

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: March 17, 2019

Second Sunday in Lent

Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I have big news. The church has received a clean bill of health!

HOWEVER, before we can get into the church for worship, there's a lot of work to do. The pews have to be re-attached to the walls (this was not part of what the abatement company did). We have hired a contractor to do that since it is a difficult and complicated task.

Next, there are boxes and boxes of things that need to be put away, especially in the sacristy. Finally, we need to put pew cushions, kneelers, prayer books and hymnals back in the pews. This is work that we can do as a community. I'll let you know when a time presents itself.

BUT... if everything goes smoothly, we may be able to worship in the church NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 24. Not everything will be in place, but enough could be that worship is possible then.

Consequently, I suggest that THIS Sunday, we offer a prayer of thanks for the extraordinary opportunity we had in the parish hall to worship in a new space that has excited a lot of creative thinking.

I also suggest that we have some sort of "Re-opening" ceremony some day in the not-to-distant future. Maybe special music from the choir and other music groups that are friends of the parish. I could see a litany of thanks and a fun reception. If you're interested in this, ESPECIALLY if you're interested in heading up the planning, please contact me! (You really DON'T want me planning a party).

In the midst of all this, I want to offer thanks to God for giving us a warm, safe space to worship in our displacement, for giving us insight into what it means to worship, for assuring us that wherever we are, there God is, and for allowing us to see how we can care for each other, stepping up to do those small tasks that can derail something so simple as setting up for church on Sunday morning.

We have displayed great adaptability over the past few months, and that bodes well for the future of this church. For while God is eternal, the ways in which we share God's love with the world are ever-changing. Ya gotta be light on your feet to be an effective evangelist!

So enjoy this good news! Look forward to our return to this clean and warm church! God is good.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

NOTICE: Worship Continues in the Parish Hall for THIS Sunday.

Thought for your week:

“Heaven goes by favor; if it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in.”

— Mark Twain

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 Epistle, please contact either Fr. Chuck, Dyan in the Office, or Brian Rance. Thanks!

Announcements

Outreach Committee Meeting:

All Outreach members — and those interested in reaching out to those in need — there is an Outreach Committee meeting **next Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall.**

Inquirers Class:

Our next Inquirers Class is **Tuesday March 26, 7:00 PM**

As always, everyone is welcome! Our next session will be “SCRIPTURE 3 — The New Testament.”

EVENING PRAYER

is at **Tuesday at 6:30 PM** at the chapel. Note, Evening Prayer will take place even on nights when the Vestry meets.

Vestry Meeting:

Tuesday, March 19. 7:00 PM.

Sign Up NOW: "I Want My Church to Grow"

Saturday, April 6 at 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

St. Paul's Church, 161 Mansion Street, Poughkeepsie

This special training event is for:

- Laypeople and clergy who want to grow a vital church
- Those who want to join God in doing a new thing
- Leadership teams working on evangelism, church growth, spiritual development

Includes Workshops on:

- Evangelism 101: Using Community Organizing Tools for Church Growth
- We Need More Money: Best Practices for Your Stewardship Campaign

St. James' Episcopal Church

Presents

A Mother's Day Tea Party

4-Course Luncheon
&
Light Entertainment



May 11, 2019

Two Seatings

12:00 pm and 3:00 pm
\$25 per person

Reservations Required, Limited Seating

*Celebrate with your mother, sister, daughter, or best friend
in a special way at a special place
(Not appropriate for children under 8)*

Gift items available for purchase

4526 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park, NY 12538 Phone: 845-229-2820

** Proceeds provide holiday gifts and meals for local families in need*

March 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 TIME CHANGE! LEAP FORWARD!	11 Office Closed	12 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Inquirers	13 10 AM Morning Prayer 2:00 PM. Hyde Park Assisted Living Eucharist	14 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 - Reading Adventures	15 FREE PRAYER FRIDAY 7:00 PM Concert!	16 APOLOGY Retreat
17	18 Office Closed	19 7 PM Vestry	20 10 AM Morning Prayer 6:30 PM Outreach Meeting	21 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 - Reading Adventures	22 FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	23
24	25 Office Closed	26 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Inquirers	27 10 AM Morning Prayer	28 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 - Reading Adventures	FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	
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.diocesenyn.org/administration/for-clergy/liturgical-and-sacramental/diocesan-calendar-of-intercession/>

- 17 St. John's-in-the-Wilderness, Stony Point
- 18 St. Margaret's Church, Staatsburg
- 19 St. James the Less Church, Scarsdale
- 20 St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, Bronx
- 21 St. Luke's School, Manhattan
- 22 Diocesan Hispanic/Latino Commission
- 23 St. Andrew's Church, South Fallsburg, Delaware Catskill Episcopal Ministry

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ashley, Joe Baldwin, John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Dean Caswell, Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Heather Francese, Virginia Gansemer, Kathy Ganim, Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), John and Gloria Golden, Robert Guariglia, Dalton K., Edie Kline, Lynne Koch, Ashley Konyn, Tedi Kramer, Hope Jennings, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Jim Lynn (Carol Bender's brother - facing surgery), Doris Mack, Margaret, Bruce McIlravy, Andrew Mendelson, Beth and Ginerio 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): Faith Kinne, Carl Needy, Russell Urban-Mead, Richard Kuralt and Susan Dingee

Birthdays
(this coming week): Aric Tegtmeier and Chuck Kramer

Acolytes:
March 17: Bill Fenwick and Jack Canez
March 24: Russell Urban-Mead and Braeden Hall

Altar Guild:
March 17: Team III
March 24: Team I

8 a.m. Readers:
March 17: Debbie Belding and Lynn Koch
March 24: Shannon Butler and Grant Ferris

10 a.m. Readers:	March 17: Jim Oppenheimer-Crawford and Barbara Slegel March 24: Wendy Urban-Mead and Lilian Peralta
Ushers:	March 17: Andy Hall and Tonya Hall March 24: Judy Douglass and Vince Asher
Pledge Clerks:	March 17: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher March 24: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	March 17: Gabby Mercado, Isabelle Mercado March 24: Deidre Mae Micker, Nancy Montero
Coffee Hour Hosts:	March 17: Deirdre Mae Micker, Wendy and Russell Urban-Mead March 24: Brian Rance, Saira Shahani

This Week's Lectionary

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

This Week's Hymns

Processional: 656 - Blessed Are The pure of Heart
Sequence: 145 - Now Quit Your Cares
Offertory: "May We Have the Mind of Christ"
Communion: 301 - Bread of the World in Mercy Broken
Recessional: 152 - Kind Maker of the World, O Hear

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on First Sunday in Lent

"Remembering the Wilderness"

Lately, I have been engaged in some lively conversations about how history classes are taught and have been taught in this country over the past 50 years or so. It's not always been a pretty picture. One friend mentioned that his textbooks of the 60s in the south never once mentioned slavery. Others talked about the Lincoln/Douglass debates but focused on how short Douglass was in comparison to Lincoln and never mentioned the content of the debates. Which leads me to the questions: What do we remember? And why?

We're happy to "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Pearl Harbor" and "Never Forget 9/11" and we celebrate the 4TH of July every year.

Most of the time, you may note, we remember things that make us look good. But more often than not, we try to forget those times when we feel lost and scared and alone. Or when we have made mistakes or done wrong.

Lent suggests that we — maybe — want to remember those times as well. Why?

There simply ARE those times when we are lost, confused, uncertain of what direction to take next, and no answer is coming. This is what in Deuteronomy they are asked to remember especially in good times. Good times are not what make us dear to God. Good times are not forever. And they are not to be counted on as a sign of God's blessing because God is with us and blessing us in the wilderness.

In the wilderness, for example, for 40 years when the Hebrew people wandered, they were learning how to be a free people again, essentially recovering from a 400-year induced case of collective PTSD. It took that long separated from their enslavers, two generations basically, to become a nation.

Or Jacob fleeing Esau who is seeking to kill him because of Jacob's own cheating.

Or Elijah fleeing Jezebel and Ahab when he cries to God and says, "I — only I am left of all your prophets, and Jezebel is seeking my life."

Or in the case of Jesus — here he had just undergone this public baptism with the voice of God thundering approval only to be thrown into the wilderness of uncertainty and temptation.

Would he feed people, become a military leader, get into politics — or something more and much riskier? The temptations to take the easy routes, the popular routes, the uncomplicated route — this is what he faced in the wilderness.

And there is a reason we remember those times in the wilderness each Lent.

Because we are in the wilderness, too, in our lives.

I find it poignant that as we enter into Lent, we have ourselves been away from our church home for more than 40 days (but 40 always simply meant "a lot" in scripture, so you could say we've been misplaced for 40 long days, too). We haven't had to wander, exactly, but we have had to move around from here to the chapel depending on who had use of the hall (like on Christmas or Ash Wednesday). And the question regularly arose, "When are we going back?"

That time of returning to the church is coming soon — and when we do, I hope we will never forget our time in the parish hall. It has been a time of uncertainty, of regular reports of just how much more this is going to cost, of delays and occasional sleepless nights (well, for me at least). But it has also been a time of joy and adaptability and discovery that God is with us wherever we are. We have grown here, and it is worth remembering.

In my work on slavery in the diocese — I have a retreat next Saturday — people often ask, “Why should we remember that — why dwell on the past?” The answer to that is the same answer we could give for today’s lessons. The past is what makes us who we are today. We must remember that our ancestor was a wandering Aramean, that our spiritual ancestors were enslaved for 400 years and wandered the wilderness for 40, that our Lord wandered the wilderness 40 days in uncertainty before understanding his purpose.

Because nobody escapes this life without time in the wilderness. Nobody escapes this life without being alone and frightened and not all that clear if God really is with us. It’s important in times like those to know that others — even Jesus — has been through it before. And if they can make it, so can we.

That’s why this Lent, we remember the wilderness. Whether we’re there because of something others did to us, something we did to ourselves, or something that God is doing, we remember. Because it is in the wilderness, we truly come to know that God is with us always. Remember that and never forget. 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) 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?