

**A Service of Reception and Holy Eucharist
In Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Founding of St. James Church
June 21, 2026 ~ 11:00 am
St. James Episcopal Church, Woodstock, Vermont**

Prelude: *Fugue in E-flat, "St. Anne" (BWV 552)* - J. S. Bach
Dr. James E. Lorenz, Director of Music

Hymn 525 The Church's One Foundation (*Aurelia*)

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|---|---|
| 1. The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died. | yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song. |
| 2. Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued. | 4. Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest. |
| 3. Though with a scornful wonder
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed; | 5. Yet she on earth hath union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee. |

The people standing, the Bishop says

People Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Bishop then continues

There is one Body and one Spirit;

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

Gloria in Excelsis

S280, *The Hymnal 1982*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Bishop God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Bishop Let us pray.

Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: we give you thanks for the fellowship of those who have worshiped in this place, and we pray that all who seek you here may find you, and be filled with your joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you

and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Psalm 84

BCP, page 707

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.

- 12 O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!

The Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:1-5, 9-10

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation - if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gradual Hymn 289 Our Father, By Whose Servants (Wolvercote)

1. Our Father, by whose servants our house was built of old,
whose hand hath crowned her children with blessings manifold,
for thine unfailing mercies far strewn along our way,
with all who passed before us, we praise thy Name today.

2. The changeful years unresting their silent course have sped,
new comrades ever bringing in comrades' steps to tread:
and some are long forgotten, long spent their hopes and fears;
safe rest they in thy keeping, who changest not with years.

3. They reap not where they labored; we reap what they have sown:
our harvest may be garnered by ages yet unknown.
the days of old have dowered us with gifts beyond all praise:
our Father, make us faithful to serve the coming days.

The Gospel: Matthew 21:12-16

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

***People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a den of robbers."

The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?'"

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown

The Presentation and Examination of the Candidate

BCP, page 415

The congregation remains seated.

The Bishop says

The Candidate(s) will now be presented.

Presenters I present *these persons* for Confirmation.

or I present *these persons* to be received into this Communion.

or I present these persons who *desire* to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

The Bishop asks the candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate I do.

Bishop

Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate

I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

People We will.

The Bishop then says these or similar words

Let us join with him who is committing himself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

BCP, page 304

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

People 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.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People 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.

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

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidate

BCP, page 305

The Bishop then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for this person who has renewed his commitment to Christ.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open his heart to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Silence may be kept.

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in this your servant the covenant you made with him at his Baptism. Send him forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before him; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Bishop lays hands upon each candidate and says

For Reception

N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. *Amen.*

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over this your servant; let your Holy Spirit ever be with him; and so lead him in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that he may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem: *I Was Glad* – C.H.H. Parry

The Doxology: Hymn 380, vs. 3

Old 100th

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer 1 (*Enriching Our Worship*)

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.**

The Celebrant continues

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body.

Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus: S129, The Hymnal 1982

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with [_____ and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Fraction Anthem: *Agnus Dei* (S163, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him
in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Those unable to receive communion in person today are invited to say the following
Prayer of Spiritual Communion.*

*In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where
your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly my own
parish and those worshipping there, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for
creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life,
death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.*

*And particularly for the blessings given me.... I believe that you are truly present in the
Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come
into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and
my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your
grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.*

(SOURCE:

*<https://news.forwardmovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Spiritual-Communion.pdf>
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Music during Communion

Communion Anthem: *The Best of Rooms* - Randall Thompson

Postcommunion Prayer

Bishop: Let us pray.

Bishop and People

**God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

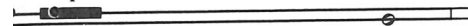
Episcopal Blessing

Bishop



Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

People



The maker of heaven and earth.

Bishop



Blessed be the Name of the Lord;

People



From this time forth for ever - more.

: Bishop sings the blessing.

Hymn 518 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (*Westminster Abbey*)

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

2. All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

3. To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted lovingkindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.

4. Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee, for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

Dismissal

BCP, page 366

Postlude: *Carillon* - Louis Vierne
Dr. James E. Lorenz, Director of Music

Historical note on today's service:

During this week in 1826, the newly formed parish of St. James received its first episcopal visitor, the Rt. Rev. Alexander Viets Griswold, who oversaw the so-called Eastern Diocese (which included Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire) at that time. The Convention Journal for 1826 includes the first mention of St. James in that context. It notes that, "... there are favorable indications that the Lord is rendering the humble administration of the Gospel effectual in leading souls to the knowledge of the Savior."

Bishop Griswold, in his address to the 1826 Vermont diocesan convention, described the people he met in Woodstock as, "respectable in point both in numbers and character, and what is still more encouraging, they appear to be prudent, united, and zealous... We had the most pleasing proof of their being much in earnest, in the large number who assembled for worship and the devout attention which they gave to the services of the day."

We give thanks to God for 200 years of life as the people of St. James, Woodstock, the inheritance of the spirit of our founders, and joyfully look forward to continuing to serve our neighbors as we enter our third century.

The Collect of the Day, and the readings chosen for this service, are those appointed for the Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church.