

St. James' E-pistle

April 28, 2017

Pulpit Notes

"While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?'" -- Luke 24:15-17

Brothers and Sisters:

This Sunday, we have that wonderful story of the Road to Emmaus in which two previously unknown disciples have an encounter with the risen Christ. What I love about it is that they weren't expecting the encounter. They weren't even sure what had really happened with Jesus' body at that point. It was all wild tales from the women.

But what I love best is that they encounter him while they are walking. St. Augustine once said of salvation, "It is solved by walking." Walking is a wonderful way to do so much more than get from point A to point B. It is a spiritual practice, one seen in pilgrimages to holy sites. That's one reason I loved the Rail Trail pilgrimages so much and am planning one for the clergy this summer.

Walking can also be a witness. Think of the Community Walk of the Cross we took part in on Good Friday. There, with a hundred Christians of many denominations, carrying a very real and very heavy cross, we made a witness to the world about the power of following the cross.

Witness, spiritual practice, and the possible encounter with Christ along the way are just some of the reasons I am taking part in the Climate March this Saturday in Washington, DC. If you are unfamiliar with it, this march - and many across the country (including Poughkeepsie, where there is a walk across the Walkway) - is part of a larger Climate Conference to study and draw attention to the need and obligation to care for our environment before we make our world uninhabitable.

Now, if you think this isn't a religious issue, please remember that not only do we believe that God created this earth but also that God made us - humanity - stewards of it. Think of a boss putting a manager in charge of the business: the idea is to leave the business in good condition. We as Christians must ask ourselves, are we leaving this earth in good condition?

Unfortunately, many Christian denominations have gone to extremes to argue that there is no such thing as climate change and that human activity has no effect on the environment. Quite aside from the fact that this is demonstrably false, it is also heretical. Most of those who spend the most money denying climate change also have the most to gain financially by continuing

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down a path of environmental destruction. Love of money over other people has always been seen as a sin.

If there is even a reasonable suspicion that our actions affect the lives of billions, then we have the faithful obligation to act. And while marching may seem like a futile, ineffective approach - one that certainly is not sufficient on its own - I also believe that calling attention to an issue is our Christian obligation.

That is why I am walking in the march. That is why I will wear my clerical collar - to show that the majority of Christians do understand and embrace the science behind climate change - and our responsibility as children of God to act. Now, will we encounter Christ along the way? Who knows? But I wouldn't bet against it.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck+

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The News of the Church

Good Friday Offering Update: On behalf of our Christian neighbors in the Middle East, THANK YOU, for your generous support of the Good Friday Offering. We raised \$599.00!! Our donation will be joined with other Good Friday donations from throughout our Episcopal Church family to support the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Our donations support the missional work of the four Dioceses (the Diocese of Jerusalem, the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, the Diocese of Egypt and North Africa and the Diocese of Iran) within the Province in the areas of education, health care, pastoral work and interfaith cooperation. As the Good Friday website states: "The Christian presence in the Middle East is a key bridge to peace-building among the faiths and ethnic groups of the region." Again - THANK YOU!

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).

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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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May 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3 10 AM Morning Prayer	4	5	6
7	8 Office Closed	9	10 10 AM Morning Prayer 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	11 11 AM Bible Study	12	13 Mothers Day Tea
14 Mothers Day	15 Office Closed	16 7 PM Vestry	17 10 AM Morning 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	18 Prayer 11 AM Bible Study	19	20 8 AM Men's Breakfast
21	22 Office Closed	23	24 10 AM Morning 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	25 11 AM Bible Study	26	27 4:00 PM Baroque Adirondack Consort Concert
28	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31 10 AM Morning 7:30 Choir Rehearsal			

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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.

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.

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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.diocesenyo.org> and click under "Beliefs and Practices."

April

30 St. Matthew's Church, Bedford May

May

1 St. James' Church, Manhattan

2 St. Michael's Church, Manhattan

3 Metropolitan Japanese Ministry

4 St. Philip's Church in the Highlands, Garrison

5 Diocesan Hispanic/Latino Commission

6 Spouses and Partners of Diocesan Clergy

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.

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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*

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.

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Birthdays (this past week):	Walter Lommel Koch, Floraine Knauss, Rachel Ogden, Barbara Jane ("Bobbie") Sprinz Wells and Jeet Shahani
Birthdays (this coming week):	Kathryn Clark
Acolytes:	April 30: Team 1 May 7: Team 2
Altar Guild:	April 30: Team III May 7: Team I
8 a.m. Readers:	April 30: Debbie Belding and Lynne Koch May 7: Lucille Ogden and Grant Ferris
10 a.m. Readers:	April 30: Patty Caswell/Justin Bohlmann May 7: Russell Urban-Mead/Andy Hall
Ushers:	April 30: Dean Caswell, Audrey Horne May 7: Andrew and Tonya Hall
Pledge Clerks:	April 30: Andy Hall and Charlessa Thatcher May 7: Doug Belding and Judy Douglass
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	April 30: Jesse, Gisele and Logan Ohliger, Jim Oppenheimer May 7: Brian and Scarlett O'Leary, Brian O'Leary, Jr., Tara O'Leary, Sally Pardee
Coffee Hour Hosts:	April 30: Barbara Slegel and the Choir May 7: Audrey Horne, Eric Zavadil

This Week's Lectionary

Acts 2:14a,36-41

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

This Week's Hymns

Processional: 181

Sequence: 296

Offertory: Anthem

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Communion: 341

Recessional: 180

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

Sermon Preached on
Second Sunday of Easter
(April 23, 2017)

Instructed Eucharist

We did not have a sermon last Sunday. Instead, we had an Instructed Eucharist where we stopped every now and then to explain what we were doing and why. Everything we do in the Eucharist has meaning, but sometimes we get so used to it that we forget to notice. Or else, we are new to the church and might not know what all that stuff is all about. Either way, it never hurts to learn a little more about what we do each Sunday.