

Prayer Requests - Let us be prayerful and faithful in the attention given to the sick and shut-in members and friends of St. James Presbyterian Church. **Please see one of our deacons or session members for more information.** We are praying for you: Ruling Elder Dorothy Green, Ruling Elder Eric Williams, Dr. Frank Lasala, Mrs. Doris Kelsey, Mrs. Ethel Lee, Mrs. Mary Sespedes, Elder Kalua Malau Morrison, Patricia "Pat" Irving, *Gloria Rhynie*, Gwen Daniels, Phillip, Star D as he continues his transition, Sunday Simmons, Jahya, Deacon Kenneth Ambrose, Lesly Jones and her son Rennick, Stephen Smart, Charles Davis, Phyllis Glory, Joyce Kouassi, Gwendolyn Terrell, Brenda Maxwell Ferebee, Cathy and her daughter Brittany, our community, all who are grieving, and whoever is on your heart.

Members of St. James, please remember to keep your tithes and offerings current. You can also sign up for a recurring offering or donations to our ministries via our website's PayPal button or QR code. For more information on setting up a monthly online offering, please speak to the pastor or a member of the Finance Committee. Approximately \$60 is assessed for our church per member —The Finance/Stewardship Committees.

12 What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? ~ Psalm 116.

Are you feeling called to make St. James your church home?

If you would like to join or have a conversation about becoming a member, please join us for coffee hour and speak to one of our elders or deacons. Ask about our affiliate membership too! We welcome everyone to consider making St James Presbyterian Church their church home.



St. James Presbyterian Church (USA)
Reverend Derrick W. McQueen, Ph. D., Serving as Pastor
Ruling Elder Sevilla Hughes, Clerk of Session
Musician: Ruling Elder Oscar Maxwell III
Liturgist: Ruling Elder Andréa Bradford
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St. James Presbyterian Church (USA)

*"Serving the Kingdom of God for One Hundred and Twenty- Nine Years
in the City of New York."*

March 16, 2025

The Second in Lent (Year C)

Women's Day

Celebrating the Gifts of Women



*The Raising of Dorcas by Saint Peter, final sketch, Violet Oakley.
La Salle University Art Museum, Philadelphia, PA*

Come, Let Us Worship Together • All Are Welcome

409 West 141st & Street & St. Nicholas Avenue, New York, NY 10031-6400

Order of Service

Prelude

RE Oscar Maxwell, III

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 27

***Call to Worship**

RE Andrea Bradford

One: In the morning of creation, the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters and whispered, “Come, you are welcome in this place.”

All: In the dry and desperate desert seeking freedom, the daughters of Miriam danced, water burst out of the rock and Holy Wisdom beckoned: “Come, you are welcome in this place.”

One: By the waters of Babylon, exiles wept bitter tears and could not find their voices, the Spirit of justice spoke: “Come, you who long for home, you are welcome in this place.”

All: Out of the River Jordan, where the prophet called, brother Jesus arose, dripping, from the waters of baptism, calling: “Come and follow me—you are welcome in this place.”

One: Near the crystal river that flows through the new Jerusalem the Spirit and the bride say,

All: “Come, all you who are thirsty and drink, and know you are welcome in this place.” Let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn**

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

PH 343

Prayer of Adoration

RE Andréa Bradford

In the beauty of holiness, we rest in our thankfulness for your goodness. As we work to build the ministries you place in our hearts, we bask in your support of our hopes and our spirits’ dreams.

You embrace us in our worship and shield us from temptation if we but ask. How right and precious it is to be where you are!

Musical Response

“Come Sunday”

Duke Ellington

Call to Confession (Remain Seated)

RE Andréa Bradford

Standing on your promise to be our God and for us to be your people, we often test the bounds of our covenant together. Hear our confession today, that we may be brought into union with you.

Confession

Weaver God, we come to you, or—more the truth—you find us, disconnected and out of sorts. We are disheartened by our failures, discouraged by our weakness, and little that we do seems worthy of your grace. Restore our fortunes. Restore our future. Weave for us the tapestry on which our lives are stretched. Give us patience. We look too closely, seeing only strands and knots and snarled threads of too-much-trying or none-at-all. Grant us eyes to see the whole of which we are a part. In the end, we ask for gentleness with ourselves, acceptance of our less than perfect ways. We pray that what we do and what you weave form patterns clear to all, of mercy in the warp of it and love throughout. Amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

Annie S. Hawkes

There will be group Bible Study this Monday, March 17, 2025. Please visit YouTube at St. James Presbyterian Church Harlem NYC or our Facebook page @stjamespresbyterianchurch141 for recorded group study and analysis for next week’s lectionary.

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, March 23, 2024, the Third Sunday in Lent (Year C)

- **First Reading** Isaiah 55.1-9
- **Psalm** Psalm 63.1-8
- **Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 10.1-13
- **Gospel** Luke 13.1-9

From My Mom to You ~ “Do not live someone else’s life and someone else’s idea of what womanhood is. Womanhood is you.”

~ Viola Davis

Today the St. James Presbyterian Women are celebrating Women’s Day on Sunday, March 16, 2025 during morning worship. The Rev. Dr. Mary Newbern Williams, Transitional Presbyter of the Presbytery of New York City will be the guest in the pulpit. Please do come out and bring a friend as we lift up the gifts of women in their Holy Spirit inspiration, devotion to Christ, and service to God. Welcome Rev. Mary!!! We will share more of her biography during the service.

We share a “Welcome Home” to Ramona Renea, known to us as “Ramona Dunlap”, our featured guest musician today. Social media calls her, “the sultry jazz/soul vocal phenom” and “the incomparable songstress.” And ReverbNation writes of this in her biography, “Ramona’s spectacular vocal talents emerged naturally while singing in a musical family. At a young age, she connected to the emotional qualities in music. Throughout her youth, she cultivated a variety of singing styles. As a result, her unique voice emerged powerful, yet subtle and controlled. In Ramona’s voice you will hear soul, jazz, gospel, and blues interwoven in ways that put her in a class all her own. As a natural talent with extensive vocal experiences, she has such range, depth, and maturity that is much needed in today’s popular music ! Hear her and you will become mesmerized with the soulful stylings of RAMONA!” And let us not forget, Ramon is the proud mother of a teenage son who has grown into a talented young man.

*Please Join us in our Ministries
Here are a just a few . . .*

<i>Stewardship</i>	<i>Scholarship</i>	<i>Christian Education</i>
<i>Worship and Music</i>	<i>Nominations</i>	<i>Community Partnerships</i>
<i>Buildings and Grounds</i>	<i>Outreach</i>	<i>Personnel</i>
<i>Weavers of Faith</i>	<i>Fundraising</i>	<i>Entertainment</i>

St. James Presbyterian Church (USA), Community Life,
March 09, 2024

Welcome to Worship at St. James, a warm, friendly, open, and affirming Christian congregation. We have faithfully served this community and the City of New York for 129 years. If you are visiting with us, we pray that our fellowship today will bless you. Here at St. James, we hope you will find the presence of the Spirit, the people of God, and the Word lived in faith and works.

Did you know you can schedule your weekly or monthly pledge through PayPal?

This convenient online giving portal can be found on our website at www.stjamesharlemnyc.org or you can just scan the QR code below. You are welcome to join in sponsoring the ministry of St. James.



Building Upkeep. Did you know that in 1904, 120 years ago, the construction of this sanctuary began on this corner? Still Standing today, we are grateful that God provides! The Building and Grounds Committee thanks everyone who continuously shares to support the work needed in our beautiful church. Donations are always welcomed and should specify that your gift is for Buildings and Grounds. The Session and Buildings and Grounds Committee will be sharing our plans over the next six months to help our beloved sanctuary continue serving this neighborhood.

In gratitude always,
Harriet Ray/Moderator, Building and Grounds

To join our worship at St. James virtually visit our website's calendar page or log onto Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/974313964> or call 646-558-8656, Meeting ID 974 313 964.

St. James members, we ask that you prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to serve the church. Perhaps you want to help reach out to our sick and shut-in members. Maybe you'd like to learn how to lead a church committee. There are openings in both the session and the deacons. If you'd like to learn more, don't hesitate to get in touch with Rev. McQueen. After prayerful discernment and counsel, there may be a way forward to help serve!

Assurance of Pardon

Good people, most royal greening verdancy, rooted in the sun you shine with radiant light. In this circle of earthly existence, you shine so finely, it surpasses understanding. God hugs you.

Siblings in Christ, children of creation, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Musical Response

"He Has Done Great Things for Me"

Jessy Dixon

RE Andréa Bradford

Community Life

Peace of Christ

Determined to keep on blessing people despite the threats from the empire, Christ's actions bestowed his peace on a weary people. May this peace of Christ be with you.

And also, with you.

RE Andréa Bradford

In Memoriam--We Remember

Rita Stewart

Prayer of Illumination

With utter sincerity our hearts say, "we seek the wisdom of the Word." We pray it may be so. Amen.

Scripture

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Second Reading

Acts 9:36-43

Gospel

Luke 13:31-35

Let the Children Come

"The Safety of the Outstretched Wings"

Special Music

"Rise Up"
Guest Soloist

Andra Day
Ramona Renea

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Mary Newbern-Williams

Lord's Prayer

"Womanist Lord's Prayer"

Rev. Yolanda Norton

***Congregational Hymn**

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

Doris Akers

Prayers of and for the People

Offering

Doxology

Offertory Prayer

***Closing Hymn**

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

Negro Spiritual

***Benediction**

***Musical Amen**

Postlude

The End of Worship, the Beginning of Service

Stewardship for 2025 “Ministry Impact Giving”

"Ministry Impact Stories." We want people who give to recognize that we have bills to pay—25K+ per year for insurance, 3-4K per month in the winter for heat and electricity, etc. But we are more than just the bills we pay. St. James is honored to have over twenty active community partners with whom we actively engage.

As you pray and discern how you would like to invest in the impact of the ministries of St. James for 2024, we encourage you to think about what it means to give 1/10th of your earnings as a tithe. Here are just a few ways your gifts are making an impact in the world:

- ◆ We have built community partnerships that are in conversations to keep drug dealers out of St. Nicholas Park and to keep addressing gun violence.
- ◆ We have created community goodwill among neighbors of all cultures with the year-round follow-up of ministry after the Annual Multi-Cultural Festival held outside our doors.
- ◆ We are a key voice in the conversation of equitable development in our neighborhood and for partnerships for sustainable community use of worship spaces.
- ◆ We support the hundreds of community youth participating in the basketball tournaments sponsored by Harlem Up N Coming (Team HUNC) every summer. We have been the face of community support for youth that works to get academic honors to match their athletic pursuits and are their prayer partner in the community.
- ◆ We are grateful to have helped countless families deal with addiction and recovery formerly serving as host for a weekly 12 Step meeting for over 45 years.
- ◆ We have opened our doors to hundreds of international visitors who have shared the power of this worship service in their lives around the world.
- ◆ We have created a safe and bold space for our youth to grow in their faith and walk with moral courage in the world.
- ◆ Among our community partners is the Harlem Academy.
- ◆ We model a bold liturgy to be a prayerful keepsake for your spiritual life.
- ◆ We offer a diverse array of music traditions that speak to the Holy Spirit's call on our worship life.
- ◆ St. James is the first African American Presbyterian Church in NYC to be open and affirming to ALL God's children.
- ◆ St. James carries the tradition of our mother church, Shiloh Presbyterian, the first African American Presbyterian Church in the City of New York founded in 1822 to serve God's cause of justice with the abolition of slavery.

These are just a few things we do at St. James Presbyterian Church! Please consider these things as you answer the call, "How can I be a part of St. James' Ministry Impact?"

Blessings to you all!

What does it mean to be a Presbyterian, a member, or an affiliate member of St. James?

Please seek out Rev. McQueen or an Elder at any time. It would be a pleasure to speak with anyone about what it means to worship in a Presbyterian church as a member!

Please take a look at our updated website. On the calendar tab you will find all of the Zoom links for our activities, meetings, and services. On the site you will also find an active link to our YouTube page and news about our community involvement activities.

Please visit and subscribe to our Social Media! Log into YouTube on your device and search for "St. James Presbyterian Church Harlem NYC". You can also join us on Facebook at St. James.


Please consider your 2025 Stewardship Pledge. You can send this to the church address Attn: Finance Committee.

St. James Prayer Break Gathering meets Tuesdays, 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm. Please see website's calendar page for more information. You may also contact the church, 212-283-4541 or the pastor.


St. James Presbyterian Church warmly invites you to embark on a meaningful Lenten journey of reflection, fellowship, and nourishment—both spiritual and physical. Our text this week is John 5.30-47.

 **Food for the Lenten Journey: Sacred Texts, Soup, and Spirit** 

Fridays at 7:00 PM – 7:45 PM


 March 7 | March 14 | March 21 | March 28 | April 4 | April 11

Join us **in person** at St. James or **virtually** via Zoom from the comfort of your home as we break bread together, engage with sacred texts, and share in the spirit of community.

 **We'll provide the Soup & Bread!**

Feel free to bring your favorite soda or juice, a cheese board, or a dessert to share.

Come as you are, and let's journey through Lent together in faith, food, and fellowship.

 **Location:** St. James Presbyterian Church | Zoom Link Available Upon Request

We look forward to sharing this sacred time with you! Please contact the pastor for more information at pastor141@verizon.net.

Liturgical prayers prepared by Rev. Derrick McQueen, Ph. D., 2025 © And today's liturgy also includes excerpts and adaptations of the Horizon's magazine service of worship for the Presbyterian Women of the PCUSA's "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" resource, written by the Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus in 2024.