.

The cantor sings

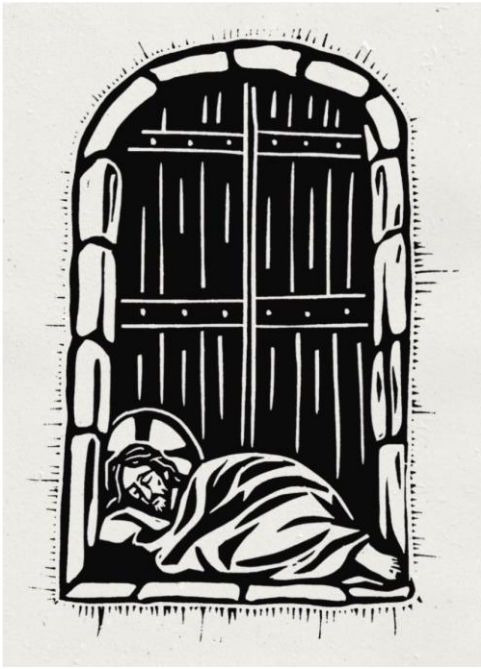
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All sing

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Please sit.

SERMON
The Revd Dr Ayla Lepine



The Reign of Christ (2026),
by Sara Lea West

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

God of peace: you are home to the exile,
daylight to the prisoner, authority to the silent.
You are anger to the helpless,
laughter to the weary and direction to the joyful.
Come among us in peace.

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 £10, or the QR code on page 18.

OFFERTORY HYMN
[Tune: Michael; Words: R. Bridges (1844-1930) from Joachim Neander (1650-1680) – "Meine Hoffnung stehet feste"]

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray God's trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tow'r and temple, fall to dust.
But God's pow'r, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tow'r.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom passing thought;
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from God's store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from us to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ God's Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

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.

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 …

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

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** *(Wetherick)*

The cantor sings

Holy, holy, holy.

All sing

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

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Holy, holy,* holy, …
*(Repeat as a round, 2nd 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 ACCLAMATIONS *(Haugen)*

The cantor sings

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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 King Of Love My Shepherd Is**; words: metrical paraphrase of Psalm 23 by Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877) music: by Edward Bairstow (1874-1946) based on the tune Columba.*

The King of Love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed;
But yet in love He sought me,
And on His shoulder gently laid,
And home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy Cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth.

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house for ever.

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: Blaenwern; Words: Ivor H. Jones (b. 1934)]

Christ, our King before creation,
life, before all life began,
crowned in deep humiliation
by your partners in God's plan,
make us humble in believing,
and, believing, bold to pray:
'Lord, forgive our self-deceiving,
come and reign in us today!'

Lord of time and Lord of history,
giving, when the world despairs,
faith to wrestle with the mystery
of a God who loves and cares,
make us humble in believing,
and, believing, bold to pray:
'Lord, by grace beyond conceiving,
come and reign in us today!'

Word that ends our long debating,
life of God which sets us free,
through your body recreating
life as life is meant to be,
make us humble in believing,
and, believing, bold to pray:
'Lord, in us your aim achieving,
come and reign in us today!'

THE BLESSING

The priest says

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 the 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.

DONATE ONLINE

If you would like to support the ministry of St James's, please scan this QR code to make a donation.

Alternatively, visit sjp.org.uk/donate, or use one of the tap donation points in the church. Donations will appear on your statement as 'Supported Business'.

For your prayers this week

Parish life and events
All members of our online community.
The Wren Project.
Disability History Month.
The Amos Trust Carol Service on Wednesday (25th November)

Those who are ill
Steven, Mildred, Michele, Ruth and Mark

Wren Project Congregational Meeting

NEXT SUNDAY - 29th November at 12.45pm in the church

All are welcome to join a discussion on St James's future plans 2027-29 and especially the Wren Project in all its aspects: project plan, construction phase, worshipping at St Pancras, and fundraising. The PCC and Voice and Community Group will host discussions in small groups as well as making sure up to date information is ready too.



All and any views are very welcome – come and take part!

Advent Contemplative Space: Waiting for God's Word

Weekly sessions on Zoom, from 4th–21st December



All are welcome to join this space for prayer, readings and silence through Advent.

We will meet on Zoom on Fridays 4th, 11th and 18th December 6pm-7pm, and on Monday 21st December 6pm-7pm.

Join us for as many sessions as you'd like.

The Zoom link is available at:
www.sjp.org.uk/whats- on/contemplative-space-for-advent/

St James's Parish Retreat: 4th–6th December 2026

Please join our annual parish retreat. It's a chance to pray and learn together, get to know each other, and have some fun too: this year, we will be staying at Sarum College, within the Cathedral Close at Salisbury.



To help us gauge interest, please email Bea at: delavalbea@gmail.com at your earliest convenience, or speak to one of the coordinators, Bea, Ayo, or Graeme in church after this morning's service.

When you get in touch, please let us know:

- Whether you would like to come for the entire weekend or just the Saturday (5th Dec).
- If there is anyone you would like to share a room with (including children - families are welcome!) and whether you require an accessible room.
- Any concerns about attending, so we can consider ways to support you.

Alternatively, **please complete the Parish Retreat registration form on the website using the QR code.**

Paper copies of the registration form are available at the back of the church.