



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
St. Paul & St. James

Holy Eucharist

April 13, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday

WELCOME TO ST PJs!

Whether you are participating in the building or online today, we are so fortunate to be together to worship God and to see the divine image in one another. Wherever you find yourself on life's journey, whatever questions dwell in your heart, and whatever your race, age, income, sexuality, beliefs, or talents, you are loved and welcomed here.

That goes especially for children! Jesus loves the crying, laughter, and wandering little feet, and we do too. There is a Pray and Play area in the back for convenience, though your family is welcome to sit anywhere. **Sunday School for 3-to-8 year olds is on the second floor. Children will participate in today's Palm Sunday parade before heading upstairs.** (Take the door on your right in the front of the church to the well-lit hallway, and then up the stairs on your left). Children will return during the Peace, before Communion.

INTRODUCTION *The People gather at the front steps of the church.*

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Celebrant: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The People raise their palms as the Celebrant continues

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest.

THE PROCESSION

Deacon: Let us go forth in peace.

People: In the name of Christ. Amen.

The procession begins with the cross and the clergy followed by musicians and the People. All move down Olive Street away from the church. The procession makes a right onto Court Street, a right at Wooster Square Park, and then right on Chapel Street, returning to the church.

ARRIVAL AT THE CHURCH

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.


People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant knocks on the church doors, and the procession enters.

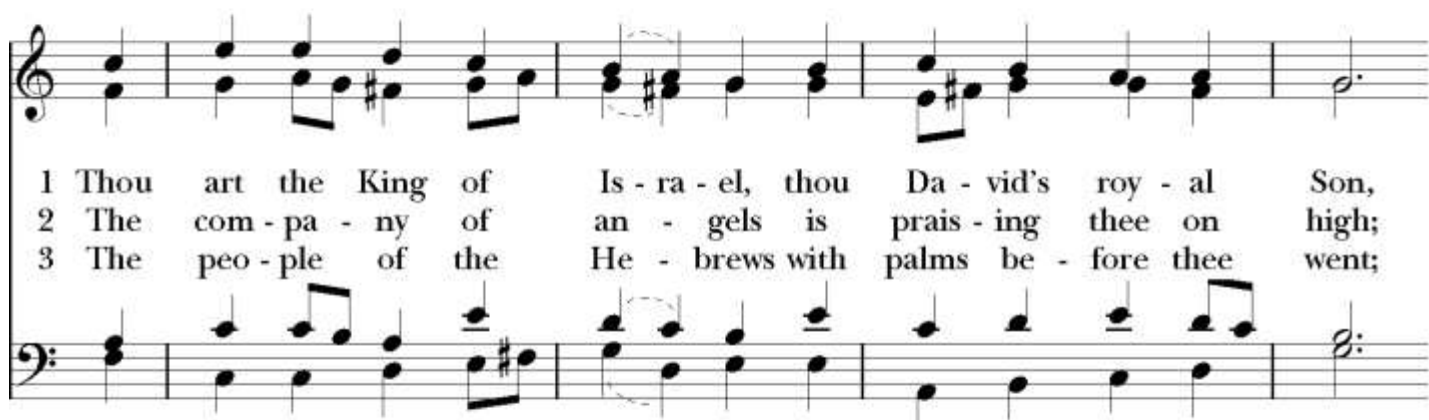
Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!

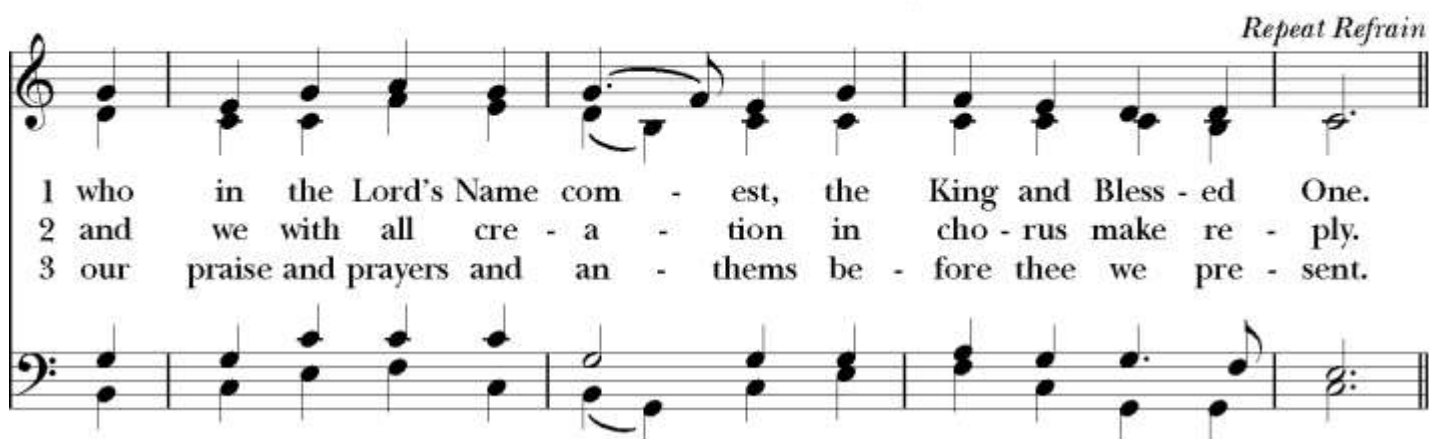


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
 3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;

Repeat Refrain



1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
 2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
 3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Ride on, King Jesus

Ride on, King Je - sus, No one can a hin-der me.

Ride on, King Je - sus ride on, no one can a hin-der me. In that

great get-tin' up morn - in' fare thee well, fare thee well. In that

great get-tin' up morn - in' fare thee well, fare the well. In that

COLLECT

Celebrant: God be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the Lessons.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

31:9–16

Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *

my eye is consumed with sorrow,

and also my throat and my belly.

For my life is wasted with grief,

and my years with sighing; *

my strength fails me because of affliction,

and my bones are consumed.

**I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; ***

when they see me in the street they avoid me.

I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *

I am as useless as a broken pot.

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;

fear is all around; *

they put their heads together against me;

they plot to take my life.

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *

I have said, “You are my God.

My times are in your hand; *

rescue me from the hand of my enemies,

and from those who persecute me.

Make your face to shine upon your servant, *

and in your loving-kindness save me.”

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:5–11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit.

GOSPEL HYMN

I have decided to follow Jesus (v. 1)

1. I have de - cid - ed _____ to fol - low Je - sus, _____
I have de - cid - ed _____ to fol - low Je - sus, _____
I have de - cid - ed _____ to fol - low Je - sus, _____
No turn - ing back, _____ no turn - ing back! _____

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 19:28-40

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After telling a parable to the crowd at Jericho, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.

As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON *Tudy Hill*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Creator God, as the sprigs of green grass sprout up and new buds appear, we see signs of a resilient creation that surrounds us. May your face shine upon us,

And in your mercy, save us.

Loving God, we celebrate the triumphant and liberating entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, knowing what awaits him. We carry our hopes, fears and anger as we walk the long road of Holy Week. May your face shine upon us,

And in your mercy, save us.

God of Compassion, be present to those in need your healing presence and support, especially those on our prayer list, and those we name now, whether aloud or silently in our hearts...

We remember those celebrating anniversaries or birthdays this week especially Gwen, Dwayne, Marilyn, and others we name now...

We remember those who have died and those who are grieving, especially those we name now...

May your face shine upon us,

And in your mercy, save us.

God of Justice, we pray for those who fear for their safety in our own country; those who are being targeted for any difference such as nationality, skin color, sexual identity, migration status, or for being outspoken. We pray for our sisters and brothers affected by warfare. May your face shine upon us,

And in your mercy, save us.

Celebrant: Almighty God, we ask that you save us from the evil that surrounds us. We are grateful that you, in your great love, sent Jesus to be with us and to liberate us, and sent the presence of your Holy Spirit to give us life and lighten the way forward. We give you thanks and praise, Triune God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: La paz del Señor sea siempre con ustedes. **People: Y con tu espíritu.**

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you. **People: And also with you.**

Please greet one another with a sign of God's peace – such as a wave, peace sign, handshake, fist bump, or hug – and then be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM

PRESENTATION HYMN

Ubi Caritas

Please rise in body or spirit.

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Hosanna in the Highest". It consists of four staves of music in 3/8 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and". The second staff continues: "might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -". The third staff continues: "san - na in the high - est Bless - ed is he who". The fourth staff concludes: "comes in the name of the Lord Ho - san - na in the high - est...". There are three-measure rests (triplets) indicated above the notes in the second, third, and fourth staves.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him and with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray, in the many languages of our hearts,

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for you, the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Directions: *All are welcome at God's table. Baptized Christians may receive Holy Communion in the Episcopal Church, and others may receive a blessing (and/or talk to the priest after the service about becoming baptized!).*

To participate, come forward via the center aisle and join the line in front of the priest on your right. Approach the priest with your hands out, and they will place the bread in your palm. If you choose to receive the wine next, join the second line, and gently guide the chalice to your lips for a small sip while the server holds it. In order to protect the health of our community, we drink from the common cup and do not offer intinction (i.e. we do not dip the bread into the wine). Please return to your seat via the side aisles.

Communion is a Sacrament – a visible sign of God's loving grace within us – and you can participate fully in that sign by taking just the bread, without the wine.

If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are welcome to either remain seated or come forward for a blessing. For a blessing, cross your arms on your chest, and the priest will touch your forehead to make a sign of the cross.

We have gluten-free and alcohol-free options -- simply ask when you reach the front of the line.

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please rise, in body or in spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Celebrant: Bow down before the Lord.

The People kneel or bow in a posture of solemnity and prayer.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn

Stay with me

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch _____ and
pray, _____ watch and pray.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics 'Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch _____ and'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'pray, _____ watch and pray.'. The notes are simple, using quarter and half notes, with some phrases connected by a slur.

THE PASSION NARRATIVE

Celebrant: The Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

The whole assembly got up and led Jesus to Pilate and began to accuse him. They said, “We have found this man misleading our people, opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar, and claiming that he is the Christ, a king.”

Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus replied, “That’s what you say.”

Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no legal basis for action against this man.”

But they objected strenuously, saying, “He agitates the people with his teaching throughout Judea—starting from Galilee all the way here.”

Hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was from Herod’s district, Pilate sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Herod was very glad to see Jesus, for he had heard about Jesus and had wanted to see him for quite some time. He was hoping to see Jesus perform some sign. Herod questioned Jesus at length, but Jesus didn’t respond to him. The chief priests and the legal experts were there, fiercely accusing Jesus. Herod and his soldiers treated Jesus with contempt. Herod mocked him by dressing Jesus in elegant clothes and sent him back to Pilate. Pilate and Herod became friends with each other that day. Before this, they had been enemies.

Then Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people. He said to them,

“You brought this man before me as one who was misleading the people. I have questioned him in your presence and found nothing in this man’s conduct that provides a legal basis for the charges you have brought against him. Neither did Herod, because Herod returned him to us. He’s done nothing that deserves death. Therefore, I’ll have him whipped, then let him go.”

But with one voice they shouted, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us.” (Barabbas had been thrown into prison because of a riot that had occurred in the city, and for murder.)

Pilate addressed them again because he wanted to release Jesus.

They kept shouting out, “**Crucify him! Crucify him!**”

For the third time, Pilate said to them, “Why? What wrong has he done? I’ve found no legal basis for the death penalty in his case. Therefore, I will have him whipped, then let him go.”

But they were adamant, shouting their demand that Jesus be crucified. Their voices won out. Pilate issued his decision to grant their request. He released the one they asked for, who had been thrown into prison because of a riot and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will.

As they led Jesus away, they grabbed Simon, a man from Cyrene, who was coming in from the countryside. They put the cross on his back and made him carry it behind Jesus. A huge crowd of people followed Jesus, including women, who were mourning and wailing for him. Jesus turned to the women and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t cry for me. Rather, cry for yourselves and your children. The time will come when they will say, ‘Happy are those who are unable to become pregnant, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed a child.’ Then they will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ If they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

They also led two other criminals to be executed with Jesus. When they arrived at the place called Golgotha, The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

Please rise, in body or in spirit

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.” They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.

The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, “He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one.”

The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him, offering him sour wine and saying, “If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read “This is the king of the Jews.”

One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, “Don’t you fear God, seeing that you’ve also been sentenced to die? We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

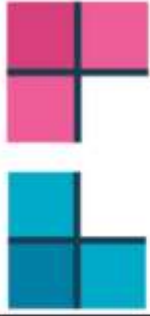
Jesus replied, “I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise.”

It was now about noon, and darkness covered the whole earth until about three o’clock, while the sun stopped shining. Then the curtain in the sanctuary tore down the middle. Crying out in a loud voice, Jesus said, “Father, into your hands I entrust my life.” After he said this, he breathed for the last time.

Silence

When the centurion saw what happened, he praised God, saying, “It’s really true: this man was righteous.” All the crowds who had come together to see this event returned to their homes beating their chests after seeing what had happened. And everyone who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance observing these things.

The service concludes with all departing the church in silence.



GRACE NOTES



— 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 | 8:00 p.m.

Link available on our website

Office Hours

Mon–Fri (8 a.m.–Noon) | Fri (5:30p.m.–8:30p.m.)

SERVING TODAY

Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025

Celebrant

The Rev. Nathan Empsall

Preacher

The Rev. Andrew Stump

Preacher

Tudy Hill

Liturgical Assistant

Tudy Hill

Lector

Bev Lett

Bread Baker

Maggie King

OUR STAFF

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(203) 278-9199

The Rev. Steve Crowson, Priest Assc
Samuel Rodriguez, Sexton

OUR VESTRY

Co-Wardens: Bill Evans and Juhani Jaske
Treasurer: David Hill
Clerk: Maggie King

Roni Holcomb
Steve Crowson
Maurice Harris
Pam Sayre
Vanetta Lloyd
Lynne Severance

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.

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

Maundy Thursday Help Needed

We will once again have a simple community meal before the Maundy Thursday service this week. Thank you to everyone who has signed up to bring soup or bread! We still need someone to oversee and coordinate the set-up. It's easy: Just come a little early, think through all the little things, and make sure they happen. Please let the office know if you're interested.

Easter Egg Hunt

Parishioner Marilyn Bergen has offered to organize an Easter Egg Hunt for the children after church on Easter. Please text her if you can help fill and/or hide eggs: (203) 605-2811

Holy Week Schedule

- Holy Wed: 4/16 at 6:30, Tenebrae at Christ Church
- Maundy Thursday at St. PJ's: 4/17 at 6:30, with dinner
- Good Friday at St. PJ's: 4/18 at Noon, with Bishop Laura Aherns presiding and Rev. Nathan preaching
- Holy Saturday Easter Vigils available 4/19 at Trinity on the Green (7:30), Christ Church on Broadway (6:30), and St. Thomas's on Whitney (6:30)
- Easter Sunday at St. PJ's: 4/20 at 10:30 a.m.

Adult Education on Break

Our after-church adult ed series about prophetic voices against authoritarianism, "God's Microphones," is on break for Palm Sunday, Easter, and Morning Prayer. We will resume on May 4 with a discussion of St. Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

PRAYER LIST

Kathleen
Rachel
Doug Parker
Anne Matthies
Betty Hill
Tim Barnes
Suzie McDowell
Calvin Griffin
Lenny Santarsiero
Rev. Walter Macnutt
Tom Caffelle
Javier Galaviz
Kevin Gerbe
Leota Tucker
Edwina Johnson
David Obser
Cynthia King
Paul D'agostino
Richard Holcomb
Tiras Jaske
Gwen Chapin
Uli Mackert
Charlie & Bridget Farrell
Calvin, Charlie, Bridget
Alyce, Judi, Tom
Leslie, Andrew, Pam

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Gwen Chapin (April 14)
Dwayne McDowell (April 23)
Marilyn Nelson (April 26)

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY

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.

Give to St. PJs

Online



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
St. Paul & St. James

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