




St. James
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026



The Rev. Dr. Jerald W. Hyche
Rector

Jane Bates
Parish Administrator

Greg Nunn
Organist

Lacy Young
St. James School Director

Juanita Siller
Sexton

Welcome!

We are glad you are worshipping with us today!

If you're visiting for the first (or second, or third...) time, please sign our guest book near the door of the church, or take a moment to fill out one of the CONNECT cards in the pew and place it in the offering plate. I would love to learn more about you and answer any questions you have about St. James and The Episcopal Church.

Thanks for joining us today. Our celebration of God's work in the world today is made that much better by your being here.

Peace,

The Rev. Dr. Jerald W. Hyche, Rector



Please silence your mobile phone.



Child care for children up to 3 years old is available in the nursery across the breezeway in the Parish Hall building.



Assisted-hearing devices are available from the ushers.



Through the penitential season of Lent, we adorn the altar with greenery instead of flowers. In the meantime, you still can make a donation of \$75 to cover the cost of altar flowers for Easter Sunday and beyond by contacting the Church Office or clicking "GIVE" on the church website.

**1803 Highland Hollow Drive
Conroe, Texas 77304
(936) 756-8831
www.stjames-conroe.org**

The Holy Eucharist

*According to the Book of Common Prayer
+ said or sung by the congregation*

Prelude

What a Friend We Have in Jesus, Emma Lou Diemer

The Word of God

As the bell is rung, please stand for the hymn in procession.

+Hymn In Procession — No. 147 *Now Let Us All With One Accord*

The Penitential Order

Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

+God's mercy endureth for ever.

Seeing that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14,16*

The Confession

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

+Almighty and most merciful Father,

we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,

we have followed too much the devices

and desires of our own hearts,

we have offended against thy holy laws,

we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,

and we have done those things

which we ought not to have done.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,

spare thou those who confess their faults,

restore thou those who are penitent,

according to thy promises declared unto mankind

in Christ Jesus our Lord;

and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,

that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,

to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Absolution

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **+Amen.**

Lord have mercy.

+Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

+And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **+Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Lesson

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of

its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Word of the Lord.

+Thanks be to God.

+Psalm 32



- 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 Lesson

Romans 5:12-19

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

+Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the singing of the hymn.

+Sequence Hymn— No. 143 *O Wonderous Type! O Vision Fair*

◆Verses 1-2 before the Gospel ◆Verse 3 after the Gospel

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

+Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

+Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Andrea Polvino

Please stand as you are able.

+The Nicene Creed

**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.**

Please kneel or remain standing as you are able.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do Confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andrew, Jeff, Kai, Hector, and Brian, the bishops of Texas; Jerald, our Rector; and to all bishops and ministers; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald our President, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of James and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **+Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
+And with thy spirit.

The Holy Communion

Music at the Offertory

Prayer of St. Francis
Allen Pote

Please stand as you are able.

+The Presentation Hymn

The Eighth Tune

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.***

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I

The Lord be with you.
+And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.
+We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
+It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God...

Here a proper preface is said.

...Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**+Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.**

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption...

— the Presider continues —

...through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **+AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

+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

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

+Therefore let us keep the feast.

Let us pray.

+We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation

All who seek God are welcome at Christ's table.

To receive the sacrament, come forward and stand or kneel at the rail.

***To receive the wine, you may sip directly from the chalice
or intinct, or dip, the wafer into the chalice***

For a gluten-free wafer, put one arm across your chest.

For a blessing only, cross your arms across your chest.

***If you are unable to come forward, notify an usher
and the sacrament will be brought to you.***

Music at the Communion — No. 559

Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

The Post Communion Prayer

+Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

Please stand for the hymn in procession.

+Hymn In Procession — No. 448

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

The Dismissal

+Thanks be to God.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Say what?

Things Jesus said that make us uncomfortable

Sundays, February 15 — March 15, 9:30-10:15 in the parish hall

A six-week exploration of how Jesus dismantles our false supports—and invites us into real life with God. **Led by Travis Wernecke.**



Coffee hour after worship

Hosted by the Greeters

Everyone is invited to stay after worship for coffee hour.

Come, make connections, have a cup of coffee (and/or other refreshment)!

He-Brews Fellowship

after service at B-52 Brewery, 12470 Milroy Ln

Gather with families and friends to reflect on the Sunday readings while enjoying local craft brew (or house made lemonade or root beer). Food trucks and other outdoor activities will be there — hope you will be, too!



Supper Club deadline today!

Beginning in March, we will launch the next session of Supper Club. This is a great way to get to know fellow parishioners and enjoy each other's company. Once during the session (March, April, May, June) you will host and provide the entrée for 6 to 8 people. The other months you will bring a side or dessert for the potluck meal. This is for adults only, but both singles and couples are welcome. **To sign up or for more information, contact Nancy Small at (936) 242-9002 or nancy.small22@gmail.com by today, Sunday, February 22.**

february 25—march 25

WHOLY WEDNESDAYS

~~WALKING~~ TOGETHER THROUGH LENT
Driving!



6 p.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Supper

7-8 p.m. Program

Adult Program



Jesus walked to Jerusalem, but we will make the journey in a modern, yet still-quite-meaningful, way – by hitting the open highway, rolling down the windows, and cranking up the tunes. With Jesus and a gang of other road-trippers along for the ride — both biblical and contemporary — who knows?

Our long drive to Easter could be just as good as getting there.

Led by Fr. Jerald.

Youth Program

Faith, Friends, Fun!

We will grow in faith, strengthen our relationships with each other, and learn ways to joyfully serve our Lord, having a blast and earning a meaningful religious award at the end! **Coordinator: Kacie LeGaye.**

(No youth program on March 11 during spring break)

St. James APPS!



Our St. James Church App brings everything St. James to your fingertips – find out about upcoming events, ministry opportunities, sign up to serve on Sundays, and give with the touch of a tab.

Get The Church App at your App Store, and search for St. James Episcopal Church Conroe.



Our Instant Church Directory App is just what it says – a directory that includes photographs and contact information for all active parishioners. Want to put a name to a face, reach out to someone in prayer, assemble a team for ministry? Just click here!

Get the Instant Church Directory App at your App Store, enter your email as listed in our church records, create a password, and you're in!

For further assistance, email info@stjames-conroe.org.

coming up

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Contemplating the Beatitudes Through Lent

Monday evenings, February 23-March 2 and March 16-30 in the Church. (No meeting on March 9).

All are invited to this Lenten series centered on the Beatitudes. Each week, we will share silence with God and each other, entering Christ's vision of the blessed life, verse by verse. Participants choose the prayer posture best suited for them (seated in pews or chairs, or on your own cushion or mat). The heart of the practice is unbroken silence, so this gathering is limited to adults and youth who can remain silent for at least 30 minutes.

Time for questions and dialogue is from **7-7:15 p.m.** At **7:17 p.m.**, we will enter into our thirty-minute practice, beginning with a short reading and simple song, followed by 20 minutes of silent contemplative prayer, and **departing at 7:47 p.m.** in silence.

Ministers of the Day

Ushers

Tom Rightmer, Kevin Tucker

Greeter

Susan Bacon

Eucharistic Ministers

Chris Tassos, Melinda Zuber

Acolytes

Lissy Wernecke,

Kayelynn Powell

Olivia Powell

Lector

Lee Ann Foulger

Videographer

Travis Wernecke

Vestry of the Day

Martha Low, John Rothwell