

# St. James' E-pistle

## Date of Sunday Service: December 10, 2017

### Second Sunday of Advent

#### *Bible Verse*

*"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn."*

*- Isaiah 61:1-2*

#### **Pulpit Notes**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I often wish I could live up to the words I preach and share with you regularly - like the words above from Isaiah. While I believe we are all sent to bring god news to the oppressed and so on, I find it much more difficult to do - or even to want to do much of the time.

I just get tired. For a small little parish, I find myself running around a lot, and sometimes even when it isn't particularly difficult work, I have no energy, no enthusiasm for the task at hand. Please tell me I'm not the only one who experiences this!

But there is hope in this, and it's not simply that God judges with mercy and kindness those who fall short of the call. What brings me hope is the knowledge that one day again, I'll have that energy and enthusiasm, that sense of goal and desire. I'll never achieve all I want or be the person my dog thinks I am, but I'll have better days, days when I get things a little more right, when I'm a little kinder and more determined to right wrongs. When I'm a little more capable of helping the homeless guy out in the street, maybe not passing him by this time.

The season of Advent is a season when we prepare ourselves, not only for Jesus' coming but also for those days to come when we will be closer to the person who lives out the calling Christ has given each of us. You're not just preparing for Jesus; you're preparing for you. And that is a glorious realization, so embrace this Advent as the time when, despite failures of the past, you are filled with expectation for Jesus acting in you, renewed and joyous.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

PLEDGE THANKS: Many thanks to all of you who turned in your pledge cards this Sunday! Your pledge cards are marks of faith. If you haven't yet been able to get in your card, you can mail it in, bring it to the office during the week, or bring it to church on Sunday. If you need a card, you can print this one below or pick one up in the church office. Thank you again for making this church a part of your ministry. We need each other if we are to be the Beloved Community.

## St. James' Episcopal Church, Hyde Park Our Pledge to the Ministry Given Us by Jesus Christ

In support of St. James' and in thanksgiving to God  
I/We commit \_\_\_\_\_ per  week  month  year  
for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in 2018.

I would like to serve the church as a volunteer \_\_\_\_\_  
*(please note area of interest)*

I would like pledge envelopes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ingathering Sunday is December 3. Please bring your filled-out card to church that day so we can offer it up to God's service. Or you can mail in your card prior to that at the address below.**

4526 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538 • 845-229-2820 • [stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org](mailto:stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org)

## Announcements

### *Pulpit Exchange:*

This Sunday, the rector of St. Paul's in Pleasant Valley and I will trade places for the day. The Rev. Megan Sanders will celebrate and preach here while I will celebrate and preach there. We believe this is good for both congregations and priests, and it is a practice long encouraged by many experts in congregational life. I will extend the love and grace of the people of St. James' to the people of St. Paul's.

### *No Between-Service Class for THIS SUNDAY:*

Because of this week's pulpit exchange, there will be no Between-service class. Classes resume next Sunday!

### *Inquirers Class This Week:*

This week's Inquirers Class will discuss other **Religious Traditions**. Inquirers Classes meet at 7:00 PM on Wednesday's. Everyone is welcome.

### *Greening of the Church:*

Join us for the Greening of the Church on **Saturday morning, December 16** as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. Men from the **Men's Breakfast** (8:00 AM that day at Cranberry's) will stop by to help between 9:30 and 10:00 AM.

### *Christmas Services:*

Join us for any or all of three Christmas services this year! **Christmas Eve**, we have a **6:00 PM Family Service** with blessing of the crèche. At **10:00 PM** we have our **candlelight Christmas Eve service**. Beautiful music will punctuate both. On **Christmas Day at 10:00 AM** at the Chapel, we will have our simple Christmas morning service.

*Safe Church Training:*

Have you had *Safe Church* training? It is a program offered by the Diocese to keep all people safe from abuse of all sorts while involved in our ministries. It deals with sexual and other abuse and helps us avoid questionable situations. The training is mandated for all clergy. It is also required for all lay employees. The bishop expects all Sunday School teachers and youth workers to take the training as well as Vestry and wardens. It is open to all parishioners.

The training is available in three forms: 1) you can go to New York at announced sessions (or an annual one in our region). 2) we could hire a trainer to come to our parish and all do it together. 3) you can take the course online - you have to create an account, which you would do through me since I am the parish administrator for *Safe Church*. If you're interested, and I hope you are, please see me (Fr. Chuck).



*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

**The Churches of the Diocese of New York** have been asked to be part of this Farmworker Fair Labor Human Rights Hearing on January 17. The hope is that each church will send one clergy person and two parishioners. Please let Fr. Chuck know if you are interested in participating.

## Farmworker Fair Labor Human Rights Hearing

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Join the Justice for Farmworkers Legislative Campaign on  
January 17, 2018 at 10 AM at the Legislative Office Building (LOB) WELL at the Albany State Capitol for

*A Farmworker Fair Labor Hearing:  
An Inquiry into the Ethical Treatment of Farmworkers in the State of New York*

For more information email: [JoseChapalFW@gmail.com](mailto:JoseChapalFW@gmail.com)



Co-Sponsored by Rural & Migrant Ministry (RMM)  
RMM works for the creation of a just and rural New York State by:  
Nurturing leadership, Standing with the disenfranchised and  
Changing unjust systems and structures.



# December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 <b>2 Advent</b> 4 PM <b>Lessons &amp; Carols @ St. Margarets</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 6 PM Women's Group (at Coppola's)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer  7:00 PM Inquirers	<b>14</b> 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Reading Adventures	<b>15</b>	16 8 AM Men's Breakfast 10 AM  Greening Of Church
17 <b>3 Advent</b> 8 am @ Chapel 3 pm Youth Group	<b>18</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>19</b> <b>7 PM Vestry</b>	<b>20</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer 2 PM 7:00 PM Inquirers	<b>21</b> 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Reading Adventures	<b>22</b>	23
24 <b>4 Advent</b>  <b>6 &amp; 10 PM Christmas Eve</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  <b>10 AM Christmas @ Chapel</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	30
31						

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.

## 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/>

- 10 St. Mark's Church, Mt. Kisco
- 11 St. Stephen's Church (Woodlawn), Bronx
- 12 St. Stephen's Church, Armonk
- 13 Acolytes of the Diocese
- 14 St. John's Church (Wilmot), New Rochelle
- 15 All on the Bishop's Staff
- 16 Church of the Good Shepherd, Manhattan

## 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, Hope Jennings, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), Pat Rooney, John Ross, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Carl Smith, Marguerite Spratt, Janice Syedullah, Tracy, 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.*

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|----------------------------------|--|
| Birthdays<br>(this past week):   | Bonnie Foote, Saira Shahani and Patricia Weber         |
| Birthdays<br>(this coming week): | Elizabeth Hilton, Skye O'Halloran and Sylvia Erlandson |
| Acolytes:                        | December 10: Team 3<br>December 17: Team 1             |
| Altar Guild:                     | December 10: Team I<br>December 17: Team II            |

8 a.m. Readers: December 10: Deb Belding and Grant Ferris  
December 17: Jim Smyth and Sue DeLorenzo

10 a.m. Readers: December 10: Patty Caswell and Bobbie Wells  
December 17: Wendy Urban-Mead and Nancy Montero

Ushers: December 10: Patty Drake, Bobbie Wells  
December 17: Nancy Montero, Anna Marie Pitcher

Pledge Clerks: December 10: Joanne Lown and Janet Bright  
December 17: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher

Parish Cycle of Prayer: December 10: Grant and Shirley Ferris, Jeff Fishwick, Thomas Finnigan and Bonnie Foote and David Foote  
December 17: Karen Foy, Jillian Foster, Mary Gabel and Elizabeth Gabel, Gail Ganter-Toback

Coffee Hour Hosts: December 10: Jodi Triola, Ross and Connie Eames  
December 17: Deirdre Mae Micker, Wendy and Russell Urban-Mead

## **This Week's Lectionary**

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

## **This Week's Hymns**

Processional: 76 - On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry  
Sequence: 67 - Comfort, Comfort Ye My People  
Offertory: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"  
Communion: 462 - The Lord Will Come and Not Be Slow  
Recessional: 75 - There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

## **Last Week's Sermon**

Sermon Preached on First Sunday of Advent (December 3, 2017)

*"Jesus in 3 Tenses"*

Happy Advent.

And we can say happy because even as we wear purple, we wear it not for penitence like Lent but for thoughtful expectation, preparation and reflection.

Advent is a time of getting ready for big changes. And when you're preparing for a big change - like a move, or a new job, or getting married, or...having a baby - you can be both happily filled with expectation and reflective.

It's sort of like today's Stewardship Ingathering: we joyfully anticipate your pledges but are reflective on what we're doing when we offer a part of ourselves to the work God has given us. And yes, we're always anxious - a certain level of anxiety is always part of undertaking something new.

So whether we're talking about Stewardship or Advent, it seems like a little expectant reflection is in order.

Specifically, what is it that we are really expecting?

You know the answer to that one. We're waiting for Jesus. Or to be more accurate, we are reflecting on what the coming of Christ means in our lives.

Not just the past Jesus, the Christ child who was born two thousand plus years ago. But also the present Jesus, the Christ who comes daily into our lives if only we let him. AND the future Jesus, the Christ coming in his glory at the end of the age (whatever THAT means).

Jesus, in each of these Three Tenses - past, present, and future - is doing a new thing. And because God is Love, each of these new things brings us good ... as well as challenges.

What is the good that the baby Jesus brings - the Jesus of the past whose annual coming we anticipate? This is Immanuel. God with us. The INCARNATION. Jesus who came 2000 years ago came as one of us to make real for us what we were unable to accept: God loves us not because we deserve it but because God is Love. That God's Love is always there and that nothing can separate us from the love of God except, perhaps, for our own rejection of that love.

What is the good of the Christ of the present, who is with us right now? Well, Christ promised to be with us always, to the end of the age (whatever that means) - to be *present* with us. And he is. Not only in our collective and private prayer but in each other. We are the Body of Christ. This isn't just metaphorical. Christ is present in our worshiping and working together. Christ is present in our sharing of our lives. In a few minutes we will have communion in which we enjoy Christ's *real presence* right here, right now. When you come to the altar rail, close your eyes and *feel* it. That presence feeds us today. It encourages us and challenges us and comforts us. Look around, and you can see Christ present among us. And rejoice.

But what about the future Christ? Jesus was addressing that with his disciples in today's gospel. They were anxious about the day of judgment. And Jesus essentially said, "Don't even worry about it." The Future will take care of itself.

If you focus on being the body of Christ today, you will be okay in the future coming.

Not that any of us will even be alive for that coming - whenever it will be and whatever it will look like. It's just not for us to lose sleep over. It IS, however, for us to understand and appreciate that in the end, Christ *will* come and bring us to himself - whether at the end of the age (whatever that means is) or simply at the end of our individual journeys here on earth.

All three of these Jesuses - past, present, and future - bring us good news but also choices. Do we embrace God's love for us? Do we embrace Christ's call to be his body today? Do we trust his promise?

Like the Stewardship we celebrate today, this season of Advent reminds us that this is big stuff, important changes in an ever-changing world. Christ *has* come. Christ *is* here. Christ *will* come again.

Big changes in the lives of each of us - worthy of your Joyful expectation - and reflection. Amen.

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