ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Margaret Garrison Communion Assistant: Kim Haberman Acolyte: Samantha Hillegass Ushers: Mike Downs, Al Brown Jr., Sid Hughes, Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss Videographer: Annette Propst Greeter: Sylvia Corl Building Supervisors: Kim Haberman & Hunter Huss

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Noah Clifton; Bruce Coffey (friend of Mark Murphy); Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Catherine Durst (Daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Anne Fridlund; Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Tim Gibson (friend of Deb Black); Tom Grady; Scott Harrington (friend of Glenda Poole); Linda Jones (family of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Ruther Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); Patricia Mahoney (sister-in-law of Joan Mahoney); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Stan Parnell (friend of Robert Davis); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Geoff & Pam Seige (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis).

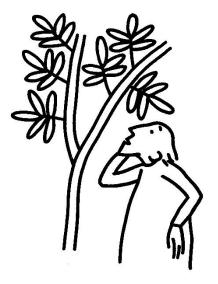
REQUEST FOR EGG HUNT ITEMS

We are collecting plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy for our April 19th Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to contribute, please drop off your donations in the box by the Portico Door by **April 7**. Thank you!

<u>St. James Staff</u>

Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Senior Pastor; prbill@sjnc.net Dr. Kevin Estes, Director of Music Ministries & Organist; kevin@sjnc.net Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator; jill@sjnc.net Holly Sloop, Communications Coordinator; holly@sjnc.net Church Office; info@sjnc.net Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator; krad3700@gmail.com Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian The Third Sunday in Lent Sunday, March 23, 2025

The Holy Communion 10:00am



St. James Lutheran Church 104 Union Street South PO Box 684 Concord, North Carolina 28026 704-786-0166 www.sjnc.net Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Pastor

Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

Maybe you need forgiveness, or maybe you need to forgive ... Maybe you're tired and you need a little space to breathe ... Maybe you're trying church for the first time, or maybe you're trying church for the last time... Maybe you've spent your whole life wondering if God really loves you... Maybe you're lonely... Maybe you're sick... Maybe you came here looking for a miracle... Maybe you came here looking for another church but got disoriented and came here instead, and now it's too late to get up and walk out... Maybe, with God, there are no accidents... Maybe, with God, there is hope and healing and miraculous companionship... Maybe, with God, there is space to breathe and forgiveness on top of forgiveness... Maybe, with God, there is love... Maybe, with God here in our midst, we will hear those words that still split open the heavens, "You are my son! You are my daughter! You are my beloved. You. In you I am well pleased!" Maybe this is why we gather together, week after week after week, here at St. James.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this place - not just by the Saints at St. James, but by the God who revealed himself in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our brother, and our friend.

Welcome to St. James.

If you are comfortable doing so, please introduce yourself to Pastor Bill. If you have visited with us a number of times and think you might want to "make it official," please speak to Pastor Bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to the person next to you or to an usher.

Restrooms are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A *nursery* is available for children up to and including five years of age on the first floor of the education building. An usher will be happy to help you find them.

If you're visiting or if you have been here for 99 years (and are willing to do so), please sign a pew pad.

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Mar. 23 – Chip Blackwelder, Tanner Poplin, Landon Trott Mar. 24 – Elliot Horton, Charlie Pittard Mar. 25 - Madeline DeGrace, Audrey Glatz, Jill Strahl Mar. 28 – Frank Irvin, Timothy Propst Mar. 29 – Jerry Hopkins

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 23	9:00am 9:00am 9:30am 10:00am	Adult Sunday School Parish Choir Children's Sunday School Worship
Monday, March 24	10:30am 6:30pm	Quilting Scouts
Wednesday, March 26	6:30pm	Wednesdays in Lent
Thursday, March 27	5:30pm 6:30pm	Handbells Choir Rehearsal
Friday, March 28	7:oopm	Youth - Friday Night at The Movies!
Sunday, March 30	9:00am 9:00am 9:30am 10:00am 11:00am 4:00pm	Adult Sunday School Parish Choir Children's Sunday School Worship Confirmation Planning Meeting Youth Gathering



St James Lutheran Church: Growing in Christ through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service.

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Welcome

Prelude

Romance William Grant Still -Tom Burge, euphonium

Please stand. THE INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS Tom Burge,

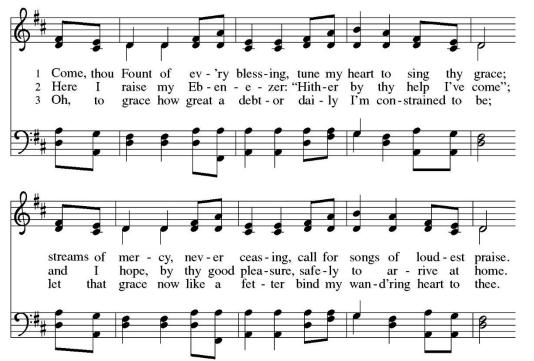
euphonium P Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

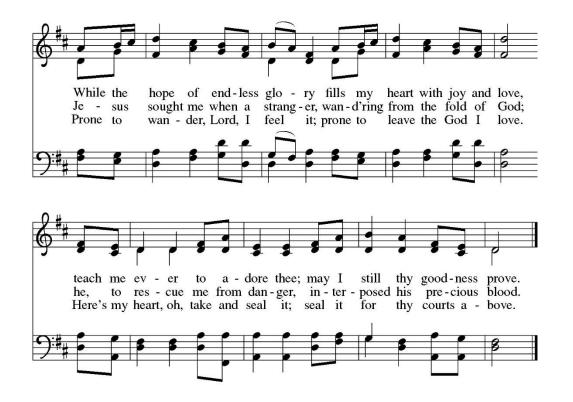
P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P Most merciful God,
- C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen
- P In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. In his living water God makes us his children and bestows on us his Holy Spirit. Refreshed and renewed we rest in his peace and rise to serve him.
- C Amen

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



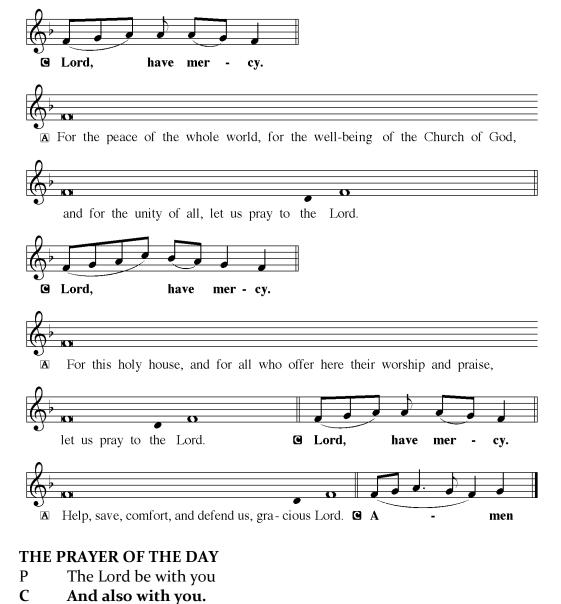


THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

THE KYRIE





- P Eternal Lord, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9 ¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

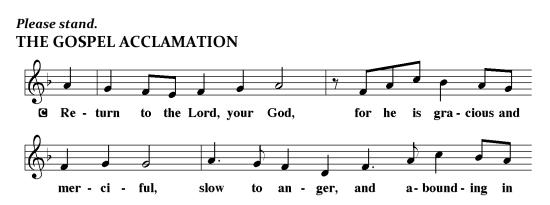
THE SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.





THE HOLY GOSPEL

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

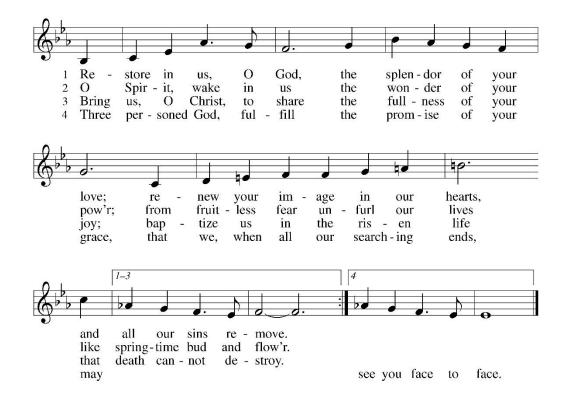
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit. THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand. **THE HYMN OF THE DAY:** Restore in Us, O God (See Next Page.)

No harmony graphic is available.



THE NICENE CREED

- We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
- We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, With the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please kneel or sit as able. THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

From all sin, from all error, from all evil; from the cunning assaults of the devil; from an unprepared and evil death: **Good Lord, deliver us.**

From war, bloodshed, and violence; from corrupt and unjust government; from sedition and treason: **Good Lord, deliver us.**

From epidemic, drought, and famine, from fire and flood, earthquake, lightning and storm;

and from everlasting death: Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your incarnation; by your holy birth: **Help us, good Lord.**

By your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by your agony and bloody sweat; by your cross and suffering; by your precious death and burial: **Help us, good Lord.**

By your glorious resurrection and ascension; by the gift of the Holy Spirit: **Help us, good Lord.**

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment: **Save us, good Lord.**

Though unworthy, we implore you to hear us, Lord our God.

To rule and govern your holy catholic Church; to guide all servants of your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of your Word and in holiness of life;
to put an end to all schisms and causes of offense to those who would believe; and to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and gone astray:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful workers into your harvest; to accompany your Word with your Spirit and power; to raise up those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the fainthearted and the distressed:

We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To give to all nations justice and peace; to preserve our country from discord and strife; to direct and guard those who have civil authority; and to bless and guide all our people: **We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To behold and help all who are in danger, need, or tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel; to preserve and provide for all women in childbirth; to watch over children and to guide the young; to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends; to bring reconciliation to families in discord; to provide for the unemployed and for all in need; to be merciful to all who are imprisoned; to support, comfort, and guide all orphans, widowers, and widows; to watch over our loved ones in need; and to have mercy on all your people: **We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to reconcile us to them; to help us use wisely the fruits and treasures of the earth, the sea, and the air; and graciously to hear our prayers: **We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they should turn from their evil way and live: Graciously turn us from those punishments which we by our sins have deserved, and grant us grace evermore to serve you in holiness and pureness of living; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please stand. THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

Please sit.

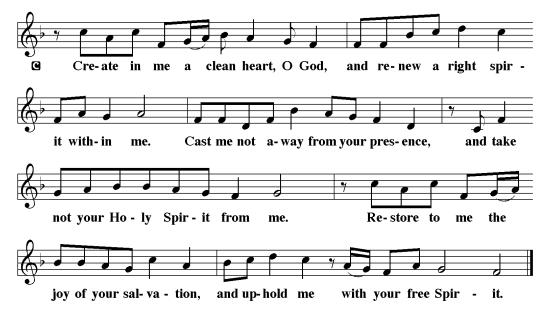
THE ANTHEM

"Lord, in Thy Mercy Grant Us Peace" Felix Mendelssohn

Lord, in thy mercy grant us peace throughout all generations; Thou art alone our sword and shield, Lord who dost guide the nations. Defend us O God, we pray thee. —Martin Luther (1483-1546), paraphrased by John Rutter

THE OFFERING

Please stand. THE OFFERTORY



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Merciful Father,
- C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.

C Amen

Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE COMMUNION RITE

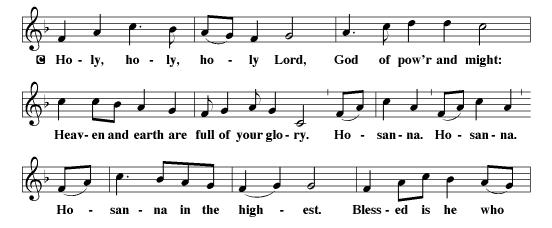
- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you,O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.

You bid your people cleanse their hearts

and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life,

and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving Passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine; that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints.

All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever.

C Amen

- Our Father, who art in heaven, С
 - hallowed be thy name,
 - thy kingdom come,
 - thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

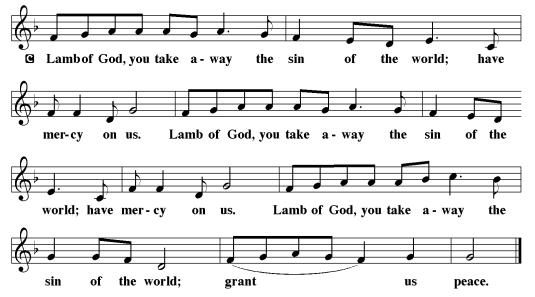
who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



Please sit.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

- What is the Sacrament of the Altar? Q:
- Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus A: Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

- What is the benefit of such eating and drinking? Q:
- We are told in the words "for you" and "for the forgiveness of sins." By these A: words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

-Luther's Small Catechism Part V

Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. Please come by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisle. If you need help figuring out where to and when to go, an usher or fellow worshiper will help you. At one time we too were confused. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

Please stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in Ρ his grace.
- Amen С

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- Р Let us pray,
- Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the А godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his through the same Jesus Christ our Lord
- С Amen

Silence for reflection.



THE BENEDICTION

- Ρ Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- С Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: What Wondrous Love Is This



THE DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Allegro ma non troppo (from *Sonata No. 1*)

Mathieu



Our Guest This Morning ...

Tom Burge is a trombonist with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. He has also served as the Low Brass Instructor at Wingate University and Pfeiffer College, and the Trombone Instructor at UNC Pembroke, Queens University of Charlotte, and Central Piedmont Community College. Burge was previously the host of the radio show "Sunday Evening" on classical public radio station 89.9 WDAV for 8 years and has been a guest morning, midday, and evening presenter on Boston-based 99.5 WGBH.

A native of Australia, Burge has performed with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, The Queensland Orchestra, and Canberra Symphony Orchestra. He earned his Masters Degree in 1996 as a full scholarship student at the Juilliard School, having received a Queen Elizabeth II Award. Now living in the United States, Burge has performed with the Los Angeles and New York Philharmonic Orchestras, The Cleveland Orchestra, and the Cincinnati, Atlanta, Baltimore, Charleston, Augusta, Winston Salem, Fayetteville, and Jacksonville Symphony Orchestras.

THANK YOU!! BOILER SPECIAL APPEAL

Good News! We are well on our way to being warm this upcoming winter and for many winters to come. As of March 17th, the Special Appeal has raised \$13?,???. This is 9?% of our \$150,000 goal.

\$150,000 will allow us to meet the \$38,000 repair cost to have heat this past winter, the \$95,000 cost of new boilers and the \$17,000 cost of contingencies and necessary new heating system parts.

THANK YOU for your generosity and adding your gift to the gifts offered by your neighbors. We have gotten this far because we are working together to ensure that God continues to changes lives in our building.

Every gift is important and makes a difference. Please prayerfully consider an appropriate gift for you. A brochure explaining the need with a pledge card is in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for all you do make St. James a steward of God's grace. Please join us keeping St. James a place where God changes lives.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9 - 6:30pm

Join us for a meaningful Lenten tradition of gathering on Wednesdays for prayer and study. On March 12, 19, 26, and April 2 and 9, we will come together at 6:30pm for approximately an hour of reflection. Each evening will include a prayer office and a study of the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday.

YOUTH NIGHT - MARCH 28

Attn: Middle and High School Youth! Join us for a fun movie night at St. James in the Flex Room on Friday, March 28, from 7:00 – 9:15 p.m. We'll have pizza, games, and watch the movie: The Astronaut Farmer! Bring a friend, kick back, and enjoy the evening!

RSVP to help us plan!



CONFIRMATION PLANNING MEETING

Parents and students of confirmation age are encouraged to join the Christian Education Committee and Pastor Bill on **Sunday, March 30, after worship** for a Confirmation Planning Meeting. We'll discuss the confirmation schedule and other details for the upcoming program.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Join us for the annual St. James Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19 at 2:00pm! Save the date and be sure to bring your basket!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking volunteers to assist with Sunday ministries. If you are willing to volunteer as a communion assistant, lector, videographer, or acolyte, please sign up by scanning the code or visiting the website!

