

St. James' E-pistle

April 14, 2017

Pulpit Notes

"Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen."
-- Collect for Easter

Brothers and Sisters:

Just a couple of more days till Easter! There's nothing like a celebration of resurrection to make you sit up and breathe in the air and say, "Life is good!"

I hope you remember your Easter Eggs!

But seriously, the resurrection is the one thing that binds us together as Christians. It is the sign that God's love for us and his promise to us are equally boundless. That's why we rejoice. We are loved by the creator of Heaven and Earth, and in time, we will be allowed to spend eternity basking in that love and - I think - eternal creative joy.

What's hard to grasp sometimes is that this promise never wavers even when it seems that the world has - or that our lives have - spun out of control. Even when it seems like the world is going to pieces, that promise is that God accompanies us through it all and ushers us into real peace.

If this seems questionable, consider the very beginning of the Lenten season when you came up to receive the imposition of ashes and hear the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." No matter what our expectations for the world are, we can guarantee that each one of us will die. Certainly, Christ's example on earth is for us to emulate so we can learn the kind of love that comes from God and make it our own.

Even though we know that we will fail to emulate that love perfectly or even very well, we also know that God's love is so perfect as to never give up on us in this life or the next. We learn love as well as we can here and then move on.

Here's the hard part to accept in that: the world will go on. People will continue to make horrible mistakes and noble sacrifices. They will continue to act both wickedly and righteously - sometimes it'll be the same people doing both. I find it hopeful to know that the

St. James' E-pistle

April 14, 2017

world will carry on when I'm gone - (mostly) forgetting relatively quickly that I ever existed. I'll have lived my part here and moved on to the life promised by God in Christ's resurrection.

The world, in my absence, will continue to find heroes, villains, and just plain folks. They will make mistakes, fall into evil, seek forgiveness - with any luck save the world from utter destruction... That will all happen after I'm gone.

But it will happen while I'm here, too, and I, like you, get to be a part of it. We can move forward in the sketchiest of times with hope and joy and determination because we walk at all times with the one who made us and loved us so much as to become one of us and die on a cross, but who could not be held down by death.

Easter is a joyous celebration of life and God's love. So let's flower that cross! Let's say that word we have denied ourselves for all of Lent! Let's go find those Easter Eggs!

And then... let's live.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck+

St. James' E-pistle

April 14, 2017

The News of the Church

Sexton Update: The Buildings and Grounds Committee and I want you to know that we have been hard at work searching for a new sexton. While we have spoken to three candidates so far - with others on the horizon - we have not yet settled on anyone and are taking it one step at a time. We continue to thank you for your patience and maybe even help in keeping the buildings clean during this interim period. Thanks! - Fr. Chuck

Women of St. James' Invited to Grace: Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook, NY is inviting the women of our church and others in the Dutchess County area to a special gathering and meal on **Wednesday, May 10, beginning at 6 p.m.** The speaker, Pam Mott, Canon to the Ordinary, from the Western Massachusetts diocese, will speak about "The Challenges Facing the Episcopal Church Today" and the role of women of faith in meeting those challenges. This event will give us an opportunity to meet other Episcopal Church women, learn about the issues in which we all are engaged and discuss and share ideas together.

Continuing Women of Grace's tradition of pot luck dinners, they will provide the entry and, once they have an idea of the numbers attending, will ask for your contribution of appetizers, salads, desserts or beverages.

Please respond to Patty Glancey at pglancey@ymail.com no later than **Monday, April 24th**, so we can call Grace Church with the total number of women attending from our church. Grace Church's Parish House, the site of this event, is located at 3328 Franklin Avenue, Millbrook, NY.

St. James' E-pistle

April 14, 2017



ROOTS & BRANCHES
PROGRAMS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

presents

Agents of Peace in a Time of Fear

**A Retreat
June 9th and 10th, 2017**



Discover Your Inner Peacemaker & Reconciler

on this retreat designed to turn back our present tide of divisiveness, conflict and inflammatory speech. Participants will reconnect with the peacemaking example of Christ and be empowered with practical methods to become agents of peace and reconciliation in their own communities.

Co-led by the Revs. Masud Ibn Syedullah and Garrett Mettler at Taconic Retreat Center in Milan, NY.

Accommodations at the retreat center and all meals are included in the \$300 registration cost. To find out more and to register call 845-758-8764.

St. James' E-pistle

April 14, 2017

Confronting Anti-Native Legacies in our Institutions:



A conversation with Episcopal
Bishop Carol Joy Gallagher

Wednesday, April 19th
5:30 - 7pm
Vassar College
Sanders Auditorium

Many American religious institutions like the Episcopal Church, as well as educational institutions like Vassar, have long histories of justifying, benefiting from, and even actively participating in violent and genocidal acts towards Native American communities. In light of continuing anti-Native violence such as that in Standing Rock, South Dakota, how can we who are within these institutions today combat that legacy and work towards affirmative justice for Native American people, both inside and outside of them?

Bishop Gallagher was the first Native American woman to be consecrated a bishop in the Episcopal Church, and the first in any major Christian denomination. She currently serves as Assistant Bishop and Bishop for Native American Ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Montana.

Sponsored by the Episcopal Church of Vassar College

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS OR INFORMATION SHOULD CALL THE OFFICE OF CAMPUS ACTIVITIES AT 845-437-5370

St. James' E-pistle
April 14, 2017

St. James' Episcopal Church

presents

*A Mother's Day
Tea Party*



4-Course Luncheon

&

Light Entertainment

with "suffragette Margaret Lewis Norrie" at 2:15

May 13, 2017

Two Seatings

12:00 pm and 3:00 pm

\$25 per person

Reservations Required, Limited Seating

Gift items available for purchase

*Celebrate with your mother, sister, daughter, or best friend
in a special way at a special place*

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

St. James' E-pistle

April 14, 2017

April 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 Palm Sunday	10 Office Closed	11	12 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	13 Maundy Thursday 11 AM Bible Study 7 PM Maundy Thursday Liturgy	14 Good Friday 10 AM Community Walk of Cross 7 PM Good Friday Liturgy	15 8 AM Men's Breakfast 8 PM Easter Vigil
16 Easter Sunday	17 Office Closed	18 7 PM Vestry	19 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	20 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 Reading Adventures	21	22
23	24 Office Closed	25	26 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	27 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 Reading Adventures	28	29 10 AM Nursery School Tag Sale
30						

St. James' E-pistle

April 14, 2017

Explore the Choir! "If you have any interest at all in singing and/or playing an instrument - no matter how much experience you have - do consider participating in the St. James music ministry! You can contact St. James' Music Director Sarah Rodeo (sarodeo@vassar.edu) at any time!"

Churchyard Committee: Our churchyard committee wants you. The committee oversees one of the most historic graveyards in the region, and is responsible for making sure it is kept up. It handles the sale and digging of graves as well. If you value our churchyard and want it to continue to be a source of comfort whose loved ones rest here as well as historical interest to those who visit, please join our committee. If you're interested, you can contact Carol Vinall at vinehall3@aol.com.

Spiritual / Educational Online Resources to deepen your faith:

- Acts 8 Movement
 - GrowChristians
 - Episcopal Cafe (a favorite)
 - The Slate Project (not affiliated with Slate magazine)
 - Virtual Abbey
 - Second Life Church (gives you a virtual church experience if you're into that sort of thing. Fun to look at maybe).
 - Inward/Outward (daily meditations sent to your e-mail)
 - "Edge of Enclosure" (weekly lectionary-based blog post)
 - The Celtic Christian Tradition (via Facebook)
 - Anne Lamott (via Facebook)
 - Fr. Richard Rohr's blog <https://cac.org/richard-rohr/richard-rohr-ofm/>
 - Jan Richardson - <http://paintedprayerbook.com>
- Especially good for those grieving or interested in women's spirituality.

The News of the Diocese

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 <http://www.diocesen.org> and click under "Beliefs and Practices."

- 2 Church of St. Mary-in-the-Highlands, Cold Spring
- 9 Palm Sunday - Cathedral Congregation of St. Savior
- 10 Prison Chaplains of the Diocese
- 11 Clergy of the Diocese
- 12 Sextons of the Diocese

St. James' E-pistle

April 14, 2017

- 13 Maundy Thursday - Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors of the Diocese
- 14 Good Friday - Hospice Chaplains of the Diocese
- 15 Holy Saturday - The New York Altar Guild and Congregational Altar Guilds

Praying For Peace Everywhere:

Let us continue to light a candle for peace in the Holy Land - and everywhere. Prayer is our most potent antidote to hatred.

1. Candle for Peace

Please also light a candle on Fridays - holy to both faiths - for Peace

Let us Light Candles for Peace

Two mothers, one plea:

Now, more than ever, during these days of so much crying,
on the day that is sacred to both our religions, Friday, Sabbath Eve

Let us light a candle in every home - for peace:

A candle to illuminate our future, face to face,

A candle across borders, beyond fear.

From our family homes and houses of worship

Let us light each other up,

Let these candles be a lighthouse to our spirit

Until we all arrive at the sanctuary of peace.

2. The Mothers Prayer:

God of Life:

You who heals the broken hearted, binding up our wounds.

Please hear this prayer of mothers.

You did not create us to kill each other

Nor to live in fear or rage or hatred in your world. You created us so that we allow each other to sustain Your Name in this world:

Your name is Life, your name is Peace.

For these I weep, my eye sheds water:

For our children crying in the night,

For parents holding infants, despair and darkness in their hearts.

For a gate that is closing – who will rise to open it before the day is gone?

With my tears and with my constant prayers, With the tears of all women deeply pained at these harsh times

I raise my hands to you in supplication: Please God have mercy on us.

Hear our voice that we not despair That we will witness life with each other, That we have

mercy one for another, That we share sorrow one with the other, That we hope, together, one for another.

Inscribe our lives in the book of Life

For Your sake, our God of Life Let us choose Life.

St. James' E-pistle

April 14, 2017

For You are Peace, Your world is Peace and all that is Yours is Peace,
May this be your will
And let us say Amen.

Sheikha Ibtisam Mahameed and Rabba Tamar Elad-Appelbaum
English Translation Amichai Lau-Lavie

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Susie Buhalis, Mariel Carter, Dee, Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Steven Foote, Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Cath Holywell (priest in the Church of England and Indaba partner who worshiped with St. James' - undergoing heart surgery), Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Charles Pardee, Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), John Ross, Richard Secor, Sharon Secor (recovering from heart surgery), James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Patricia, (sister of Barbara Slegel), 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 alright.

Birthdays
(this past week):

Brian D. Rance

Birthdays
(this coming week):

Virginia Mackenzie, Wendy Urban-Mead, Todd Weaver, Katherine Sanford Koch Edwards and Steven Gausepohl

Acolytes:

April 16: Team 2

April 23: Team 3

Altar Guild:

April 16: TBA

April 23: Team III

St. James' E-pistle

April 14, 2017

8 a.m. Readers:	April 16: Debbie Belding and Jim Smyth April 23: Lucille Ogden and Thomas Finnigan
10 a.m. Readers:	April 16: Wilma Tully/Bobbie Wells April 23: Regina Ardini/Maggie McNamara
Ushers:	April 16: Patty Drake, Bobbie Wells April 23: Nancy Montero, Anna Marie Pitcher
Pledge Clerks:	April 16: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher April 23: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	April 16: Carl and Jean Needy, Bud and Joan Oetjen April 23: Don, Lucille, Rachel and Daniel Ogden and Paul, Bev, Skye, Tadgh and Gilbert O'Halloran
Coffee Hour Hosts:	April 16: The Congregation April 23: TBA

This Week's Lectionary

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

This Week's Hymns

Processional: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (#207)

Sequence: Welcome Happy Morning (#179)

Offertory: "Christus Resurrexit", "Exultate Jubilate"

Communion: The Day of Resurrection (#210), Thou Hallowed Chosen Morn of Praise (#198)

Recessional: The Strife Is O'er (#208)

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

Sermon Preached on

St. James' E-pistle

April 14, 2017

Palm Sunday
(April 9, 2017)

"What's Your Hosanna?"

When the boys were young, we watched that old movie, "The Pirates of the Caribbean." In one scene toward the end, the pirate captain Jack Sparrow helps the British navy defeat the immortal, evil pirate crew.

After the victory, all the British sailors and marines are holding their fists up in victory shouting "Huzzah! Huzzah!"

The boys had no idea what Huzzah meant other than it was a word for when things that looked bad suddenly became good. And so, every time there was a little victory - and this went on for months, mind you - they would shout "Huzzah!" If they did unexpected well on a test, it was "Huzzah!" Win a game? "Huzzah!"

You might be thinking, "That's great, but what does that have to do with Palm Sunday!" Well, for starters, Huzzah sounds an awful lot like Hosanna, right? But seriously, Huzzah and Hosanna do have some important things in common.

You might have noticed, for example, that the gospel is all in English except for this word Hosanna. In fact, it's not even Greek like the rest of the gospel was in the original. It was an Aramaic word, but it had a lot more meaning that originally. You see the word actually means, "Please save," or "Help!" But over the years, it switched from being a cry for help to a shout of Victory!

So, by the time Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, "Hosanna" meant, "This guy will save us!" Or maybe, "God has saved us by sending this messiah!"

So, Huzzah may not be a perfect analogy, but they are both cries of at least anticipated victory. And here's something else important they share: In the very next scene after the British shout Huzzah, they decide to hang Captain Jack Sparrow. Really? Right after he had saved their lives and those of countless others? Why?

Because he was, after all, a pirate - and that's what you do with pirates. Pretty rigid bunch, wouldn't you say? Yet this is exactly what happens in the gospel. After shouting Hosanna! For Jesus, they turn on him with amazing speed. Why?

Not for piracy. But the situation was incredibly tense in Jerusalem in those days, so the crowd's inconsistency might be forgivable. Here's what I mean.

Jerusalem was controlled by the Romans. They had a governor and soldiers there to keep control and brutally put down any trouble-making. Jerusalem also had a rebellion brewing, and people like Jesus Barabbas were perpetrating acts of terrorism to try to force the Romans out. Add to that the fact that this was Passover, so Jewish pilgrims from all over known world were converging on Jerusalem, and many of them were less worried about raising a ruckus.

And finally, there was Jesus himself. He came in riding on a donkey (a sign of royalty) to adoring crowds. You see, Jesus already had a reputation by then. He had fed the multitudes. He had healed the sick, given sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf. He had raised the dead,

St. James' E-pistle

April 14, 2017

walked on water and calmed storms. What couldn't he do? And then there was his teaching - he taught with an authority nobody had ever seen before.

So, when the crowds shouted Hosanna, their expectations for Jesus were very high. Messiah high. Jesus just had to be the Messiah, the one to come and kick out the Romans.

Only thing is, Jesus had other plans. Jesus didn't kick out the Romans. He confronted the religious leaders. He overturned the moneychangers' tables. He taught love. He wasn't going there to give them what they wanted - he was going there to offer them what they needed. This is something they hadn't figured out.

And that's us. We want from God a lot of things and when God doesn't deliver, we turn. Our Hosanna - our cry of "Isn't God the best! Praise God!" - turns quickly to "If he were really a loving God, he wouldn't have let me lose my job. If he were really loving, he wouldn't have let me get sick. If God really loved me, why did God let my loved one die?"

What the crowd - and we - fall into is the trap of thinking that outward things are the main thing.

Whether money, comfort, prestige, even freedom - they are an important part of the journey, but they are not the goal. Jesus offers the goal but doesn't prescribe what the journey will look like for each of us. How we treat each other along the way is up to us.

There will be times when we shout "Huzzah!" Or "Hosanna!" when things seem to be going well - especially if they are going better than expected. But it's not the end goal. Those things are temporary, fleeting, just like our cries of victory. The end goal is eternal, internal, life giving. It leads to God.

So remember that your Hosanna is a temporary thing. As we journey into and through Holy Week, understand that Jesus is leading us beyond the temporary to the eternal. Christ provides exactly what we need to get there. That he will save indeed - and in the end, our cheer will be greater than any Hosanna ... Or even any Huzzah. Amen.