

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: April 22, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We think we've got it! Thanks to the work and patience of Brian Rance, we are using Google Groups. So far, it looks like things are working well, but if you find you are receiving this on an email address you prefer not to use, please let me know your preferred address, and we'll make the change.

Making change is never easy, and this has not been an easy process, but it is a crucial part of life. In fact, without change, life ceases.

When we talk about a life in Christ, we are talking about a life of change. From the moment we feel the stirrings of the Holy Spirit nudging us to a new relationship with the divine, we are called to be in constant change. We look at our neighbors differently, maybe changing our biases. We look at our use of time differently, maybe letting some things go to make room for God. We look at our possessions differently, maybe reevaluating what we really need to make us happy.

Sometimes that change is to become more active in church functions. I personally take great delight when parishioners want to learn more or assist in worship or sing or get involved in outreach. Sometimes, change means to become quieter, step back from things that drive us away from God.

There is one constant in change when it comes from Christ. It always drives us ever closer to the Love of God. It always drives us ever deeper into the practice of loving our neighbors as ourselves. There's an old saying about the person who doesn't want to arrive at death all pristine and pretty but used up, sucked dry, battered and bruised but with wind in their sails and a twinkle in their eyes as they say, "Wow! What a wild ride." When I first saw that quote, I couldn't but help thinking of Allelu Kurten who slid into home base (as it were) having spent her every ounce of being in this adventure of life.

When you follow Christ, change will take you to places you never dreamt of. Sometimes that's pleasant. Indeed, I have met some of the most wondrous people simply by being open to God's call to go somewhere new.

Sometimes, of course, the change is not so fun. Sitting with a stranger who is dying so they don't die alone. Being that stranger who is sick and alone. Being yelled at during a protest. Having others question your beliefs. Cleaning up the garbage left by others. Struggling to pay the bills or wondering where the next meal will come from. Sitting quietly while someone tells you of a grievance they have against you. You get the idea. But that, too, is a change that brings us closer to God.

St. James' is a place of constant change. Whether we're trying a new ministry that takes off - like the Graveyard Tours or the Community Garden, or we fly a lead balloon like changing the place of the sermon in the service, we don't let moss grow under our feet. It is not change for change's sake, but our effort to ever more seek the face of Christ in our internal lives as well as in each other.

In the coming months, we will explore ways to change even more - finding ways to encourage greater depth in our commitment to Christ and each other. Finding ways to make worship more meaningful, to bring worship into our homes, to deepen our knowledge, and spark a fiercer fire in our hearts. I am always impressed with the love and creativity that emanates from parishioners here, so I welcome suggestions. BUT, remember the rule: If you suggest something, be ready to head it up.

So here's to the changes we need to make in our individual lives and our corporate life together. May they always be in the direction of our great shepherd, Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

Announcements

Men's Breakfast:

As always, this Saturday being the third of the month, we will have a men's breakfast. Cranberry's, 8:00 AM. See you then!

Paint Work Party:

Anyone who wants can join us at the Parish House apartment at 10:00 AM.

Earth Day Celebration:

Come to St. James' Church on Saturday for the Earth Day Celebration that culminates in a dinner. The dinner starts at 4:00.

Between Service Class:

Our Between Service Class 3-part series on Dietrich Bonhoeffer continues this Sunday at 9:15 AM in the Wilks Room. Last week, we had a great introduction to his life, and now we get into some of his theology. All are welcome, and if you missed last week, don't worry! Each class is designed to stand alone as well as to work together.

Youth Group:

The Youth Group meets this Sunday at 3:00 PM in the Wilks Room. We'll hang out and play a few games. Bring a friend!

Continuing Inquirers:

The Inquirers Class asked if they could have more classes after Confirmation, so we are having one a month for the next several months - just to go into a little more depth. The next class is Wednesday, April 25 (The Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist) at 7:00 PM in the Wilks Room.
Topic: The Creeds.

Dutchess Community College Food Bank Needs Our Support:

Our support for students of Dutchess Community College through the end of the month.
Please donate non-perishable food that does not require a stove by placing your food donations into our food basket in the narthex. Any questions, please speak with Lillian Peralta. On behalf of all the students who will benefit -THANK YOU!

A PLEDGE PLEA:

If you have not pledged yet, please do so. Letters will go out next week from the Vestry to remind you about your pledge. Please help!

Women's Paint & Sip:

Join the Women of St. James' for a Painting party! Friday, April 27 at 6:30 pm. See flyer below.

St. James' Women's Group Paint Party



Who: All women of the Church

What: Paint and Sip Party

Hosted by the Artists' Collective of Hyde Park

Led by 2 very encouraging retired art teachers

When: Friday, April 27th, 6:30pm

Where: St. James' Parish Hall

Why: Fun, laughs, and company

To reserve your spot, please send cash or a check made out to cash in the amount of \$40 to the St. James' Church office by Friday, April 13th. Or give to Patty Glancey or Liz Granados.

NAME _____ Contact #: _____

~ Save the date and register now! ~

I Want My Church to Grow: What is Congregational Development?

Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

(Check-in opens at 8:30 a.m.)

Trinity St. Paul's Church

311 Huguenot Street, New Rochelle

This special workshop 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

Workshop Topics

- ❖ Episcopalians Evangelize? Using Community Organizing Tools for Church Growth
- ❖ You Start with what You Have: Asset Based Congregational Development
- ❖ We Need More Money: Best Practices for Your Stewardship Campaign
- ❖ Everything Keeps Changing! Vestry 101 for the 21st Century

Cost: 1–2 people: \$10 each; 3–4 people: \$8 each; 5 or more people: \$7 each

- **We encourage congregations to bring teams of 3 or more people!**

To register online, visit www.diocesenyn.org/ednyevent/cd18-april/

Questions?

The Rev. Canon Altagracia Pérez-Bullard, PhD

Canon for Congregational Vitality

212-316-7433 or aperez-bullard@diocesenyn.org

What is Congregational Vitality in the Diocese of New York?

- Latinx Ministry
- Consulting with Congregations
- Renewal Works (2018)
- Congregational Development Commission
 - Developing/Identifying/Providing Resources (Resourcing)
 - Diocesan Training Events (Equipping Leaders)
 - Planting and (re)Development
 - Grant Programs

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16 Office Closed 7:30 PM Choir Practice	17 7 PM Vestry	18 10 AM Morning Prayer 2 PM Eucharist at HP Assisted Living	19 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Reading Adventures	20 11 AM Free Prayer Friday @ Cranberry's	21 8 AM Men's Breakfast 2 PM Earth Day Celebration & Dinner (4-7)
22 3 pm Youth Group	23 Office Closed 6 PM Women's Group @ Coppola's	24	25 10 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM Inquirers	26 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Final Reading Adventures	27 11 AM Free Prayer Friday @ Cranberry's 6:30 PM Women's Paint Party	28 Congrega- tional Growth Workshop
29	30 7:30 PM Choir Practice Priests Conference	May 1 Priests Conference	2 10 AM Morning Prayer Priests Conference	3 11 AM Bible Study	4 11 AM Free Prayer Friday @ Cranberry's	5

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.diocesenyny.org/administration/for-clergy/liturgical-and-sacramental/diocesan-calendar-of-intercession/>

- 22 Holy Trinity Church (Inwood), Manhattan
- 23 St. John's Episcopal Church, Kingston
- 24 St. John's Church (Wilmot), New Rochelle
- 25 With gratitude for the ministry of the Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk, 15th Bishop of New York on the twentieth anniversary of his consecration as Bishop.
- 26 New York Service & Justice Collaborative and The Episcopal Service Corps
- 27 Executive Assistants to the Bishops
- 28 St. James' Church, Callicoon, Delaware Catskill Episcopal Ministry

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Mariel Carter, Joann Clark (recovery from surgery), 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, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, 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), Pat Rooney, John Ross, 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): Virginia Mackenzie, Wendy Urban-Mead, Todd Weaver, Katherine Sanford Koch Edwards and Steven Gausepohl

Birthdays
(this coming week): Walter Lommel Koch, Floraine Knauss, Rachel Ogden, Barbara Jane ("Bobbie") Sprinz Wells and Jeet Shahani

Acolytes:
April 22: Russell Urban-Mead and Braeden Hall

	April 29: Nancy Montero and Jaylen Thatcher
Altar Guild:	April 22: Team I April 29: Team I
8 a.m. Readers:	April 22: Lucille Ogden and Lynne Koch April 29: Debbie Belding and Grant Ferris
10 a.m. Readers:	April 22: Russell Urban-Mead and Andy Hall April 29: Wendy Urban-Mead and Judy Douglass
Ushers:	April 22: Andrew and Tanya Hall April 29: Judy Douglass and Vince Asher
Pledge Clerks:	April 22: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell April 29: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	April 22: Jesse, Gisele and Logan Ohliger and Jim Oppenheimer April 29: Don, Lucille, Rachel and Daniel Ogden and Paul, Bev, Skye, Tadgh and Gilbert O'Halloran
Coffee Hour Hosts:	April 22: Brian Rance, Saira Shahani April 29: The Choir

This Week's Lectionary

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

This Week's Hymns

Processional: 174 - At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
Sequence: 664 - My Shepherd will Supply
Offertory: TBA
Communion: 305 - Come Risen Lord, be our guest
Recessional: 645 - The King of Love My Shepherd is

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Third Sunday of Easter (April 15, 2018)

“The Family that Eats Together”

On my trip back home the week after Easter, it was clear just how much things had changed. I saw it in everything, but food was especially poignant.

Meal times centered around my mother’s hospital bed, getting her to sip water, drink some *Boost*, eat a little apple sauce and maybe some minced strawberry. Every one of use took turns feeding her one sip at a time, one tiny spoonful at a time.

This is nothing new - many families spend mealtimes like this every day, some for years on end. It is a very real part of what family means.

Mealtimes had always been an important part of my childhood, and Liz & I tried to make them an important part of our children’s upbringing as well. So it wasn’t a surprise to me that these difficult and tedious meals with Mom also took on a sense of importance. We were gathered together. We were family.

Over the years, you’ve heard me talk about the importance of food in our common life together. After church we go to coffee hour (or Cranberry’s) to eat and talk together. Why next Saturday, there’s a dinner here to celebrate Earth Day - come be part of it.

A few years ago, we put together a list of Table Blessings that different families of the parish used at their homes. The one I grew up with was “Bless, Oh Lord, this food to our use, and keep us ever mindful of the needs of others.”

Why is food so important to us - other than the obvious need to stay alive?

Because it is when we are together. It is when we are most family - even if we’re not connected by blood. When we sit down to a meal, we are one.

Even as I say this, I have to admit that Jesus did not exactly sit down to a meal with his disciples in today’s Gospel. Oh, he ate, but you couldn’t properly call it a sit down meal. Nevertheless, this moment of food was crucial to Luke’s telling of the post-resurrection appearances.

To set the stage, you should know that the two disciples who had encountered Jesus on the Road to Emmaus had *just* finished telling them how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. Presumably, they had just left when Jesus appeared to the remaining disciples.

As you heard, they were terrified. Even after they had just heard! Jesus has them touch his hands so they will believe. And they sort of do. But in their joy they are still disbelieving and wondering, so Jesus says, “Got any food?” They give him a piece of broiled fish. I guess leftovers is what you get when you come to dinner unannounced.

But the purpose of eating was proof that Jesus was a physical human being - risen from the dead but no ghost. Luke had already shown Jesus being made known in the breaking of the bread - now he wanted his closest family to know that he was really there.

And that is what they were - family. Jesus not only showed them that he was really there but over the course of his other post-resurrection appearances - many where they ate together - he reminded

them that not only were they family, but there were all GOD'S family. That we are all God's children.

As John said in his letter, **“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.** ... Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him...”

We come here, week after week, because we are children of God. We feed each other - and we will again today - because we are family. Sometimes it is mundane work, or we worry about germs or we're distracted by worries and fears.

But every week, *somebody* has that experience of joy and wonder in the midst of their disbelief. Every week, *somebody* - maybe you today - will be filled with the awe of being part of the body of Christ.

Just yesterday, my cousin posted an article from a website appropriately called “Episcopal Cafe.” It was about a friend of hers who had rejected church for years - Church had been a place of empty ritual, hypocrisy, abuse.

Until one day she walked into an Episcopal Church. And yes, it was beautiful, and the music was great, and the preaching was good.

“But,” she wrote, “the real reason that I have been at that church almost every Sunday since for over seven years is that Jesus was there. I walked in and there he was. He was in every face in every pew. I saw him. I felt the spirit in the air. It was humming. The bread and the wine were his body and blood, and we became the body of Christ. I knew this to be true. This was not a church. This was home, this was where I wanted to live.”

We become the body of Christ together because we are family. Not just in food, of course, but in everything we do. It's just that the food brings us together naturally and serves as that reminder of who we are.

On my second to last day in Illinois, I took my sister to the airport so she could fly back to Boston. My other two sisters had gone out shopping, so Dad was alone with Mom. As I returned from the airport, I called and asked if he wanted me to pick up some *Steak and Shake*, which in our family is a big deal. He was like, “Sure, whatever.”

I brought him some food, kind of worried it had been a bad idea. I mean, in retrospect, that's where he and Mom went together - a lot. When I got home, he didn't even bother to set the table - we sat on the sofa, Dad and me, eating our burgers and drinking our shakes.

He was so sad.

But he took a sip and said, “This is good.” For that moment, that was enough.

When we are together, sharing our meal - as I invite you to do today - it does not take away the pain of the world. It does not make everyone good. But it reminds us who we are, whose family we belong to, that we are always together even when we are apart. And that, my sisters and brothers, is good. 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.