

St. James' E-pistle

April 21, 2017

Pulpit Notes

"Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy."

-- 1 Peter 1:9

Brothers and Sisters:

I hope you had a wonderful and joyous Easter! Alleluia, Christ is risen indeed!

The Great Fifty Days of Easter remind us that Easter Day is not the end but only the beginning. It was after the resurrection that the word was spread of Christ's having defeated death. It was only after the women found the empty tomb that they ran to the disciples with the good news, thus becoming the first evangelists.

And it was only after all these things that the gift of the Holy Spirit came upon them and empowered them to do the great works they would do in the world. So, even though I wanted to sleep all day on Easter Monday, the fact is that Easter is just the beginning of ministry in our world and in our parish.

I would like to let you know about three ways in which I plan to keep things rolling along in the Easter Season - and beyond.

First, as I mentioned before, we are going to continue with **Morning Prayer**, which was started during Lent. We won't do it every day - at least not at first - but we will have it **every Wednesday at 10:00 AM**. There will be a variety of Morning Prayer leaders, and if you would like to become one of them, just see me - training is not difficult, but it is important so you can lead prayerfully and with confidence.

Second, I am introducing an **EASTER FORUM**. This is a between-services educational program that will be very brief. You'll be in and out in less than a half hour, but in that time, you'll get a hint at some of the greatness that our church - the Body of Christ - has to offer. This is an outgrowth of our Mutual Ministry Review last year and the Stewardship meetings in which people said they would like more adult education opportunities that fit into their schedules.

These sessions (see the flyer below) will start at roughly **9:15 and end by 9:45 on Sunday mornings**. The **EASTER FORUM** will be four sessions **April 30, May 7, May 21, and May 28**. They will explore - again, very briefly - what the Old and New Testaments contain. It will be

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just a brief overview, but if they forum is successful enough, we can expand it to look at the different books of the bible one at a time - as well as other topics that you find compelling.

Third, in the next several Epistles, look for the box labeled "DID YOU KNOW?" In it will be one little factoid about the church, worship, or the Prayer Book that you might not know. Not hugely significant by itself, but add a few together, and you might know more than you did before.

These are small little efforts to help our knowledge and love of the Lord. There are, of course, more ways we can increase and improve our relationship with Christ and the People of God - but you can't do everything all at once, and these seem like manageable steps in the right direction. So join us between services! Come to Morning Prayer! Take a peek at the "Did You Know" box. You just might find yourself growing a little closer to the one whose resurrection we celebrate this wonderful season.

And if that's the case, that deserves a big ALLELUIA!

Grace and Peace,

Chuck+

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Scenes from Easter



On a beautiful spring day, we celebrated the resurrection with a flower cross that graced the whole community.

While kids ran looking for Easter eggs, older folks enjoyed a festive outdoor Easter Coffee Hour.



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The News of the Church

Did You Know?

"Rubrics" in the Prayer Book are the smaller words in italics that give directions on what to do during worship (like when to stand, sit, kneel, etc.). They get their name from the Latin word for "red" ("rubrum") and the fact that they were once printed in red.

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.

Episcopal Charities Sunday: **Sunday, May 14**, is Episcopal Charities Sunday (as well as Mothers Day).

Drivers Needed for Vanderbilt Hotel: Pastors of the various churches in Hyde Park have been discussing the needs of residents in the residential hotels. That discussion led to Pastor Wayne Olson (St. Timothy's Lutheran) contacting Vanderbilt Hotel. One pressing need for residents was identified as being rides, especially to the food pantries and grocery store.

Robin Friesheim of St. Timothy's has been designated as the coordinator for this ride-giving ministry and is seeking volunteer drivers. For the moment, the scope is limited to rides to the

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Hyde Park Food Pantry (Fridays 9:30-11:30 AM) and Reach Out Food Pantry (Fridays 2-5 PM) with each trip lasting about 15 minutes. In the future, they may tackle rides to the grocery store.

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer driver or would simply like more information, please contact Robin at rfriesheim@gmail.com. Of course, you can also ask Fr. Chuck if you have questions.

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.

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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

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Easter Forum

"What's in that Book?"

*Want more out of Easter?
Miss that Lenten Breakfast togetherness?
Come to the EASTER FORUM!*

Four **brief, between-service** sessions on what's in the bible. These quick (30-minute) little gatherings between services will give quick little looks into what the bible contains. You don't have to sign up - just pop in between services that day! Here's what we'll look at:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| April 30 | Old Testament - What's the Torah?
(& Other writings?) |
| May 7 | Old Testament - What are the Prophets? |
| May 21 | New Testament - What's a Gospel? (and Acts) |
| May 28 | New Testament - What are Epistles |

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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.

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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."

- 23 St. Paul's Church, Chester
- 24 Church of the Good Shepherd, Greenwood Lake
- 25 St. Augustine's Church, Croton-on-Hudson
- 26 Executive Assistants to the Bishops
- 27 Trinity-Pawling School, Pawling
- 28 Parish Church of Christ the Redeemer, Pelham
- 29 Holy Trinity Church, Pawling, Harlem Valley Ministry

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:

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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.

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

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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):	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 23: Team 3 April 30: Team 1
Altar Guild:	April 23: Team III April 30: Team III
8 a.m. Readers:	April 23: Lucille Ogden and Thomas Finnigan April 30: Debbie Belding and Lynne Koch
10 a.m. Readers:	April 23: Regina Ardini/Maggie McNamara April 30: Patty Caswell/Justin Bohlmann
Ushers:	April 23: Nancy Montero, Anna Marie Pitcher

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	April 30: Dean Caswell, Audrey Horne
Pledge Clerks:	April 23: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell
	April 30: Andy Hall and Charlessa Thatcher
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	April 23: Don, Lucille, Rachel and Daniel Ogden and Paul, Bev, Skye, Tadgh and Gilbert O'Halloran
	April 30: Jesse, Gisele and Logan Ohliger, Jim Oppenheimer
Coffee Hour Hosts:	April 23: Brian Rance, Saira Shahani
	April 30: Barbara Slegel and the Choir

This Week's Lectionary

Acts 2:14a,22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

This Week's Hymns

Processional: 192 "This Joyful Easter Tide"

Sequence: 212 "Awake, Arise"

Offertory: Anthem

Communion: 206 "O sons and daughters, let us sing"

Recessional: 209 "We Walk By Faith"

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

Sermon Preached on

Easter Day

(April 16, 2017)

"Christ Who Is Your Life"

First of all, Happy Easter! What a beautiful day we have for Easter - isn't it wonderful? Now, the next question I have for you is, "Why are you here?"

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Our secretary wrote one of the meditations for our Lenten Meditation booklet, and she wrote the meditation for Holy Saturday - which was of course, yesterday. What I loved about it was that she talked about guilt.

And she talked about the guilt of coming to church just at Christmas and Easter - she said these people are called "Creasters" - a word I had never heard of before.

But I have a suspicion that sometimes people are here today because they feel guilty.

Good!

When I was first ordained, I used to love the feeling that people would feel guilty just when I walked into a room. When I was first ordained, I had to buy a used car because the car I had was a piece of junk that literally fell apart in the middle of the street one day. I was so broke that I couldn't afford anything but a junker.

The guy I bought it from was your stereotypical used car salesman. I mean, we're test driving the car, and there are no windshield wipers! As we're test driving this thing, he's chatting with me - and you should know I just had a t-shirt and jeans on. So, he's chatting me up and says, "So what do you do?"

I say..... "I'm a priest."

The rest of the ride was spent with him explaining to me why he hadn't been to church for the five years - but he was going to go!

But if YOU are here because you feel guilty - you are absolved. You don't have to feel guilty today.

So ... if that's not why we're here today, why ARE we? Why?

Well, the obvious reason is because of the resurrection, right? Today is the Feast of the Resurrection after all, isn't it? We celebrate Christ overcoming death. This is the day the women came to the grave and discovered that Christ is risen - death has not won. Right?

Or not.

Maybe, there's another reason for today. Another reason why you are here, and you might not even know it. Now, the Apostle Paul and I have a complicated relationship. A lot of the time I don't really like him. I think he's an arrogant stuck up guy a lot of the time.

That doesn't mean that he isn't right a lot of the time. And in today's epistle, he is of course talking about the risen Christ. Because that's important. But there's a little phrase he uses in there that's really crucial to what today is all about.

He says, "Christ, who is your life."

Because today isn't just about the resurrection itself. If that's all it were, it would be fairly empty. It'd be like, "Yea! Jesus rose. Good. Cool. We're done."

What it's all about is what follows. What it's all about is that the resurrection makes what follows possible. And what follows is that Christ isn't just a person. Christ isn't just someone we worship. Christ is our life.

Not just the only thing you devote yourself to - although that'd be great - Christ is our life.

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To the point that Paul says, When Christ is revealed, you will be revealed. You will be revealed in Christ's glory.

Now, have you got any idea what he's talking about? I've spent most of my life trying to figure out what Paul is talking about. But I think I got this one.

When Christ overcame death, and showed us not only the path to eternal life but the purpose of eternal life - because let's face it, eternal life without any real good reason would be kind of a drag. But the purpose of that life is to love.

And what Paul is saying is that that purpose has come alive in us through Christ - NOW.

Christ is our life.

Everything we do is about Christ. Everything we see, we see through the lens of Christ.

Everything we taste, we taste as Christ. Every person we encounter, we encounter as Christ.

And when we do that, then our own true selves - our own true person - becomes known. First and foremost to ourselves. We know who we really and truly are. And we suddenly understand that we are beloved Children of God, and what that means.

Christ - who is our life because death has no meaning, has no power... Life has meaning and purpose and power. Christ who is our life despite what the rest of the world says.

Now, if you know me, you know I'm sort of a hockey fan. And you know that I'm sort of in grief because the Blackhawks are down two games to none in the playoffs. But they are not my life.

They're just a team, and they just play a game.

My job - this ministry - is a glorious and wonderful calling. But it is not my life. Sometimes people say, "Wow, you're a priest, that's your whole life." NO! That's my vocation, that's what I'm called to. My LIFE is Christ.

So often, we have this idea what our life is:

I'm an American. No.

I'm a Rotarian. I like Rotarians, but No.

I'm an IBMer. No.

Pick that thing that you spend so much of your time thinking about. Unless you wake up and go to sleep with Christ in your mind, that thing might be misplaced. You might have made something your life that is less than what it could be. Christ is our life.

So often, our society says, "This is what your life is."

We are called today to remember that Christ is our life. And when we focus on him, then we become known to ourselves. We know who we are.

That's why you're here. You may have thought it's because your grandparents dragged you here.

You may have thought because, well, it's Creaster, so we ought to go.

But the real reason is because you needed to know today what your life is.

And your life is the risen Christ. Amen.