WELCOME TO ST PJ’s!

If you’re visiting St. PJ’s for the first time, or for the first time in a while, we extend a special welcome to you. Whether you are joining us in the building or via Facebook, we’re so fortunate to be together. Know that whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on life’s journey, and whatever questions dwell in your heart, you are welcome here. Whatever your race, class, sexuality, beliefs, or talents, we hope that you join us in the radical hospitality of God’s table.

If you are worshipping with children today, welcome! And please don’t worry – crying, laughter, and wandering little feet don’t bother us!

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

Will you come and follow me

1. Will you come and follow me if I but
2. Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but
3. God, your summons echoes true when you but

call your name? Will you go where you don’t
call your name? Will you quell the fear in -
call my name. Let me turn and follow

know and never be the same? Will you
side and never be the same? Will you
you and never be the same. In your

let my love be shown, Will you let my
use the faith you’ve found, go. Where your love and
compa - ny I’ll go. Where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
world a round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show, Thus I’ll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?
sound in you and you in me?
grow in you and you in me.
OPENING ACCLAMATION

Leader: O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.
People: And your glory all the day long.
All: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
All: Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed. Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin. Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Leader: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.
HYMN OF PRAISE    I have decided to follow Jesus

Please be seated for the Readings.

FIRST READING    Jonah 3:1–5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Reader:   Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.
People:   Thanks be to God.
THE PSALM 62:6–14

For God alone my soul in silence waits; *
truly, my hope is in him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation, *
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.
In God is my safety and my honor; *
God is my strong rock and my refuge.
Put your trust in him always, O people, *
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.
Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, *
even those of low estate cannot be trusted.
On the scales they are lighter than a breath, *
all of them together.
Put no trust in extortion;
in robbery take no empty pride; *
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.
God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, *
that power belongs to God.
Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, *
for you repay everyone according to his deeds.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 7:29–31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.
People: Thanks be to God.
A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 1:14–20

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Tudy Hill

JAZZ RESPONSE A musical response to the sermon

THE APOSTLES’ CREED Please rise in body or spirit

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
Leader: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.
Save us from the time of trial,
    and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
    and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos
santificado sea tu Nombre
venga tu reino
hágase tu voluntad
    en la tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy el pan de este día y
Perdona nuestras deudas
    como nosotros perdonamos
nuestros deudores
y no nos dejes caer en al tentación
sino que líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria,
ahora y por siempre. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and
proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world
may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
O God, you continually call your people to repent and believe in you.

\textit{God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.}

Loving God, you know us well that we want to follow you, but lag behind, unsure of our next steps.

\textit{God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.}

God of Compassion, we ask that you remember our sisters and brothers in Afghanistan, Gaza, Israel, Ukraine and all suffering from weather-related tragedies.

\textit{God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.}

God of Encounter, you choose to meet us where we are, in a boat, in an office, or in a hospital. May we be open to your voice however we hear it.

\textit{God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.}

Loving God, our times are in your hands: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants, especially Lynn, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives.

\textit{God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.}

\textit{Leader:} Almighty God, you hear the cries of your people and ask each of us to listen as well. May we be open to the power of your Holy Spirit that enlivens all with your redeeming grace. We ask this through Jesus, your Son, sent to be with us and to show us how to follow. \textit{Amen.}
THE PEACE

Leader: La paz del Señor sea siempre con ustedes.  People: Y con tu espíritu.
Leader: The peace of Christ be always with you.  People: And also with you.

Please greet one another with a sign of God’s peace and then be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE  1 Chronicles 29:11

Leader: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

CLOSING PRAYER  A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
CLOSING HYMN

Leaning on the everlasting arms

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,

1. Leaning on the everlasting arms; What a blessedness,
2. Leaning on the everlasting arms; O how bright the path
3. Leaning on the everlasting arms; I have blessed peace

1. what a peace is mine, Leaning on the everlasting arms.
2. grows from day to day, Leaning on the everlasting arms.
3. with my Lord so near, Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;

Leaning, leaning, Leaning on the everlasting arms.
DISMISSAL

   Leader:   Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
   People:   Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.

POSTLUDE
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Sunday Worship | 10:30 a.m.
In person and livestreamed

Wednesday Noonday Prayer | 12:30 p.m.
In person in the Chapel

Thursday Zoom Compline | 8 p.m.
Link available on our website

SERVING TODAY

Third Sunday after the Epiphany
December 17, 2023

Leader:
Andrew Stump

Preacher:
Tudy Hill

Musicians:
Will Cleary
Alec Pedersen
Dylan Rowland

OUR STAFF

The Rev. Stacey Kohl
Priest-in-Charge
revstacey@stpaulstjames.org
860-373-7722 (cell)

Monifa Atkinson
Program Assistant
office@stpaulstjames.org
203-562-2143 (office)

William Cleary, Director of Music
Dylan Rowland, Assoc. Music Dir.
Samuel Rodriguez, Sexton

The Rev. Steve Crowson, Priest Associate
Andrew Stump, Seminary Intern

OUR VESTRY

Co-Wardens: Bill Evans and
Vanessa Gonzalez-Rivera
Treasurer: David Hill
Interim Treasurer: Chloe Starr
Clerk: Maggie King

Marilyn Bergen
Lynne Severance
Isaac Mukwaya
Maggie King
Roni Holcomb
Pam Sayre

We acknowledge the Quinnipiac, Paugussett, and Wappinger people, the traditional custodians of the land on which St. PJs is located. We pay respect to their elders, past and present. We respect their people and traditions as a continued call to live out the ministry of reconciliation to which we are called.
2024 Stewardship Pledge Cards Now Available

Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign, in which we are invited to prayerfully consider how we will pledge our support of God's mission at St. PJ's in the next year, is ongoing. Pledge cards are available. You can place completed cards in the offering plate or send them to the office via the mail.

ANNUAL MEETING: January 28 after service

Join us for our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 28 immediately following the service. Hear updates on our Capital Campaign projects, as well as reports from our Wardens, Music Director, Treasurer, and Priest-in-Charge. You'll also get a chance to elect new Vestry members and approve church officers.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY

St. PJ's is a “mask-friendly” environment. Please respect everyone's personal decisions whether or not to wear a mask. In addition, please be aware that by attending church, you are participating in our live stream, which means you may appear in a video which is streamed and archived on our YouTube or Facebook page.

Sign-up for E-news

Give to St. PJ's Online

ANNUAL MEETING: January 28 after service

Join us for our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 28 immediately following the service. Hear updates on our Capital Campaign projects, as well as reports from our Wardens, Music Director, Treasurer, and Priest-in-Charge. You'll also get a chance to elect new Vestry members and approve church officers.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY

St. PJ's is a “mask-friendly” environment. Please respect everyone's personal decisions whether or not to wear a mask. In addition, please be aware that by attending church, you are participating in our live stream, which means you may appear in a video which is streamed and archived on our YouTube or Facebook page.

Sign-up for E-news

Give to St. PJ's Online