

# St. James' E-pistle

## Date of Sunday Service: October 21, 2018

### Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

#### Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The final Historic Graveyard Tours of the year take place this weekend - by the time you get this, there will only be one evening left. So I thought it would be good to reflect on them and their meaning this year.

We took a more sober approach this year in order to observe the centennial of the end of World War I. Each of the “characters” was somehow involved in that war. One was an aviator, one of the elites like the knights of their day. Another was a young private out to seek adventure but who died of disease just weeks before the war ended. Another signed up, went to training, but to his lasting disappointment was never sent it “over there.” Yet another organized nurses to care for the sick, injured, and dying. Then there was a young guy who was injured in a gas attack but ended up being sent home with scabies. Finally, there was a war correspondent who recorded (and censored) the war for the world to better understand.

What has moved me about the tours and their focus is that we get to see both the seductiveness and the utter insanity of war. Everyone wanted to jump in to “do their bit,” to be part of this great thing. The reality, of course, was horrific, the loss of life, the maiming, the PTSD (known then as shell shock), the mechanization of war which turned out not to care if people were combatants or civilians.

Peter Jackson (of *Lord of The Rings* fame) recently completed a project to recognize the war and its participants. He took old movie footage and digitized it. He cleaned up the jerky nature of the old film and colorized it. He had lip readers study the films to learn what the soldiers were saying. It is a revelation. Moreover, he went to countless recorded interviews with survivors to learn how they perceived it. The most telling thing was how remarkably used to death and destruction many of them became. For many, it was more attractive than civilian life which seemed so dull and slow. For them, it had become normal life.

If there is a lesson — and I have no doubt there are countless lessons which this war holds for us — one of them is that we must not ever let the evil, the cruel, the destructive become just normal life. Normalizing such blatant disregard for human life was at least in part what laid the foundation for the Second World War and its even more horrific atrocities. We must always see it for what it is — an abomination that is counter to the will of God.

That’s one reason I think it’s important to remember those who fought in these wars. Not to glorify them (though thanking them for their service IS appropriate), but to remind us what it costs when we let ourselves be controlled by our pride and impatience, by our need to be on top and to control others. These tours remind us to examine our lives and repent. Of course, they’re still fun!

4526 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park NY 12538 T 845-229-2820 F 845-229-5293

W [www.stjameshydepark.org](http://www.stjameshydepark.org) E [stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org](mailto:stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org)

f at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/22692330307>

Thankfully! But I'm also thankful that we can use these tours as a means to something deeper — for us and our guests.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

# You are invited!

To a  
**Newcomers Reception**

On Thursday  
November 8, 2018

6:30 PM

At  
St. James'

(The Wilks Room, first door on the left in the Parish House)

This is a time for newer parishioners who have been here for not a year or less to meet “more seasoned” parishioners, to learn what’s available to do, to discover ways to be involved or find resources you need. There’s even a facility tour if you want.

Please RSVP at 845-229-2820  
or to [stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org](mailto:stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org).  
Got questions? Just ask!

## Announcements

### *A Season of Prayer: For a Mid-term Election*

*Forward Movement*, a ministry of the Episcopal Church, is encouraging us, as Episcopalians and as followers of Jesus Christ, to join in a “*Season of Prayer: For a Mid-term Election.*” “This is a two-week period in which we are encouraged to pray each day with a particular intention for this time in our national life and a collect from *The Book of Common Prayer*”.

This time of prayer begins this Sunday, October 21st and continues through Wednesday, November 7th. You will find copies of “A Season of Prayer: For an Election” in the narthex for the following weeks: October 21st - week 1; October 28th - week 2 and November 4th - week 3.

Forward Movement states in their encouragement to participate in this special Season of Prayer: “At a time when nearly everyone agrees that we are being consumed by fear and division, this is a prayerful, intentional opportunity to change the conversation. While we will certainly differ in our politics, we can surely join together in prayer. We hope you will join in this season of prayer.”

Please prayerfully consider participating in this Season of Prayer.

Peace,

Deacon Gail

### *Stewardship Committee Wants You:*

Stewardship Season (it’s always the Fall, don’t ask me why) is upon us. But this year, we want you to be part of the planning. Senior Warden Wilma Tully and Fr. Chuck are looking for a couple of creative, excited folks who want to help us tell the story of God acting through St. James’. We want to use multiple methods of telling that story, and we want it to come from within. Got an idea? Got a story to tell? Join our little committee. And if you can’t join the committee, we ask for your prayers. This is, we believe, the work of the Lord.

### *Men’s Breakfast:*

We meet once again at Cranberry’s on **Saturday, October 20**, at 8:00 AM. If you have any church-y projects you’d like to pursue, share it with the gang!

*Women's Dinner:*

The women of St. James' will meet at 6:30 PM on **Monday, October 22** at Antonella's. Come eat, socialize, and plan!

*Be a Reading Adventures Volunteer:*

We are getting responses to our plea for volunteers, but we're looking for more! Would you like to help a child read better, even fall in love with reading? It takes just one hour a week, Thursdays from 3:30 - 4:30 PM at North Park Elementary. Reading Adventures starts on **October 25!** See Fr. Chuck if you're interested.

*Join the Reformulated Graveyard Committee:*

*"In many ways, a graveyard is like an encyclopedia of community history. A cemetery contains birth and death records, genealogies, and historical anecdotes. The stones reflect the times and tenor of the people, their moral and religious beliefs, and their customs. The size and elaborateness of tombstones tell of the wealth of those buried under them, and collectively these monuments reflect the economy of a town through various periods in its history. Changing tastes in art and architecture are found in graveyards, just as in the houses of the town"* — Jack Sanders.

*The Vestry voted at their October meeting to rejuvenate the Graveyard/Columbarium Committee.*

There's an important reason for this: The observation or study of graveyard epitaphs and art have become increasingly popular pastimes, especially in the Hudson Valley. St. James' Graveyard has no shortage of interesting gravestones. The Annual Graveyard Tours share our history with the community but the grounds need some tender care and maintenance and mapping to continue this as a self guided tour throughout the year. **If you would like to learn more or volunteer email Vestry member Dan Raugalis at [raugalis@gmail.com](mailto:raugalis@gmail.com)**

### *SAFE CHURCH Training:*

The Diocese of New York requires SAFE CHURCH training for all clergy and employees of any congregation. It is also **required** for all Lay Eucharistic Visitors. Bishop Dietsche *expects* it of ALL Vestry members, Sunday School teachers, or any volunteers who work with children in any capacity. Bishop Dietsche **encourages** it for all parish volunteers and any parishioner who wants to be further educated. There are two ways to take this training. One is in person: There is a SAFE CHURCH training session on **Friday, November 2** at the Cathedral from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM - I (Fr. Chuck), am attending this to keep my certification up to date. If you want to join me, please let me know as soon as possible. There is a \$30 fee, but I will cover the cost if you choose to go there.

The second way to take the training is online. See me to register, as I am the administrator for it. There are several 15-20 minute classes that you must take and pass a test for it to register. After you have completed all the courses, you will receive a printout certificate.

### *LECTOR Training November 17:*

If you are a current Lector or would like to become one - and we would love for EVERYONE to join this ministry - the rescheduled Lector Training Session is set for **Saturday, November 17** at 10:00 AM. Please see me (Fr. Chuck) if you would like to attend the training. All current lectors are encouraged to attend since "tune ups" are always helpful.

### *Sunday Schools Participates in Trunk or Treat:*

In keeping with this year's curriculum theme of "Weaving God's Beloved Community," we will be participating in the 2nd Annual Hyde Park Community "Trunk or Treat" on **October 25**, from 5:30 - 6:30 PM. We will have a trunk all decorated (we are getting the most out of our Luau, and VBS decorations) with a volcano "oozing" with candy, representing the Sunday School. It's a fun way for St. James's to be part of a town Community Event. The kids can come all dressed up and trick or treat around the Hyde Park Drive In. They can enter the costume contest or just check out all the other decorated trunks and cars!

October 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14  3:00 PM "New York Lamentation" (White Plains)	15 Office Closed	16  7 PM Vestry	17 10 AM Morning Prayer  2 PM Hyde Park Assisted Living	18  11 AM Bible Study	19  GRAVEYARD TOURS!	20 8 AM Men's Breakfast  GRAVEYARD TOURS!
21  12 noon Community Garden Blessing	22 Office Closed	23	24 10 AM Morning Prayer	25  11 AM Bible Study	26	27
28	29 Office Closed	30	31 10 AM Morning Prayer  All Hallows' Eve	1 All Saints Day  11 AM Bible Study	2 Safe Church Training (Cathedral)	3
<p>Sundays:            Holy Eucharist Rite I is at 8:00 AM            Holy Eucharist Rite II (with music) is at 10:00 AM. Sunday School and nursery are available at 10:00 AM.            Between Service Classes on Sundays are from 9:15 to 9:45 in the Wilks Room.</p>						

**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/>

- 21 Christ Church, Red Hook
- 22 St. Ann's Church, Bronx
- 23 St. Luke's Church, Bronx
- 24 Diocesan Disaster Response Team
- 25 Church of the Holy Trinity, Manhattan
- 26 The Canon to the Ordinary
- 27 Church of Our Savior, Manhattan

## Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ashley, John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Darlene Calgagni, Mariel Carter, Joanne Clark, Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Brian Ganter (deployed to Afghanistan), Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), Gloria Golden, Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Tedi Kramer, Hope Jennings, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Jim Lynn (Carol Bender's brother - facing surgery), Doris Mack, Margaret, Andrew Mendelson, Beth and Ginero Milano, Lillian Peralta, Mary Bowers Peters (stroke), Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), John Ross, Hank Schroeder, James Sheeky, 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):   | Jasmine Thatcher and Beverly L. Tas   |
| Birthdays<br>(this coming week): | Grant Ferris, Rebecca Foote and Andrew V. Hall  |
| Acolytes:                        | October 21: Riley Hall - Amelia McNamara<br>October 28: Bill Fenwick, Jack Canez and Mattie Canez |
| Altar Guild:                     | October 21: Team II<br>October 28: Team II  |
| 8 a.m. Readers:                  | October 21: Shannon Butler and Grant Ferris<br>October 28: Deb Belding and Sue DeLorenzo          |

10 a.m. Readers:	October 21: Russell Urban-Mead and Maggie McNamara October 28: Wilma Tully and Lillian Peralta
Ushers:	October 21: Maggie and Tom McNamara October 28: Nancy Montero and Anna Marie Pitcher
Pledge Clerks:	October 21: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher October 28: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	October 21: Gwen Cookingham, Kathleen Craft, Charlotte DeGross; Sue DeLorenzo, Stephanie Dieckler October 28: Ann Dingee, Sue Dingee, Chris, Sue and Sara Dingee
Coffee Hour Hosts:	October 21: Deirdre Mae Micker, Wendy and Russell Urban-Mead October 28: Brian Rance, Saira Shahani

## This Week's Lectionary

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)  
Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 37b  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
Mark 10:35-45

## This Week's Hymns

Processional: 457 - Thou Art The Way  
Sequence: 593 - Lord Make Us Servants of Your Peace  
Offertory: Magnificat  
Communion: Taizé: Live In Charity  
Recessional: 423 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

## Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

*"Naked And Laid Bare"*

After church today, I'm driving down to St. Bart's in White Plains for the final performance of "A New York Lamentation," the Diocese of New York's play about its culpability in slavery.

You know all about the play and the diocese's Year of Lamentation - how we are lamenting the harm slavery did to God's children as well as our church's role in it. What you may not know is that we are now preparing for the second phase: The Year of Apology.

A lot of folks have pushed back on the idea of apologizing for slavery, and we'll have a whole year to discuss what that means for us — but this three-year cycle we've engaged in: Lamentation, Apology, Repair — it applies to all of life, to how we treat people of a different ethnicity, how we treat gay, lesbian and transgender brothers and sisters, how we treat immigrants, the poor, the sick, and all who are weaker than us.

And it applies directly to our scriptures today because *they* are all about what it means to be naked and laid bare before the Lord.

Which is to say what it means to face God's judgment.

But wait! We Episcopalians don't do judgment. We don't *really* believe that one day we will have to stand before God and be *judged*, do we? The very idea is absurd.

Or is it? In truth, the only way the idea is absurd is if we don't believe God exists. Because if God exists, if God is the parent of us all, if God calls us to love each other *as ourselves*, then there is every reason to expect that God will call us to account for our time here, for how we treated each other, for what was going on in our hearts.

And if *that's* the case, then it might be a good idea to consider what it means to stand naked and laid bare before God, and to have to explain yourself.

Because if you're standing before God after this life, you can't bluff your way out of the truth. You can't lie your way out. You can't say, "It's your word against mine." You can't attack the one accusing you — Those may be time honored methods that work in *this* world but *not* before God.

As the author of Hebrews says, the Word of God "is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

God knows you. Inside and out. We do not hide anything from God - not our actions, not our thoughts, not our hearts. We waste an awful lot of time and energy trying.

In the book of Job, which we've been looking at for the past couple of weeks, Job decides he's going to take God to court. He says, "I'm not afraid to stand before God and lay my life bare because I have done nothing that deserves this." Of course, the moral of the story is: "Nobody who suffers horrors in life *deserves* them." But at least Job is willing to lay his life bare. And — as we see later in the book — he's willing to repent where he is shown to be wrong.

That's our lesson — to live such that we are willing to stand before God, warts and all. To repent where necessary but to trust that when God shows us where we have harmed others, when God shows us where we have turned to greed, self-serving behavior, willful ignorance, and apathy ... we will be *allowed* to repent and return to the Lord.

Jesus suggests that this is no easy task, especially if you have a lot of what we normally consider the good things in life.

Through the centuries, we've been taught to guard our wealth from others who constantly want something from us, who are always willing to rob us, exploit us, milk us. In short, we have been taught to regard everything we have as ours, and everyone around us as a threat. Our wealth acts as

a wall between us; it can make us see others as objects or enemies. How do you justify THAT to the one who created us all and gave us only two commands: love God and love each other.

I can't tell you exactly what God's judgment will look like. There's a popular TV show out these days called "The Good Place," and I can pretty much guarantee you it doesn't look like *that*. You see, in The Good Place, you can only get there by accumulating enough points for doing good things in life - and losing points for doing bad things, even tiny ones. Only the very best get to heaven.

That is not our understanding. You won't get a point total and find out if you earned enough. Rather, God will look at our hearts and — I imagine — ask, "Do you have enough love within you to tolerate a place that is entirely made of love? Let's look at your life, and you tell me what you think."

There will be no whitewashing, no spin, no lying your way out of seeing what your life was. It will all be there, naked and laid bare.

But here's the good news. If you're able *in this life* to admit when you stray from loving neighbor as self or loving God — if you are able to apologize, seek forgiveness, and change — it will be a much more joyful time standing before God.

But if not in this life, well, God has time. I doubt it means instant condemnation to hell, but it may well mean a long, hard journey to face in the next life what we tried to hide while in this one.

So let's all embrace that difficult, heroic task of examining our lives today while we still live — for we will surely stand naked and laid bare once we die. Amen.

#### *A WORD ABOUT RECORDED SERMONS:*

Most weeks, I upload a recorded copy of the sermon onto my Facebook page as well as St. James' YouTube channel. I have not yet figured out how to upload them to the St. James' Facebook page but am working on it.

You can also listen to sermons by going to YouTube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)) and searching for "St. James Episcopal Church, Hyde Park, NY". There, you will not only find sermons, but also videos of the Fireside Chats and other videos of interest. You can subscribe to that page, and then when new content is uploaded, you will receive a notification.

## SERMON VALUATION FORM

It is not necessary to take notes during the sermon. Rather, you can take some time afterwards to recollect the sermon and its effect on you. Give yourself a few minutes for each of the questions. If you choose to share this with the preacher, it can be a powerful aid to better preaching - but this is not a form to be handed to the preacher and forgotten. It is an aid for you, so you can speak directly with the preacher and answer follow-up questions.

1. WHAT ARE YOU STILL HEARING?

*That is, without evaluating it, what are the words or phrases from the sermon that are still echoing in your ears? Are there any "ear worms"?*

2. WHERE MIGHT THIS BE LEADING?

*As a listener, where does this sermon lead you? What does it invite you to? What are the next steps in your faith that might arise from this sermon?*

3. HOW DOES THIS SERMON "PLAY"?

*That is, how is it organized or ordered? What steps has the preacher taken you through? What structure did you notice in this sermon? What has it asked you to do?*

4. HOW MIGHT THIS SERMON "GROW"?

*That is, what suggestions would you have to hone the message of this sermon, to make it more engaging, inspiring, logical, fleshed out... No sermon is ever entirely done; its themes will be revisited over time. What would help the next time be more compelling?*