

# St. James' E-pistle

## Date of Sunday Service: January 28, 2018

### Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

#### Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This Sunday is our Annual Meeting. As a reminder, we have **ONE SERVICE** and it is at **9:00 AM**.

Each year, someone asks what the point of the Annual Meeting is and why they should attend. After all, they are just boring business.

Actually, they are the essence of what it means to be community. Or family. They are the time when we worship together but also share what we've been doing, what we hope for the future, offer appreciation for each other, and wrestle with some of the brass tacks like money. No community or family can exist without those things.

And no community can claim to be healthy without the community's participation. If we don't know or care what we're doing, then our relationship is fairly shallow, no? If we don't offer appreciation for the contributions of each other, then we miss out on some of the real blessings of community. And if we don't care about the nitty gritty of operating the community, aren't we merely spectators?

No, real community, real family, needs real participation.

So at this Annual Meeting, we will offer thanks to those who serve, we will elect new members of the Vestry, we will hear reports and hopes, and we will approve a budget for the coming year. No little thing. In fact, a big thing - essential even to the life of any community. Our community.

So this Sunday, please remember to worship at 9:00 AM. Then be sure to make your way to the Parish House for the business portion. We won't keep you all day, but the time you spend will be worth it.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

## Candidates for Vestry

Candidates for Vestry are asked to provide a brief biographical sketch so that parishioners can know them better before voting. Below are those biographical sketches. Four positions are open, but one of the four positions is to fill an unexpired term of two years. The individual with the fewest votes will be elected to that position.

### *Mary Elizabeth Gabel - Candidate for Vestry*

Hello. As a parishioner at St. James' for over 25 years, I have been asked to consider joining the Vestry many times. I have been involved in so many of our ministries and events, St. James's Nursery School, Alter Guild and Outreach, and the Graveyard tours (for which I was the "spokesman" for an interview with Cable 12 News) to name a few. I love being involved but I felt that I wasn't called to Vestry. I believe now is my time. I see our facilities in need of repair and renovation. I would like you to consider my talents of public relations, my business sense and concern for our community and elect me to the Vestry. I look forward to helping St. James' reach within Hyde Park and beyond its boundaries to achieve its goals and missions. Thank you.

### *Steve Gausepobl – Candidate for Vestry*

I am a proud Father of three great kids and blessed Husband of one amazing woman. My family and I have been members of St. James' since the turn of the millennia and the Y2K scare that promised to bring the World to its knees. Turned out the World survived. That allowed me the opportunity to spend the next 18 years participating in a whole selection of things at Church including (but not limited to) the Graveyard Tours, Epiphany Pageants, Youth Group, Vacation Bible School and Men's Breakfast Club. If I'm fortunate enough this year to add "Vestry Member" to that list I hope to continue to build upon the sense of community that has kept me engaged at St. James' all these years.

### *Jack Kinne – Candidate for Vestry*

Hello, my name is Jack Kinne. I and my wife, Suzann, have been members of St. James Church for about twenty years now. My children are also members of our congregation. My oldest granddaughter attended St. James Nursery School, and soon her little sister will also attend. I have been the Treasurer of the church since August of 2016. Before that I served as the chairperson of Buildings and Grounds for two years. Suzann is currently serving on the Altar Guild. I feel that with my present understanding of St. James' finances, along with my familiarity of our infrastructure, I could serve well as a member of the Vestry. I have just filled a one year vacancy on the Vestry and would very much like to continue serving for another three year term. I hope you will support me.

### *Daniel Rangalis – Candidate for Vestry*

I am a native of Poughkeepsie NY. I went to Poughkeepsie Day School, and graduated from Dutchess Community College with a degree in electrical Engineering. I am an IT Specialist and head the Reality Capture program for The Chazen Companies in Poughkeepsie. Along with my wife Alyssa and 2 children Aldona (3) and Andrew (1), I am an active member of the St. James Congregation.

## Announcements

### *Eligibility to Vote:*

Are you eligible to vote at Sunday's Annual Meeting? Did you know that eligible voters not only vote for Vestry members but also vote to approve the parish budget and sometimes other business that comes before the meeting. Did you know that the state of New York has a law about that? It does. An eligible voter is defined by the New York State Religious Corporation Law as: "*persons of the age of eighteen years or more belonging to the parish, who have been baptized and are regular attendants of its worship and contributors to its support for at least twelve months prior to an annual election or a special meeting of the corporation at which they are in attendance, shall be qualified voters thereat.*"

### *A PLEDGE PLEA:*

If you have not pledged yet, please do so. Letters will go out next week from the Vestry to remind you about your pledge. Please help!

### *No Between-Service Class This Week:*

Because of the Annual Meeting, there will be no Between-Service Class this week. They will resume on February 4.

### *Write a Lenten Meditation:*

Lent is fast approaching, and with it, our Lenten Meditation booklet. The sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex, and I hope you will sign up this Sunday!

### *Inquirers Class This Week:*

We begin an exploration of the scriptures. Next class, Wednesday, January 31 we continue our look at the Sacraments with in in depth exploration of Baptism. Class begins at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to join us for one session - or for the entire series!

*Are You Getting the Episcopal New Yorker?*

If you're not receiving the Episcopal New Yorker, the quarterly magazine of our Diocese, email Andrew Gary at [agary@dioceseny.org](mailto:agary@dioceseny.org) with your name, mailing address, and the name of the congregation where you are a member. You'll receive the newspaper four times per year. It's that simple to keep up on news of the Diocese and read Engaging yet challenging articles about our faith.

*Become An Acolyte:*

Whatever your age, if you want to become an acolyte, we will make a place for you. If you attend Sunday School, we will work to make sure you don't miss too much!

*Grace Church Millbrook is proud to announce that we are a partner site for this year's Trinity Institute Conference*



*February 2 - 3 in New York City and webcast live at Grace Church Millbrook NY.*

We all want to create a better world—and that require action and connection. Discerning shared values is crucial to forming powerful partnerships and moving forward with courageous intention, Explore how you and your community can set a collaborative course at Values in Action, a Trinity Institute conference. Learn how to use the power of community to form strategic alliances. Because once we've found connections at the deepest level of our values, we can make progress beyond belief.

This year's conference features leading activists, theologians, authors, and experts on how to integrate core values into strategic and effective action, including:

- [the Most Rev. Michael Curry](#), Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church;
- Michelle Alexander, author of [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](#);
- [Pádraig Ó Tuama](#), poet, theologian, and mediator;
- [Jose Antonio Vargas](#), Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, filmmaker, and undocumented immigrant;
- and [more](#).

Opening worship service and keynote speech, Friday 7-9

Presentations, workshops and times to meet and eat: Saturday 9-5

To sign up or volunteer to help, email us at [office@gracemillbrook.org](mailto:office@gracemillbrook.org) or call M-F 9-2 at 845-677-3064.



# A *New York Lamentation*

*A Play About Slavery in New York*

## *Presented by*

The Episcopal Diocese of New York  
As it observes a *Year Of Lamentation* for  
the Church's culpability in the  
enslavement of God's children

## *Performances*

January 21, Christ Church, Staten Island

March 4, Christ Church, Poughkeepsie

September 23, St. Philip's, Harlem

October 14, St. Bartholemew's, White Plains

All performances begin at 3:00 PM

## A Brief Report on the premier of "A New York Lamentation":

Last Sunday, the play I wrote for the diocesan Reparations Committee had its first showing at Christ Church in Staten Island. Though I don't have much to compare it with, it seemed quite good, and the audience was certainly engaged in deep reflection following the play.

After the play, there was a Question and Answer session, and there, the questions showed not only attention to what happened in the play but awareness of the issues surrounding slavery and its modern fallout.

I do hope you will want to join us for the second showing at Christ Church in Poughkeepsie on Sunday, March 4 at 3:00 PM.

| January 2018  |                            |           |  |                                      |           |           |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Sunday  | Monday                     | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday                             | Friday    | Saturday  |
| 21<br>3 PM<br>"New York Lamentation"<br>3 pm Youth Group                            | <b>22</b><br>Office Closed | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b><br>10 AM<br>Morning Prayer<br>7:00 PM<br>Inquirers | <b>25</b><br>7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> |
| <b>28</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b><br><b>Eucharist/</b><br><b>ANNUAL</b><br><b>MEETING</b> | <b>29</b>                  | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b><br>10 AM<br>Morning Prayer<br>7:00 PM<br>Inquirers |                                      |           |           |

### Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Please pray for these diocesan ministries this week. If you want to check out the entire year's calendar for intercession, it's simple to find - go to <https://www.diocesenyny.org/administration/for-clergy/liturgical-and-sacramental/diocesan-calendar-of-intercession/>

#### January

- 28 Diocesan Global Mission Commission
- 29 St. John's Church, Pleasantville
- 30 Diocesan Adjustment Board
- 31 St. Paul's on-the-Hill Church, Ossining

#### February

- 1 Trinity Institute
- 2 The Presentation  
With gratitude for the ministry of the Rt. Rev. Andrew M. L. Dietsche on the anniversary of his installation as the 16th Bishop of New York
- 3 St. James' Church (Fordham), Bronx

## Please keep the following people in your prayers:

John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Mariel Carter, Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Tedi Kramer, Hope Jennings, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Beth and Gintero Milano, Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), Pat Rooney, John Ross, James Sheekey, Naomi Sleight, Carl Smith, Marguerite Spratt, Janice Syedullah, Tracy, Georgia Verven, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way, Cliff Wells and Shawn Wheeler.

## Schedules

*A Note about Schedules: The names you see below are those listed on their respective schedules. There are often times when, due to sickness or travel, substitutes are asked to fill in or trade positions. This will probably NOT be reflected in the lists below—so, if there is an inconsistency between what you see here and what you see on Sunday, that is all right.*

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Birthdays<br>(this past week):   | Isabela Handman Quines, Alix Ciferri, Diane Plass, Beth Matranga and Thomas McNamara                          |
| Birthdays<br>(this coming week): | Daniel Matranga, Deirdre Mae Micker, Tanya S. Hall, Dalton M. Slegel, Suzanne Glancey and John Seagren, Jr.   |
| Acolytes:                        | January 28: Russell Urban-Mead and Braeden Hall<br>February 4: Deirdre Mae Micker and Bill Fenwick            |
| Altar Guild:                     | January 28: Team II<br>February 4: Team II  |
| 8 a.m. Readers:                  | January 28: Lucille Ogden and Jim Smyth<br>February 4: Debbie Belding and Thomas Finnigan                     |
| 10 a.m. Readers:                 | January 28: Patty Caswell and Andy Hall<br>February 4: Wilma Tully and Judy Douglass                          |
| Ushers:                          | January 28: Andrew and Tonya Hall<br>February 4: Judy Douglass and Vince Asher                                |
| Pledge Clerks:                   | January 28: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell<br>February 4: Joanne Lown and Sue DeLorenzo                           |
| Parish Cycle of Prayer:          | January 28: Sue Heupler, Pat Holland and Bill Holland<br>February 4: Kirstin Horn and Austin and Audrey Horne |
| Coffee Hour Hosts:               | January 28: Continental Breakfast for Annual Meeting  |

February 4: Audrey Horne, Eric Zavadil

## This Week's Lectionary

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

## This Week's Hymns

Processional: 493 - O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing  
Sequence: 380 - From All that Dwell Below the Skies  
Offertory: "All Is Well with My Soul"  
Communion: 335 - I Am the Bread of Life  
Recessional: 616 - Hail To the Lord's Anointed

## Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Third Sunday after the Epiphany (January 21, 2018)

*"But What Call?"*

Last week I really wanted to preach on the Old Testament lesson which was the call of the prophet Samuel. I like that story because it's so cute.

There's this little boy Samuel living with the old temple priest Eli. One night, Samuel hears a voice calling his name, "Samuel, Samuel." Assuming it's Eli needing help, he runs to the old man's room and wakes him up. Eli's like, "Go back to bed!"

About the third time, Eli says, "Since it's not me calling you - it must be God. If you hear the voice again, say, 'Speak Lord; your servant is listening.' And don't come back to my room!"

Like I said, cute. Only, turns out it IS God calling Samuel, and the message God gives is that Eli has tolerated corruption so much that he will be punished.

Circumstances prevented me from preaching on Samuel last week, but it turns out that the story works with this week's scriptures, too.

That's because the lessons are also about hearing the call of God.

And I mean HEARING the call. Which we kind of don't want to do a lot of the time because the call is inconvenient.

Take TODAY's Old Testament reading for example. You know the story of Jonah and the whale, right? Every kid learns how Jonah got swallowed by a whale and that God saved him.

But WHY did he get swallowed? Because God called Jonah to do a job that Jonah didn't want to do. Specifically, God told Jonah to warn the people of Nineveh that if they did not change their ways, God would destroy them. Jonah hated the Ninevites, so he thought, "Hey, if I just skip town, they won't hear the warning, and then they won't repent, and God will destroy them." Because, you know, you can run away from God.

So Jonah hops a ship going in the opposite direction of Nineveh figuring God will never find him. There's a big storm, and in the course of it, Jonah gets tossed overboard, gets swallowed by the whale, and after three days gets spit out on the beach where God says, "NOW will you go to Nineveh?" That brings us to today's reading - Jonah gives the warning, the people repent, and God does NOT destroy them.

What we don't see is Jonah throwing a hissy fit afterwards, yelling at God things like, "See? I told you they'd repent! What a waste of a good smiting!"

Like Samuel, Jonah was called to deliver a hard message. Being called is not always fun.

And lest we forget, Eli and the people of Nineveh also received a call from God. Eli's was more of a "Time's up" message. God called him to prepare for punishment.

The Ninevites, though, heard a call to repent, to change their approach to life before it led to disaster. Jonah may not have liked it, but God was speaking through him, calling out to lost children to return home.

Now, if those were the only two stories you ever heard from scripture, you'd think God calling was always a voice of threat or danger. You're either the bearer of bad news or the receiver of it. You'd think you might not really *want* to hear the voice of God.

But sometimes the call is to something different. Sometimes it's the call to be the bearer of **good** news.

Of course, I'm talking about the gospel where Jesus calls Simon and Andrew and James and John to become his disciples. There they all are, working with their fathers, toiling away at grueling jobs that may not pay well, but at least they put food on the table.

And Jesus says, "Come with me; I will make you fishers of people." I like how in Mark's version of this story they leave IMMEDIATELY without so much as a word to their fathers.

I don't know if they thought being a disciple was going to be easier than fishing or if Jesus' call was just so compelling. Either way, they heard his voice and followed. It was not an easier life. As it turns out, bringing good news - the good news that Jesus is Lord, that God loves us, that Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves - including those who hate us - is hard work. In fact, a lot of the time, people listen to that message less readily than to the death and destruction messages of those two Old Testament lessons.

Nevertheless, I bet, if you asked them, they would also say they made the right call in following Jesus.

Which brings us to today. Because you see, Christ is always calling. To every one of us. To speak truth where it might not be welcome. To bring comfort where it is most needed. To teach. To feed. To encourage. To heal both body and soul.

Or, like the Ninevites, it might be a call to change your ways. To quit focusing on “success” or short-term pleasures that bring no real joy. To quit using other people as tools for your benefit. To come home to God.

Either way, God’s calling.

Now I grant you, it’s not terribly likely God’s call to you will be as obvious as Jesus walking up and saying, “Come follow me.”

That doesn’t mean it won’t be any more clear. According to the story of Samuel, the voice of God hadn’t been heard in a very long time - because people weren’t listening. Maybe that’s why God had to reach out to a child, someone willing and able to hear. I don’t know. But I do know that if we are listening, there’s a much better chance of hearing when God does call. No matter what we’re called to.

How do we listen? There’s no one way. But if you want a start, why not lie down in bed tonight and say, “Speak Lord; your servant is listening.” Amen.

NOTE: Audio recordings of some sermons are now available on St. James' website, [www.stjameshydepark.org](http://www.stjameshydepark.org) Look under "Worship"