



"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship, and Service."



Ring Out - Week of Dec. 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

Introduction to Sunday's Worship

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of

Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

[Download Bulletin](#)



Sunday Worship will be live-streamed on YouTube beginning at 9:45 on Sunday morning. An email with the link will be sent on Sunday morning. You can also watch a recorded version later by visiting our [YouTube Page](#).

You can open or print the bulletin and follow along with the service.

[Watch the Live Stream](#)

On the Calendar...

THIS WEEK

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 1

9:00 am Adult SS

9:00 am Choir

9:30 am Children's SS

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm **Christmas Tree Lighting** (*ornament making at 5pm; lighting at 6pm*)

Monday, December 2

Poinsettia Orders Due

SUNDAY

Sunday Ministries

LECTOR/INTERCESSOR

Dec. 1 Barbara Albright

Dec. 8 Gretchen Walker

COMMUNION

ASSISTANT

Dec. 1 Elizabeth Hurley

Dec. 8 Lori Pittard

ACOLYTES

Dec. 1 Noah Pittard

10:30 am Quilting
6:30 pm Scouts
7:00 pm Esther Circle

Tuesday, December 3
5:00 pm Executive Committee

Wednesday, December 4
5:30 pm Handbells
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 8
9:00 am Adult SS
9:00 am Choir
9:30 am Children's SS
10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Social Ministry
Committee (Parlor)
**4:00 pm Bethlehem at the
Farm**

Dec. 8

GREETERS
Dec. 1 Esther Circle
Dec. 8 Esther Circle

VIDEOGRAPHER
Dec. 1 [Volunteer!](#)
Dec. 8

DECEMBER USHERS
Mike Downs, Al Brown Jr.,
Sid Hughes, Bill Hardister,
Hunter Huss

BUILDING SUPERVISOR
December: Wendell Overby

ALTAR FLOWERS
Dec. 1 Glenda Poole
Dec. 8 Elizabeth Horner

Online Calendar

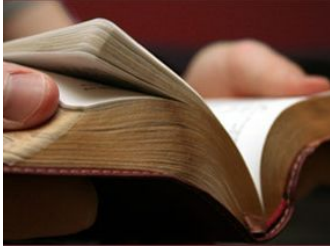


Happy Birthday!

2 Dec. - Betsy Ballard, Al Brown Jr., Jaxon Yow
3 Dec. - Christine Ruff
4 Dec. - Lauren Hoadley, Margaret Pruette
6 Dec. - Marshall Cromer

Volunteer!

Please consider volunteering for a Sunday ministry or special event!



Lectors



Communion Assistants



Videographers



Altar Flowers



Special Events



Acolytes

Announcements

Join us this **Sunday Evening!**

Christmas Tree Lighting

DECEMBER 1ST

5:00 PM - Making Ornaments

6:00 PM - Lighting & Liturgy

Noel

FINAL CALL - Poinsettia Orders Due Monday!

This Christmas season, you have the opportunity to give a beautiful red 6 1/2" poinsettia as a gift to the church. These gifts help adorn our worship space during this holy season and can be given in memory or honor of loved ones.



Each poinsettia is \$20. A list of donors and those being memorialized or honored will be included in the gift list. Please print clearly to ensure names are displayed as intended.

[Click here to order online](#), or complete and return the order form in Sunday's bulletin.

The deadline to order is Monday, December 2nd.



My Father's House Ministry Needs

St. James & St. Johns will host My Father's House Ministry Dec. 16-18. There are 25 people in the Ministry. If you can help provide an item for the dinner meal **Dec. 16 or Dec. 17**, please let co-chairs Sylvia Corl (704-425-8621) or Martha Matthews (704-787-2180) know.

Christmas at St. James

Tuesday, December 24th –
“Family” Christmas Eve @ 5:30pm

Designed with families and younger children in mind, this liturgy will be less formal than customary for St. James and will include the singing of many favorite carols. There will be an opportunity for five families to assist in reading the Gospel and placing the characters in the nativity scene. More information about that and how to sign up will come later. At the normal sermon time, children will be invited to join Pastor Bill at the nativity scene. This will be the only sermon for this service. We will commune using a simple communion rite.



Musical Prelude @ 10:30pm

The choir and Kevin Estes, Director of Music Ministries and Organist, will present thirty minutes of fabulous music at 10:30pm. Don't wait until 11pm to come to church. Come at 10:30pm. You'll be glad you did.

A “Carol Mass” @ 11pm

St. James will celebrate a festive “Carol Mass” at 11pm on Christmas Eve. One of

Luther's greatest gifts to the church was his "choral mass." A choral mass sings a hymn (or parts of a hymn) in place of the normal liturgical pieces. This "Carol Mass" sings a carol in place of many of the normal liturgical pieces. The 11pm liturgy will overflow with "C's." Carols, Communion, Candles. Come on Christmas Eve the 24th. Leave in the early minutes of Christmas Day, the 25th.

Sunday, December 29th @ 10am

On the First Sunday after Christmas, St. James will take a respite from our normal form. Have you had a hectic and stressful week? Come for a moment of calm. Sing a few quiet, softer carols. "A Service of Four Lessons and Carols with Reflections from Martin Luther" will precede a simple communion rite. The brief reflections are from Luther's Christmas Book. Luther and his brief reflections are the only preacher for the day.

Sunday, January 5th @ 10am

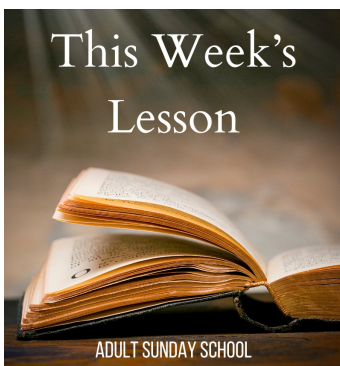
On the Second Sunday after Christmas, St. James returns to our customary Sunday morning liturgical fare. Through Luke's Gospel, we met John the Baptist on the Second Sunday in Advent. On this final day of Christmas, we come full circle meeting The Baptist again through the first chapter of the John's Gospel.

2025 Offering Envelopes Available

2025 Offering envelopes are ready for pick-up on the table behind the sacristy (office hallway). If you did not receive a box and would like one, contact [Jill Irving](#).



Ministries



Adult Sunday School

Jesus' Ancestry - Ruth 4:9-17; Luke 3:23,31b-32

This First Sunday in Advent will discuss Jesus' Ancestry. Tracing Jesus' lineage to King David answers the important question of what right Jesus had to claim to be the King in Israel, and how He fulfilled God's Promise to David! The story of Boaz, Ruth, and Naomi should be a story of encouragement to us to faithfully follow the Lord no matter the circumstances. All the peoples of Earth have been blessed because of their offspring, i.e., the birth of Jesus as Savior of the world. Praying this helps us to prepare our hearts and minds for this season!

Memorials & Honorariums

November Memorials & Honorariums

The following were given in memory or in honor of:

In Memory Of:

Jo Eng

Given by:

Nancy Faggart
Tom Grady
Fred & Dianne Lambert
Thomas & Sandra Long
Patty Williams

Keith Fink

Given by:

Nancy Faggart	Victor & Joan Kysliger
Don & Jo Ann Fowler	Fred & Dianne Lambert
Will & Ann Gillon	Buddy & Joan McEachern
Tom Grady	James McKay
Kim Haberman	Jim & Laurie Miller
Dee & Anne Hodges	St. James Bell Choir

In case you missed it...

Toy Drive for Western NC

Help bring joy to children this holiday season! We are collecting new, unwrapped toys for families in Western NC now through **Wednesday, December 4.**

Donations can be dropped off on Sunday mornings or by arranging a drop-off time with the church office during the week. Please note, we can only accept new, unwrapped toys — clothing donations cannot be accepted at this time. For more details, please reach out to Elizabeth Hurley.

TOY DRIVE

For Western NC



Drop new, unwrapped toys to the office through Wednesday, Dec. 4



Register to Ring!

Spread Christmas cheer while making a difference! St. James is proud to once again partner with the Salvation Army to ring bells and support those in need in our community. Join us on **Thursday, December 5 and Thursday, December 12** for this meaningful tradition.

One-hour time slots are available from 10:00am to 7:00pm. Click below to sign up!

[Register to Ring!](#)



Reminders:

Volunteer opportunities



2025 Sign-Ups Available!

Please consider signing up for an upcoming Sunday ministry. Dates for 2025 are now available! Refer to the Volunteer section of this email or, [visit the website](#).



Videographers Needed!

We need volunteers to assist with YouTube streaming for the remaining Sundays of 2024. It's simple—just a few steps at the laptop to start the stream, and you can control the zoom from your seat using a tablet (though zooming is optional). At the end of the service, you'll stop the recording and streaming and return the tablet.



If you're interested, we can arrange a time to walk you through the process, or you can shadow someone during an upcoming service. [Click here to sign up!](#)

This is a wonderful way to support our homebound members this holiday season!

Acolytes Needed!

Please consider signing up to acolyte at an upcoming service.

All may serve - youth or adult! Just need to be

able to carry the cross.

[Click here to sign up for an open date!](#)



Prayers & Considerations

IN OUR PRAYERS

Brad Baker
Joyce Beaty (*Friend of the Marlow's*)
Angie Buchanan
Mike & Debbie Cagle
(*Friends of Robert & Debbie Davis*)
Noah Clifton
Bruce Coffey (*Friend of Mark Murphy*)
Karey Conrad (*Friend of Dee Pieschel*)
Emma DePaulis
Anne Fridlund
Ed Frost (*Friends of the Marlow's*)



Tim Gibson (*Friend of Deb Black*)
Tom Grady
Linda Jones
(*Family of Barbara & Dale Merrell*)
Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow
(*Friends of Shannon Nesbit*)
Tom Ridenhour
Geoff & Pam Seige
(*Friends of Robert & Debbie Davis*)

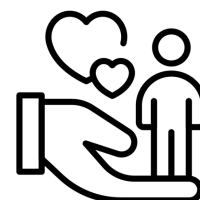
Member Meal Train Opportunity

[Click here to support a meal train for Jay Clemmer.](#)



Overnight Sitter Opportunity

Debbie Davis is looking for a sitter for the overnight hours for her mother. Paid position. Contact Debbie at 704-795-8743.



Online Giving

You can manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions or make a one time contribution and view your complete online giving

history from anywhere you have access to the internet. In a few short minutes, you can make a one-time gift or set up a donation that will process automatically on a recurring basis. Recurring donations are convenient and provide our church with much needed consistent support throughout the year.



Ways to Give

Keep in touch!



Follow St. James on **Instagram**
& **Facebook!**

Be sure to tag **@stjamesnc** when
posting so we may share!

St. James Staff

Rev. Bill Ridenhour, *Pastor* [Email](#)

Jill Irvin, *Financial Administrator* [Email](#)

Dr. Kevin Estes, *Director of Music Ministries & Organist* [Email](#)

Holly Sloop, *Communications Coordinator* [Email](#)

Kathryn Radcliffe, *Nursery Coordinator* [Email](#)

Teresa Honeycutt, *Custodian* [Email](#)

Debbie Davis, *Congregation President* [Email](#)

[View as Webpage](#)

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