

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: November 11, 2018

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Pulpit Notes

NOTICE: Once again, worship will be in the Parish Hall. That is both services.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As with many building contractor situations, once you start working on one thing, it uncovers five other things that need attention. As a result, we are going to be in the Parish Hall a little longer. Here's what we know so far:

- Work is progressing well with the HVAC installation itself. However...
- Mold abatement work has to be completed before the system can be used. We don't have a start date for that at the time of this writing.
- Work in the basement to resolve a long-standing issue with standing water has to be done. We don't know how much this will cost or how long it will take.
- A new special mold-filtering system has been recommended to be joined to the HVAC system (another \$3,600).
- The Carpet will have to be professionally cleaned but is still good otherwise.
- The chimney to the boiler room needs to be removed. It is no longer needed and is leaking water into the church foundations.

I wish I could confidently tell you that this is all. I can't. There may well be more uncovered as we go along. Obviously, this is all very expensive, and we simply don't have that kind of money. The Vestry is looking into grants and loans. As the cost creeps toward \$100,000, we will want to consider other ways to pay our way.

Moving onto two other topics: Convention and Stewardship.

Convention: This weekend Walter Koch, Deacon Gail, and I are attending the diocesan convention. It will focus on racial issues of the past as well as those that have been so prevalent in the news lately. At the convention, the Reparations Committee will hold a resolution calling the entire diocese to undertake the work of Apology for its culpability in the slavery era and each person individually to consider apology for our desire not to talk about it, or even (as it were) to whitewash the past.

Other work will go on, of course, but that's the work I'm involved in.

Stewardship: The Stewardship Committee is still creating its program for this (late) Fall. We believe it will be an opportunity for all of us to consider who we are in relationship to God and the Body of Christ, and that you'll see some exciting things about our life together. We are all stewards, and this is our season!

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

A Word About The Election: Now that we have voted (and the sheer numbers of people voting this cycle is encouraging for the country), we have our new slate of elected officials. Let us pray for them in God's love — both those we voted for and those we opposed. Pray for wisdom, compassion, mercy, justice and courage.

Almighty God, you have given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly pray that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and our manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought here out of many peoples and languages. Endue those to whom we entrust the authority of government with the spirit of wisdom that there may be justice and peace at home, at that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, grant that our trust in you will not fail. All these things we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP page 820)

Announcements

World War I and Our Veterans

This Sunday, the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we will remember the centennial of the end of World War I (in addition to recognizing our veterans).

Evening Prayer:

Along with the Inquirer's Classes, we are hosting EVENING PRAYER each Tuesday through the spring. Please join us 6:30 pm Tuesdays at the Chapel. It's a brief service that will be the perfect end to a busy day.

This week's Inquirers Class:

This week, our class is, "What Is Christianity?" A broad overview of what binds all those together who call themselves "Christians". What are their basic beliefs and practices? Are they all really the same religion?

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.

Men's Breakfast November 17:

8:00 AM at Cranberry's.

Nursery School Craft Fair:

The Annual Craft Fair is **November 17** in the Parish Hall. Come support this thriving ministry!

Altar Guild Meeting:

ALSO on November 17 (a popular day), we have an Altar Guild meeting at 9:30 AM at the home of Lynne Koch. Planning for Advent is on the agenda.

Community Thanksgiving Service:

On **Tuesday, November 20, at 6:30 PM**, the Hyde Park Association of Churches will host a Community Thanksgiving Service. This annual event has been a part of Hyde Park life for decades and reminds us that we are called to come together to offer thanks.

In these tumultuous times, it is ever more important for us to come together in solidarity and unity. Please make every effort to join us at the United Methodist Church. We want a broad representation!

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**

It’s Pageant Time!

Look for a sign-up sheet this Sunday to be part of the Epiphany Pageant. The pageant this year will be part of a potluck supper on January 5. Think of it as holy dinner theater! All are welcome to sign up, and you get to pick (or create!) your role. It’s a good time to have some fun!

November 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11	12 Office Closed	13 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Inquirers	14 10 AM Morning Prayer 2 PM Hyde Park Assisted Living	15 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 - Reading Adventures	16 FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	17 8 AM Men's Breakfast 9:30 AM Altar Guild Meeting 10:00 AM Lector Training
18	19 Office Closed	20 6:30 Community Thanksgiving Service	21 10 AM Morning Prayer 2:00 PM. Hyde Park Assisted Living Eucharist	22 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	23 FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	24

25	26 Office Closed	27 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Inquirers	28 10 AM Morning Prayer 7 PM Vestry	29 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 - Reading Adventures	30 FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	
<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.diocesen.org/administration/for-clergy/liturgical-and-sacramental/diocesan-calendar-of-intercession/>

- 11 Diocesan Standing Committee
- 12 All Saints' Church, Staten Island
- 13 Church of the Good Shepherd, Bronx
- 14 Diocesan Council
- 15 Sisters of St. Margaret
- 16 St. Margaret's Church, Staatsburg
- 17 St. Hilda's & St. Hugh's School, 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 (this past week):	Sue DeLorenzo, August ("Bud") Oetjen, Riley Hall and Gwendolyn Cookingham
Birthdays (this coming week):	Margaret McNamara, Katherine Urban-Mead and Richard Ciferri
Acolytes:	November 11: Nancy Montero and Jaylen Thatcher November 18: Riley Hall - Amelia McNamara
Altar Guild:	November 11: Team III November 18: Team I
8 a.m. Readers:	November 11: Shannon Butler and Deb Belding November 18: Deb Belding and Lynne Koch
10 a.m. Readers:	November 11: Patty Caswell and Judy Douglass November 18: Wendy Urban-Mead and Mike Fenwick
Ushers:	November 11: Judy Douglass and Vince Asher November 18: Patty Drake and Bobbie Wells
Pledge Clerks:	November 11: Doug Belding and Judy Douglass November 18: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	November 11: Ann Farrell and Ray Farrell, Grant and Shirley Ferris, November 18: Charlotte, Thomas and Peter Finnigan, Jeff Fishwick,
Coffee Hour Hosts:	November 11: Jodi Triola and Mike Fenwick November 18: Deirdre Mae Micker, Wendy and Russell Urban-Mead

This Week's Lectionary

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Psalm 127

Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

This Week's Hymns

Processional: LEVAS 225 - Oh Freedom
Sequence: 489 - The Great Creator of the Worlds
Offertory: Treasures in Heaven
Communion: Taizé: Live In Charity
Recessional: LEVAS 226 - Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (All Saints Sunday)

"A Cloud of Witnesses"

About 115 years ago, WEB De Bois wrote a book called, *The Souls of Black Folk*. In it, he wrote an essay about a man named Alexander Crummell. You may not know him, but he has a Feast Day on our Episcopal Calendar — September 10.

He was a free black man born in 1819 in New York and ordained a priest in 1842 in Massachusetts. He *tried* to get ordained in New York, but he was not allowed to attend seminary. My alma mater, the General Theological Seminary, expressed real regret (they said) about the situation but begged him to understand that in that day and age it would simply be impossible for a black man to attend. So he went to Massachusetts. But he found ministry there nearly impossible, so after a few years, he went to Cambridge University in England and became the first black man to graduate there — and then he went to Liberia where he ministered for twenty years before returning to the states.

But what struck me about Crummell's story isn't the difficulty he had in a racist church — he was hardly alone there. It was De Bois' words at the end of the essay. He wrote:

"And now that he is gone, I sweep the Veil away and cry, Lo! the soul to whose dear memory I bring this little tribute. ... The more I met Alexander Crummell, the more I felt how much that world was losing which knew so little of him. In another age he might have sat among the elders of the land in purple-bordered toga; in another country mothers might have sung him to the cradles.

He did his work,—he did it nobly and well; and yet I sorrow that here he worked alone, with so little human sympathy. His name to-day, in this broad land, means little, and comes to fifty million ears laden with no incense of memory or emulation. And herein lies the tragedy of the age: ... that men know so little of men."

This one tiny little phrase, about this one life, shows us why All Saints Day is so important.

Because we know so little of ourselves — and of each other.

Why is that?

The Church — the same church that was foolish enough to deny Crummell the right to study or minister with his colleagues — **did** have the collective wisdom to recognize that we human beings are self-centered. We focus on us and ours alone far too much of the time.

That's why we observe All Saints — to broaden our focus. To see that there is a great cloud of witnesses who have something to teach us. That's why we have the calendar with Feast Days like Crummell's. You can actually buy a book containing all the feast days with biographical sketches of those commemorated. It used to be called "Lesser Feasts and Fasts." Then it was changed to "Holy Men and Holy Women," And now it's called "A Great Cloud of Witnesses."

Whatever we call it, the reason we tell these stories is the same reason WEB De Bois wrote about Alexander Crummell: "Men know so little of men." We do not know each other's stories.

In particular, we don't know the stories of women and men whose lives were dedicated to loving God with every fiber of their being and to loving their neighbor as themselves. Whose lives are examples of what it means to pick up our cross and follow.

All Saints reminds us how we can be human here on earth while still striving for the Kingdom of Heaven. Yet it also reminds us that these "Saints" were real people with struggles and sadness and families that brought them joy.

It's not unlike why we read scripture. Think of the story of Lazarus today. Jesus wept over his friend's grave. It was a real person he was grieving, a friend whose death brought him real pain. But it is Lazarus' willingness to come back to this life for the sake of the Gospel (because I believe that Jesus would not have brought him back without his consent) that we remember. His willingness to go through death twice in order to help Jesus show that death has no power — that's the example we take from him.

These saints, just like all our loved ones who have gone before, were real people. And yet, they are also part of the great cloud of witnesses who cry: "Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

We need to hear this because we live in difficult and painful times. Refugees flee their homes with nothing but the clothes on their back and have no hope of a welcome or safe reception wherever they go. Schools, churches, synagogues, malls, convenience stores all become targets for people filled with hate.

We need the examples of those who persevere in the midst of pain, disease, and injustice, who still look to God's undying love and take heart. They witness not only to that love but to our call to act, to carry on, to love our neighbor as ourselves *especially* when nobody else will.

This week, we are called to act in the form of voting. This is more than a right or a privilege — it is a calling to stand and give voice to the good of God as you see it. It would be wrong for me to say how to vote — but the great cloud of witnesses does and should call out for all of us *to vote*.

Now, many of us think of All Saints not as that great cloud of witnesses but as a time to remember loved ones who have gone before. I want to acknowledge that. Indeed, this year our family

observes its first All Saints without my mom who, I believe, joined those witnesses this April. The Church gets it. So while it reserves All Saints (November 1) as a day to remember those who lived lives of example, it created All Souls (November 2) to remember all those we love but see no more.

They are so close together because, as I'm sure you know, many of our loved ones had lives equally as exemplary, equally as loving — and whose witness to God's goodness has kept US following the cross of Christ.

I don't particularly care whether we celebrate them over two days or on one. What I care about is that we look to those lives who have touched us — and maybe begin to look beyond just our immediate circle to some truly amazing people who may inspire us. WEB De Bois said, "men know so little of men," but if we *want* to know more about how to live as real followers of Christ, we can. There are so many examples, and they're all in the great cloud of witnesses. This I believe.

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) 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?