

Follow me,

AND I WILL MAKE YOU
FISHERS OF MEN.

MATTHEW 4:19



Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Font

Celebrant: Lord, today we honor the historic ties between Christ Church, Unionville, and St. James Parish, in Farmington. Standing as a joyful reminder of the blessing of this unity is the original font of Christ Church, Unionville. We ask that this font be a continuing sign and symbol of Your blessing upon St. James Parish and Your gift of Baptism, through which, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, we are cleansed from sin and born again. We pray Your eternal blessing upon this font and all assembled, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us renew the promises that we made at Baptism.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn

Hymnal 390

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise Him, for he is thy health and salvation:
Join the great throng, Psaltery, organ, and song,
Sounding in glad adoration.*

*Praise to the Lord; over all things he gloriously reigneth:
Borne as on eagle-wings, safely his saints he sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen how all thou needest hath been
Granted in what he ordaineth?*

*Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
Who with his love doth befriend thee.*

*Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the "Amen" sound from his people again;
Gladly forever adore him.*

Blessing of the St. James Icon

Lord God, we come to You in thanksgiving and ask Your blessings upon this icon of Saint James, the Greater, disciple of Jesus, brother of St. John, keeper of the faith, and patron saint of pilgrims. We give thanks for Jane Begin who commissioned and gifted this icon, in honor of her wife Joyce Bettencourt, and in commemoration of the 150th year of continuing community for St. James Parish. Bless this icon to the use of our parish, that it shall be a reminder of the faithfulness of Saint James and of our call to follow Our Lord and Savior onto the pilgrim roads of this life. Grant us strength to follow wherever He would lead us. We ask Your blessing upon this icon in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Word of God

- ◆Opening Acclamation ` BCP pg. 355
- ◆Collect for Purity BCP pg. 355
- ◆*Gloria* BCP pg. 356
- ◆Collect of the Day (*in unison*)

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading

Exodus 17:1–7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Psalms 78:1–4, 12–16

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
**let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
**for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth
and my transgressions; *

**remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

Second Reading Philippians 2:1–13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. 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. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

◆HYMN

Hymnal 492

Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness (vv. 1–2)

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◆The Holy Gospel Matthew 21:23–32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

◆HYMN

Hymnal 492

Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness (vv. 3–4)

By permission of Oxford University Press

The Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Mello

◆The Prayers of the People

Dear good and generous God, we thank you for guiding the community of St. James Parish through the storms and challenges, peaks, and valleys of the last 150 years. We pray for Your presence among us today, as we celebrate, remember, and look to the future. We pray, responding, **Glory to You, Lord, our God.**

For the Church, that She may be a continuing beacon of light and hope in the world. For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Jeff and Laura, our Bishops, George and Doug, our clergy; for our choir, special guests, families, and friends, and all of Your people assembled here today. We pray, **Glory to You, Lord, our God.**

For all who hold positions of leadership or influence in the world, that those in power may work for the good of all Your children, especially those who hold the least power and have the smallest voice. We pray, **Glory to You, Lord, our God.**

For all who have asked for our prayers, especially Chase, Adam, Phil Roy, Chris, Brian, Nicholas, baby Barrett and his mother Sara, Steven, Felix, Dr. Rusty Camp, Luisa, Teresa, baby Wilder, Glenn, Steve, Veronica Solomon, Krystal, Dante, Tom, Kevin, Ginny Holian, Alan, William, Teri, Michael, Henry, Marlene, and Kim, and all others for whom we pray, silently or aloud [*pause here*] ... We pray, **Glory to You, Lord, our God.**

For all who have died, particularly all the saints in light who have passed through St. James over the years and into the life eternal. For all who we name in the silence now, those we love but see no longer [*pause here*] ... We pray, **Glory to You, Lord, our God.**

Celebrant: Blessed and holy God, we thank You for bringing us together in unity and peace to acknowledge that, for 150 years, You have held this community in Your loving embrace. Grant us the courage and hope to move out into the world, proclaiming Your healing love and welcoming invitation. We ask, in gratitude and with open hearts, in the Name of Jesus. **Amen.**

- ◆Confession of Sin and Absolution BCP pg. 360
- ◆The Peace BCP pg. 360

The Holy Communion

Offertory *The voice that says, "Come"* Ellen G. Voth
 Words: Edwin Hartt (adapted E. G. Voth) & Charlotte Elliott

- ◆DOXOLOGY (vs. 3) Hymnal 380
- *The Great Thanksgiving – Prayer A BCP pg. 361
- **Sanctus* BCP pg. 362
- *The Lord's Prayer BCP pg. 364
- *The Breaking of the Bread BCP pg. 364

Gluten-free hosts are available.

During Holy Communion, those at home, who cannot physically receive Communion, are encouraged to say the following prayer of spiritual Communion:

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I present to You my soul and body with the earnest wish that they may always be united to You. And since I cannot now receive You, O God, sacramentally, I beseech You to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to You, Almighty One, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate You from me. May I live and die, ever in Your love. Amen.

Armed Forces Prayer Book, 1951

- *Communion Hymns: **383, 379** (Words: Copyright held by A. W. Mowbray & Co. Ltd. Music Copyright © 1942 Renewal 1970 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by Permission), **360**

- ◆Prayer of Thanksgiving BCP pg. 365

Announcements

A Birthday Prayer

Watch over us, O Lord, as our days increase; bless and guide us wherever we may be. Strengthen us when we stand; comfort us when discouraged or sorrowful; raise us up if we fall; and in our hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

◆HYMN *Thy strong word did cleave the darkness* Hymnal 381
Words from WORSHIP SUPPLEMENT copyright 1968,
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The Dismissal

BCP pg. 366

Postlude

(Please remain seated to enjoy the postlude or depart in silence.)

◆ You are invited to stand, as able.

* You are invited to kneel, as able.

BCP refers to *The Book of Common Prayer*,
found in the pew rack.

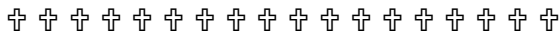
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We joyfully welcome The Right Reverend Jeffrey W. Mello,
Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, to
preach and celebrate with us this morning.

Serving this week

Crucifer	Chloe Roberts
Acolytes	Jacob Lapointe & Erik Ososki
Altar Guild	Mimi Hostetter & Donna Wilkie
Chalicians	Jerry Hess & Mimi Hostetter
Lector	Felicia DeDominicis
Ushers	Jim & Donna Wilkie
Coffee Hour Hosts	John & Elizabeth McBride
Care Ministry/Altar flower delivery	Linda Mason

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in celebration of St. James Parish's
150 years of ministry.



Hymns for this service are streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-736322.

On a Sunday each month we say a prayer for everyone having a birthday during that month. Another way for us to celebrate life together! If someone cannot be present because of illness, a family member may say their name, so that we may pray for them.

Join us online for worship this morning! Join us at 10:15 a.m. on Facebook Live (you do NOT need to have a Facebook account) – <https://bit.ly/StJamesLive>.

Our Sunday Bible Study is discussing the Book of Daniel. We are not meeting today due to the 150th anniversary celebration.

Blessing of the Animals: This Wednesday, October 4th at 5 pm, we invite folks to gather on the front lawn of St. James Parish, where we will hold, as part of our Evening Prayer service, our annual *Blessing of the Animals* in honor of Francis and as our own blessing of the created world God has given to us. Bring your furry friend (or scaly, or whatever, as long as it is not venomous or aggressive) for a blessing! See you then!!



Please wear your nametag ... wearing our name tags helps getting to know each other a bit easier, but we know sometimes our clothing choices make clipping on our name tags challenging. We have placed a box of chains near the tags for this reason. Simply thread your name tag on and you're all set. After services, you may wrap the chain around the tag or simply let it dangle when you put your tag back in its place in the racks. If you are missing your nametag, please notify the parish office for a replacement as a fresh printing will be done this week.



The Jesus Revolution: On Saturday, October 14th at 5:30 pm, all are invited to enjoy pizza, salad, popcorn, and goodies in the parish hall, as we watch the faith-based movie *The Jesus Revolution*. The film follows the beginnings of the Jesus movement in the late 1960's and early 1970's, as the movement emerges from the counter-cultural "hippie" movement. The film is a powerful (without being preachy) exploration of what it means to find one's purpose in Jesus Christ. The film is rated PG-13, mostly for drug content (though nothing extreme, I promise). Probably children 11 and up? The movie will be followed by conversation. **Let us know by this Wednesday, October 4th if you want/plan to come and need childcare.**

Coffee Hour hosts needed! A signup is on the parish hall ramp bulletin board, offering you the opportunity to host a Coffee Hour this fall! We still have 4 openings through the end of 2023. On your day, you make regular & decaffeinated coffee and then clean up after Coffee Hour. You may signup for as many Sundays as you'd like – or just one! Signup to work alone or with a friend or two! Providing simple snacks (cookies, cupcakes, maybe a small gluten-free option) is nice, but *not necessary* to volunteer for this ministry.



The lectionary readings for next Sunday, October 8th are:
Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b–14;
Matthew 21:33–46.

Parish Merger Conversation: October 21st, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The people of St. Mark's New Britain and St. James Farmington are cordially invited to meet on Saturday, October 21st from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Hart Hall, South Church, New Britain, to discuss the merger of the parishes. Bishop Laura Ahrens will lead the meeting and we will be joined by Renee Janes of Grace & St John's Episcopal Church in Hamden. Renee was involved in the merger of Grace & St Peter's in Hamden with St John the Evangelist in Yalesville and was asked by Bishop Laura to assist with our process.

Besides an opportunity for us to get to know one another better, understand the process we are undertaking, and answer parishioner questions, we will set up committees to do the work going forward. Not everyone will want to be part of a committee, but for those who will want to be more involved in the process, that opportunity will be available.

St. Marks will host a luncheon following the meeting. Please contact Cheryl in the St. Mark's office by phone or email (860-225-7634 or parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org) by October 15th to let her know if you will be attending just the meeting or the meeting and the luncheon.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. George Roberts, Rector
Kim Faubert & Anna Whilby, Wardens



Can you help out with Church School?

We've begun Church School for this program year and need teachers as we move through the fall. We are using SignupGenius, so you only need click the link

below. There is a slot for each Sunday, so it is possible to sign up for a single Sunday, for a few weeks over the year, or for a bigger block of Sundays. Any time that you can give to our youngest members, our future and our present, is a blessing. We literally cannot do this without the support of our parish which must go beyond cheering for our kids, but ministering to them, in faith, too.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0949AEAF23A3F94-20232023> If you have any questions on how to use SignupGenius,

please reach out to Maggie Ososki maggie.ososki@gmail.com or Sue Deming at st.james.church@sbcglobal.net.

When you open SignUpGenius, you'll find the curriculum link so that you can take a look. If you have curriculum or programmatic questions, please reach out to Fr. George rector.st.james@sbcglobal.net or to

Joyce Bettencourt jjvbet@comcast.net. Church School begins at 10 am each Sunday (unless otherwise noted).

MISSION STATEMENT

*We welcome all to worship and nurture spiritual growth
through faith, grace and reason.*

*We reach out to those in need as a caring community &
live Christ's teaching to love one another.*

COMMUNION IN THIS CHURCH

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table in the Episcopal Church. If you are visiting, and have received Communion in your own parish, then please share in the sacrament with our parish. Gluten-free hosts are available. If you are not baptized, you are welcome to ask for a blessing.

GUESTS

A cordial welcome to St. James Parish. Please fill out a Welcome Card in the narthex and place it in the collection plate or hand it to an usher. We invite you to sign our guest book as you leave the church.

THE CHURCH IS ALWAYS OPEN FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

The Parish Office is open Monday–Friday, 9 am–2 pm.
Our Sunday worship services are held at 8 am and 10:15 am.



St. James Parish

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www.stjamesfarmington.org

The Rev. George C. Roberts, Rector

The Rev. Douglas Engwall, *Deacon*
Blake Hansen, *Director of Music*

Susan Deming, *Parish Administrator*
Anthony Nauss, *Sexton*
Kim McLaurin, *Nursery Supervisor*

OFFICERS

Kim Faubert & Anna Whilby, *Wardens*
EJ Ososki, *Treasurer*

Carol Kirkwood, *Clerk*
Jerry Hess, *Ass't Treasurer*

VESTRY

2023
Kim Faubert
Maina Rice
Anna Whilby

2024
Kathy Bullard
Bonnie Sudell
Bob Sudell

2025
Mary Lansing
Skip Mason
Kim Pereira