

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Holy Eucharist Rite II
March 30, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

St. James' Episcopal Church, Potomac, Maryland

Facemasks are available in the entrance for those who wish to wear them.

Help us save paper! Share this bulletin with a neighbor in your pew, or view it online using the code at right or the link in your Sunday email.



Welcome and Prelude

Processional Hymn "The King of love my shepherd is" Hymn 645, vss. 1, 3, 5, 6
(stand) **Dylan Nohilly, hymn leader**

Opening Sentences (stand)

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **God's mercy endures for ever.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Kyrie (stand)

Franz Schubert

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have

mer - cy, have mer - cy.

The Word of God

The Collect of the Day *(stand)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

All **Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The First Lesson *(sit)*

Joshua 5:9-12

Sandy Soundararajan

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 32

Sandy Soundararajan

*The leader may choose for all to read in unison,
or responsively by verse or breaking at the asterisk.*

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you
in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you.”
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The Second Lesson (*sit*)

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Nathan Meselebe

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn (*stand*)

“Amazing grace”

Hymn 671

vss. 1-3 before Gospel, vs. 4 after

The Holy Gospel (*stand*)

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So Jesus told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon (*sit*)

The Rev. Meredith T. Heffner

The Nicene Creed (*stand*)

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 he 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.

Prayers of the People (*stand*)

Trish Powell

Adapted from Praying the Scriptures

Leader Having been reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us pray, "Lord, embrace us with your mercy; *accept our prayer.*"

Gracious God, you have entrusted to your Church the ministry of reconciliation. Reconcile our members to you and to each other, and then work through us to embrace the world. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Mariann, our Bishop; Meredith, James, and Catherine, our priests; for this gathering; and for all who minister in your Church.

Silence

People Lord, embrace us with your mercy;
Accept our prayer.

We pray for our parish ministries; for our Care for Creation team, St. James' Children's School, the Bishop Walker School, and our partner church and school in Haiti, Bon Samaritain Parish, L 'Acul.

See stjamespotomac.org/parish-ministries.

Silence

Lord, embrace us with your mercy;
Accept our prayer.

Leader Open our hearts to welcome our neighbors as you welcome us. Give us eyes to see others as you see them.

Silence

People Lord, embrace us with your mercy;
Accept our prayer.

Jesus, you are the true bread that gives life to the world: evermore give us the bread that satisfies our bodies and souls.

Silence

Lord, embrace us with your mercy;
Accept our prayer.

We pray, O God, for families. Restore broken relationships. Heal those who have suffered betrayal and alienation. Comfort those for whom reconciliation in this life is not possible.

Silence

Lord, embrace us with your mercy;
Accept our prayer.

You, O God, are a hiding place for those in trouble: you deliver the oppressed; you forgive the guilty; you roll away the disgrace of your people. We make our prayers to you for those in trouble. We pray for people living with mental illness and those who love them; for all on our parish prayer list, especially _____; and for those we now lift in prayer, silently or aloud.

*See bulletin back page for mental health resources.
Parish prayer list may be found in bulletin announcements.*

The people may add their own petitions.

Lord, embrace us with your mercy;
Accept our prayer.

Holy Jesus, it is our prayer that you may live in us, and we in you, both in this mortal life and for all eternity.

Silence

Lord, embrace us with your mercy;
Accept our prayer.

Celebrant O Lord, your mercy endures forever. Hear the prayers of your people, and grant us the strength and the courage to walk in your ways, all the days of our lives. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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.**

The Peace (*stand, remaining at your pew*)

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Announcements (*sit*)

The Holy Eucharist

Offertory Sentence (*sit*)

Ephesians 5:2

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Scan the code at right to give to St. James' online at stjamespotomac.org/donate.



NOTE: Pledges can be changed or paused if needed in these turbulent times by contacting the office, office@stjamespotomac.org. We love you no matter what.

Offertory Anthem

“Wondrous Love”
from *Walker's Southern Harmony*
St. James' Singers

arr. by Carson Cooman

Offerings for Manna Food Center are brought forward during the presentation hymn. You are invited to contribute non-perishable items to our food basket located in the church entrance each Sunday.

Presentation Hymn (*stand*) “All Things Are Thine”

All things are thine: no gifts_ have we, Lord of all gifts to of - fer thee;
And hence with grate - ful hearts to - day_ thine own be - fore_ thy feet_ we lay.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP, pp. 361-363

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
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, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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:

Sanctus (*Celebrant and People*)

Franz Schubert

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, —

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, —

hea - ven and earth are full, — full — of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes — in the name of the Lord. — Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel

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 maker of all. Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Celebrant 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:



We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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.



And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All

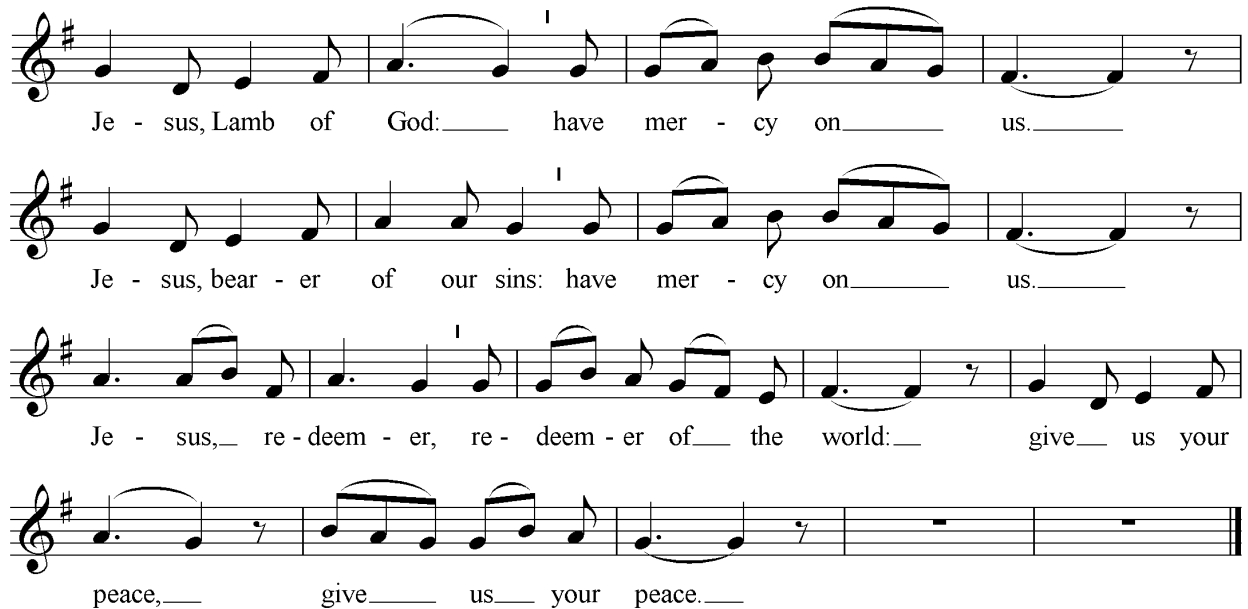
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Agnus Dei

Franz Schubert



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world: give us your

peace, give us your peace.

Celebrant Let us pray together.

All **We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, who always delights in showing mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this sacrament of your son Jesus Christ, that we may walk in newness of life, and may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Please follow the ushers' guidance to receive Holy Eucharist at the altar.

All are welcome at the Lord's table. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, you may cross your arms over your chest and the clergy will bless you. If you prefer not to receive wine, you may touch the base of the chalice as the words are spoken, or request grape juice from the server.

If you prefer intinction as we share the common cup, you are invited to hand your wafer to the Lay Eucharist Minister when they offer the wine, and they will dip it for you. Having only one person intinct keeps the cup more sanitary for all of us.

If you are uncomfortable partaking of wine or juice, you may abstain. To honor the Blood of Christ, you are welcome to touch the chalice as the wine is offered. Communion in one kind (bread only) is full communion.

Prayers of Comfort and Healing

You are invited to bring your concerns to the altar rail for prayer and the laying on of hands.

Prayer Hymn

“O Lord hear my pray’r”

Psalm 102

Jacques Berthier, Taizé

O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r. When I call, an - swer me. O
 Lord hear my pray'r. O Lord hear my pray'r. Come and lis - ten to me. O

Fine

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Post Communion Prayer (*stand*)

Celebrant Let us pray together.

All **Eternal God, 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 (*stand*)

Book of Occasional Services

Celebrant Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn “Love divine, all loves excelling”

Hymn 657

Dismissal (*stand*)

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

All are invited for fellowship and refreshments in the parish hall immediately following the service. **Newcomers, welcome!** Please introduce yourself to the clergy and learn about the many ways God is working at St. James’.

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Ministry Minute: Care for Creation

St. James' Care for Creation (CfC) team is committed to promoting respectful care for God's creation, particularly through working toward climate justice.

Current projects include installing solar panels on the parish hall roof, planting native plants and removing invasive species from our parish grounds, and providing opportunities for service—such as our **Church Yard Beautification Day, this Saturday! Join us between 9 a.m. and noon**, bring your gloves, and help make our church grounds beautiful for Easter Sunday.

The CfC team participates in ongoing advocacy in support of climate justice initiatives with Action in Montgomery, Interfaith Power and Light, and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake.

We welcome all who are interested in this work! The committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. **Our next meeting is April 15.** If you would like to learn more about this ministry or attend a meeting, please contact Rev. Catherine, catherine@stjamespotomac.org.

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2025 CHURCHES OF SEVEN LOCKS:
Lenten Bible study

Theme: Our Christian Values / Pillars of Faith

4/2 - Seven Locks Baptist: Scripture Study
4/9 - TBD Wrap-Up

Schedule

6:30 pm | Meal
7:00-8:00 pm | Program

About Today's Music

by Newton Lewis, St. James' Music Director

I am amazed that the quintessential American hymn, "Amazing Grace," did not appear in an Episcopal hymnal until the present 1982 edition! The text and tune have appeared in American hymnals for over 150 years. Our *Hymnal Companion* points out that "there is an incredible poignancy in the fact that the author, John Newton, was once a slave-ship captain and that this hymn continues to be sung with intensity by the descendants of those who were shipped as cargo in slave ships like Newton's, as well as by descendants of the ships owners."

The text first appeared in *Olney Hymns* in 1779. Like many of Newton's texts, there is an autobiographical element referring to his conversion to Christ and turning away from his sinful life of which being a slave trader was just a part, and thanking God's guiding grace in his life.

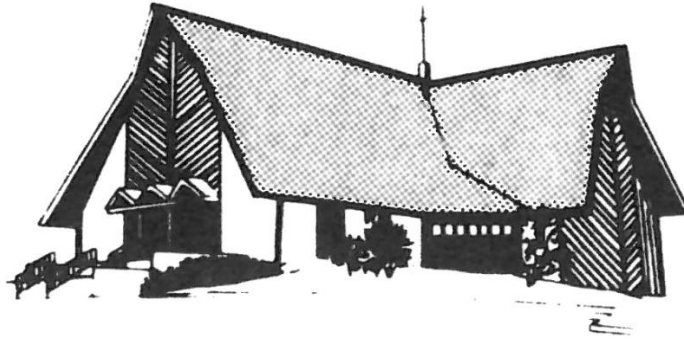
The tune now associated with this text first appeared in a shape note book, *Columbia Harmony* (Cincinnati, 1829). It continued to appear in many of the "Harmony" books so popular in the early 19th century. In 1835 the text and tune appeared together for the first time in *Southern Harmony* published in New Haven, Connecticut and given the name NEW BRITAIN, another city in Connecticut. Ever since it has been in every denominational hymnal in the US (except ours until 1982). It has been translated into many languages, adapted to many cultural styles, sung and recorded by major artists across generations, and the subject of documentaries. It is probably one of the top iconic hymns of all time.



Special Worship Music

April 6	Leah Arsenault Barrick, flute playing music of Bach, Handel, Faure, and Bloch
April 13	Palm Sunday! St. James' Ringers
April 20	Easter Sunday! St. James' Singers and Friends with Festival Brass

Raising the Roof



Help Us Raise the Roof! Give Today!

We're More than Halfway to our Roof Replacement Goal

Our Vestry has approved \$450,000 to replace the roof and upgrade our drainage. Thanks to Don and Isabelle Schuessler, we have \$254,000 to apply to the cost of the project. Although we have a good bit of money in the bank, we'd like to try to raise the remaining \$196,000. In just the first few days of this effort, we've already received contributions from parishioners totaling about \$8,000! If you have already given, thank you.

We are accepting gifts of any size toward this project. They can be pledged over time or given in lump sums. Gifts of appreciated securities are also welcome (contact treasurer@stjamespotomac.org).

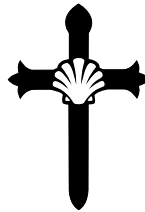
- Please make checks to St. James' noted for "Roof."
- Give online at stjamespotomac.org/donate (or scan the code at right) and enter "Roof" in the "Designation" box.
- Pledge for 2025 toward this project at stjamespotomac.org/make-a-pledge.



Finally, if you are experiencing any employment or economic uncertainty and can't contribute right now, please know we understand. Your prayers and moral support are a blessing by themselves!



stjamespotomac.org



St. James' Episcopal Church

11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD 20854

The Mission of St. James' : To bring people together to be transformed by and to proclaim Christ's love through worship, spiritual formation, and service.

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Vestry 2025

Wardens

Dawn Iype,
Senior Warden/Worship
Courtney King,
Junior Warden/Facilities

Officers

Tracy Lively, Treasurer
Sheryl Cooper, Secretary

Members

Yemi Agboola – Racial Justice
DeAtley Barish – Mental Health
Jennifer Gartin – Fellowship
Adam Govia – Care for Creation
Amy Black Metcalf – Communication
Jennifer Nordin – Administration,
Christian Formation

Ann Venton – Finance
Walter Weaver – Mission & Outreach

Convention Representatives

Delegates: Laurence Canete, Sarah Hnatov
Alternates: Carolyn Ragland,
Dan Zimmerman

St. James' has discerned a call to mental health ministries. If you are ever in crisis, a 24-hour response is offered at the Montgomery County Crisis Center: 240-777-4000. OR call the National Crisis Hotline: 988