

# St. James' E-pistle

## Date of Sunday Service: February 9, 2020

### Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

#### Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This Sunday is Boy Scout Sunday. While this doesn't really change anything for our liturgy, we will be welcoming the scouts of Troop 80 — a troop St. James' has sponsored for more than 50 years (I believe).

Over the years, St. James' has sponsored various scouting organizations including Explorers, Cubs, Tiger Cubs, Daisies, Brownies, and Girl Scouts. While each organization has its issues — sometimes troubling and traumatic — it has been our view that on the whole, scouting organizations offer a positive outlet for many young people.

In the interest of openness, I myself was once a scout, as were my father, my brothers, and my son (an Eagle Scout). I have served as a merit badge counselor and have been to more scouting campouts as an adult than I care to think about.

What I like about scouting is that it is a structured, safe space for young people to come and receive some adult attention, learn new things, discover that they can make a positive impact in the lives of others, and have some fun. I enjoyed watching them discover new skills — and then display those skills not so much for the “reward” of a badge but because it was something they truly cared about.

More than 22 years ago, my first month at St. James' was punctuated by a scandal in which the scout master of Troop 80 was arrested for pedophilia. I spent countless hours with traumatized scouts, parents, and leaders, none of whom could believe what had happened. We worked hard to understand and heal. Yet everyone involved felt the troop was still worthwhile, worth repairing and rebuilding. Over the past few years, it has been a growing, healthy organization.

That introduction to Troop 80 was instructive for me. It showed (and this can be transferred to church crises as well) that the value of something like scouts is not undone by the abuse of some. But it also shows how much care and attention must be paid to every aspect of the organization. Scouting, like church, involves people who trust leaders and make themselves vulnerable to those leaders and their guidance. It's a huge responsibility.

For my part, I respect and appreciate the countless hours these volunteer leaders put in, not only in preparing the activities, leading meetings, and camping, but in the training they undergo in order to qualify as a leader. I myself had to take abuse prevention training in order to be a merit badge counselor. It's not taken lightly.

Organizations like scouting (and the church) face many challenges today. Shrinking membership affect both. So does a level of mistrust. But when those involved proceed with integrity, dedication, and concern for their charges, they can do quite a lot of good.

So I look forward to welcoming the scouts this Sunday, and I hope you will make them feel that — just as it has been for the past 50 years or so — St. James' is their home.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

**Thought for your week:**

**“Racism destroys kinship. Sexism destroys kinship. Classism destroys kinship. Homophobia destroys kinship. When human beings exile other human beings from the circle of life, they are breaking the hoop of the human nation, tearing apart what God has created. The sin of humanity is not a lifetime stain inherited from mythic ancestors who disobeyed a rule, but a daily choice made by all of us in the here and now, in living relationships that embody our kinship.”**

— Steven Charleston, *The Four Vision Quests of Jesus*, p. 158

Worship This Week:

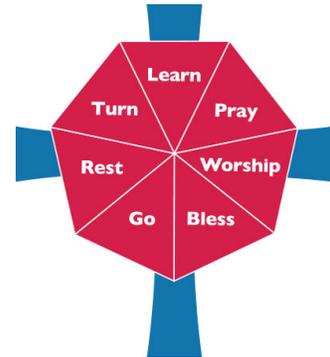
Tuesday	6:30 PM	Evening Prayer (at the Chapel)
Wednesday	10 AM	Morning Prayer (Wilks Room)
Thursday	11 AM	Bible Study
Sunday	8 AM	Eucharist Rite I
	10 AM	Eucharist Rite II

**If you have anything to add to the E-pistle, please contact either Fr. Chuck, Dyan in the Parish Office, or Brian Rance. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday evening. Thanks!**

## Announcements

### *Between-Service Class:*

THE WAY OF LOVE classes conclude **Sunday, February 9** with the second half of “**REST**”. This is the final step of the 7-step Way of Love. We will take a break next Sunday and resume after the break. Each session lasts from **9:15 - 9:45 AM** in the Wilks Room.



### *Inquirers Class This Sunday:*

The theme of this week’s Inquirers Class is: **New Testament**. Please join us if you would like to reaffirm your faith or would simply like to sit in on a class for the fun of it!

### *Sign Up for Lenten Meditations:*

It’s that time of year again, where we get to write Lenten Meditations and share them with each other. These are always so special and moving. Look for a sign-up sheet [THIS Sunday](#) and thereafter until we have all 40 days filled. I would like to have ALL meditations written and emailed to me by no later than [Sunday, February 23!](#) (It takes time to put the booklet together and have it ready for Ash Wednesday).

### *Next Fireside Chat: Stone Walls of Hyde Park:*

Mark your calendars for the next Chat: **March 5: *The Stone Walls of Hyde Park***. The speaker is Patricia Weber, who was instrumental in the committee to preserve the historic stone walls that are found throughout the town and county. She will discuss their historical importance and the efforts to preserve them. As always, the Chat starts at 7:00 PM. Please share this with your friends!

# February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Between Service Class <b>12 Noon</b> Inquirers	<b>3</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b>  <b>6:30 PM</b> Evening Prayer	<b>5</b>  <b>10 AM</b> Morning Prayer	<b>6</b> <b>11 AM</b>  BIBLE STUDY  <b>3:30 PM</b> READING ADVENTURES  <b>7 PM</b> Fireside Chat	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Between Service Class <b>12 Inquirers</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Evening Prayer	<b>12</b>  <b>10 AM</b> Morning Prayer	<b>13</b> <b>11 AM</b>  BIBLE STUDY  <b>3:30 PM</b> READING ADVENTURES	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Between Service Class <b>12 Inquirers</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b>  <b>7 PM</b> <b>Vestry</b> <b>Meeting</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>10 AM</b> Morning Prayer <b>2 PM</b> Hyde Park Assisted Living Eucharist	<b>20</b>  <b>11 AM</b>  BIBLE STUDY  <b>3:30 PM</b> READING ADVENTURES	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>  <b>No Between</b> <b>Service Class</b> <b>Today</b> <b>Lenten</b> <b>Meditation</b> <b>Deadline</b> <b>12 Inquirers</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> <b>SHROVE</b> <b>TUESDAY</b> <b>PANCAKE</b> <b>SUPPER!</b>	<b>26</b> <b>ASH</b> <b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>6:30 AM,</b> <b>10 AM, &amp; 7 PM</b> Ash Wednesday Liturgy & Eucharist	<b>27</b>  <b>11 AM</b>  BIBLE STUDY  <b>3:30 PM</b> READING ADVENTURES	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

**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.

## 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/>

- 9 St. Philip's Church in-the-Highlands, Garrison
- 10 Church of Saints John, Paul & Clement, Mount Vernon
- 11 Church of the Epiphany, Manhattan
- 12 St. Luke's School, Manhattan
- 13 Representatives to Provincial Council
- 14 The Director of Communications
- 15 Episcopal New Yorker Advisory Board

## Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ashley, Joe Baldwin, John Bohlmann, Justin Bohlmann, Fr. Fred Cartier, Patty Caswell, Sue Dingee, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Heather Francese, Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), John and Gloria Golden, Kathy Graff, Robert Guariglia, Clifford Hallmark (father of Alyssa Raugalis), Dalton K., Edith Kline, Ashley Konyn, Hope Jennings, Rosemary Leuken, Lorraine, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Margaret, Andrew Mendelson, Beth and Ginero Milano, Christine Oppenheimer, Lillian Peralta, Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (deployed to the Middle East), 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): Tanya S. Hall, Dalton M. Slegel, Suzanne Glancey, John Seagren, Jr.,  
Kasey Gaulin and David Wardell, Jr.

Birthdays  
(this coming week): Andrew Gausepohl, Cathi Tegtmeier, Doris Mack and Paul O'Halloran

Acolytes: February 9: Nancy Montero and Maddie Glancey

February 16: Bill Fenwick and Jack Canez

Altar Guild:	February 9: Team III February 16: Team III
8 a.m. Readers:	February 9: Shannon Butler and Lynne Koch February 16: Lucille Ogden and Grant Ferris
10 a.m. Readers:	February 9: Eric Zavadil/Maggie McNamara February 16: Wendy Urban-Mead/Deirdre Mae Micker
Ushers:	February 9: Maggie and Tom McNamara February 16: Jodi Triola and Georgia Verven
Pledge Clerks:	February 9: Doug Belding and Judy Douglass February 16: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	February 9: Irene Kipp, Edith Kline, Rudy Knakal, Walter and Lynn Koch, Boy Scout Troop 80 February 16: Ashley Konyn, Joanne Lown, Doris Mack
Coffee Hour Hosts:	February 9: Jodi Triola and Mike Fenwick February 16: Deirdre Mae Micker, Wendy and Russell Urban-Mead

## **This Week's Lectionary**

Isaiah 58:1-12  
 Psalm 112:1-10  
 1 Corinthians 2:1-16  
 Matthew 5:13-20

## **This Week's Hymns**

Processional: 610 — Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service  
 Sequence: 490 — I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light  
 Offertory: Blest Are They  
 Communion: 487 — Come my Way, my Truth, my Life  
 Recessional: L221 — This Little Light of Mine

## **Last Week's Sermon**

Sermon Preached on Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

### *"Fulfilling Righteousness"*

During the season of Epiphany, we have seen the coming of the Magi, the flight into Egypt, the baptism of Christ and now the presentation — I don't know if you've noticed a pattern here, but each of these events shows us a little bit more about who Christ is and why he came to us.

The magi show us that Christ is the one who opens God's love to all humanity; the flight to Egypt shows us that he is vulnerable like the weakest among us, like the asylum seeker and the abused; the baptism shows us that he IS God's Son taking on humanity to embody the depth of God's love for us.

And today's reading has a new role for the Christ — he is the one who draws out those who oppose the will of God and reveals their inner thoughts.

The actual quote from Simeon in today's gospel is: "This child is destined to be ...a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed."

Inner thoughts are deeper than mere thoughts. They are our true selves, our ulterior motives, as it were.

We are a superficial people in a lot of ways, rarely looking beneath the surface of either ourselves or others. We far too rarely examine what is said, and are therefore often duped by the unscrupulous. All you have to do to understand this is to look at the internet. How many times do fake rumors spread like wildfire? How many times do people say, "I saw it on Facebook so it must be true?"

We are gullible far too often, but Christ came to strip away our gullibility. That is to say, Christ came, as Simeon tells Mary to reveal the inner thoughts of many — the thoughts we hide while we present a public face. The gospel is essentially saying that beginning with Jesus, we have to let go of naïveté. (To use Malachi's image in the Old Testament reading, this is like a refiner stripping away dross from gold and silver, only Jesus is stripping away naïveté and our easy superficial understanding of the world).

But notice that the Gospel specifies whose inner thoughts will be revealed — those who oppose Jesus.

Or to be more precise, in opposing what Jesus commands, they reveal themselves.

So, when Jesus commands us to care for the immigrant, and they oppose it, that says more about them than the immigrant. When Jesus tells us to feed the poor, and they oppose it, that says more about them than the poor. When Jesus heals the sick without thought of payment and teaches his disciples to do the same — and they oppose it — that says more about them than the sick or the healer. When Jesus forgives the condemned — and they oppose it — this reveals the inner thoughts of those who oppose what Jesus commands.

Jesus came to be among us for many reasons, one of which is to reveal inner thoughts of many. This is not a call for us start pointing the finger at each other because our inner thoughts are not pure enough. Inner thoughts are reflected in our actions. As followers of Christ, we are called first to look at our own words and actions — are they in accord with those of Jesus Christ? Do WE act as Jesus commanded? Or do we oppose the things Jesus did?

In other words, while the inner thoughts of many will be revealed in the degree to which they oppose or follow Jesus's will — the first place for US to start looking is ourselves. So let each of us today commit to examining ourselves — OUR inner thoughts — and consider whether they are reflected in our words and actions. 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?*