

# St. James' E-pistle

## Date of Sunday Service: May 5, 2019

### Third Sunday of Easter

#### Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I was going to put the Mother's Day Tea up on the big sign board (please note that we have a NEW sign board compliments of the hard work of Grant Ferris. Thanks Grant!), but I was asked not to because ... it is sold out! What a wonderful thing this Mother's Day Tea has become.

So, not wanting to leave this big space blank — and longing to have something up there that was more than simply an advertisement — I put the following message up:

“Live a Resurrection Life”

It is good to be able to send a message out to the community that suggests a gospel theme. On the other hand, I have had a problem with a lot of the messages that seem saccharine or judgmental or trite. “7 Days Without Prayer Makes one Weak” just doesn't do it for me.

But I did want to put up something about the resurrection and its implications for us. I wanted to give a sense of both possibility and mission. Not just “Alleluia! He Is Risen!” (True and celebration-worthy as it is) but a call to do something.

Which leads to the question, “What does it mean to live a resurrection life?”

Glad you asked. A resurrection life is a life that trusts God's love is eternal, that God who created us from nothing will not let us return to nothing forever. A resurrection life is one that believes we live after earthly death, and that the life to come will only be richer and fuller — but that our time on earth informs our eternal life.

Because of all this, a resurrection life is one of joy in the midst of the world's stresses and strains. Note that joy is not the same as being happy all the time — sometimes being sad or angry has its place. Joy is deeper — a part of you. A resurrection life is one that is not based on fear because we trust that our greatest fears — life abandoned by God, life without meaning — have no power.

A resurrection life understands how we are all connected and need each other, how each person wherever they are in the world or in their personal journeys is a brother or sister, and that we are best when we have each others' backs.

A resurrection life sees beyond the daily needs of food, shelter, and paying taxes, and it also sees beyond little daily pleasures like consuming, playing, or watching Game of Thrones. It sees life at its fullest and puts everything else in context.

A resurrection life knows when to take a break from the world and re-center on God's love, the way Jesus regularly did when he left the disciples to be alone with God. And a resurrection life recognizes that we don't have to wait for the Kingdom of God to come — it is unfolding already in our lives.

In other words, a resurrection life is simply a life in Christ. That particular phrase is helpful because it reminds us in this Easter season that it is by Jesus' resurrection that we can live the life we want and that brings God joy.

So go out there and live a resurrection life! We will all be better for it.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

### Thought for your week:

**“The challenge of Easter is in fact the challenge of a new creation. It offers itself not as an odd event within the world as it is, but as the utterly prototypical, foundational even within the world as it has begun to be. It is not an absurd event within the old world, but the symbol and starting point of the new world. Jesus ushers in not a new religious possibility or new ethic, but a new creation. ...And HOPE is what you get when you suddenly realize that a different worldview is possible, a world in which the rich, powerful and unscrupulous do not, after all, have the last word.”**

— N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*

### 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 E-pistle, please contact either Fr. Chuck, Dyan in the Parish Office, or Brian Rance. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday evening. Thanks!**

## Announcements

### *Invitation to Confirmation/Reception:*

Please join Shannon Butler and Lillian Peralta at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Saturday, June 8, as they are confirmed and received into the Episcopal Church. It would be wonderful if a group from St. James' could travel down with us to support them. I have room for one more in my car. Please contact me (Fr. Chuck) as soon as you can. And prayerfully consider coming to cheer them on!

Our next — and final — Inquirers Class is **Tuesday May 7, 7:00 PM**

As always, everyone is welcome! The Topic is “**The Structure of the Church.**”

### *Reading Adventures Wrapping Up:*

Spring Fever is hitting at North Park Elementary School where we are down to our final two sessions of Reading Adventures. The after-school reading program which has served Hyde Park for 17 years will end its 2018-2019 season on May 16. Please keep these students and the volunteers who serve them in your prayers.

### *Journey 2 Adulthood Ceremony:*

On May 19, we will recognize the hard work of three students who have completed the Journey 2 Adulthood curriculum. Please join us that day at the 10:00 AM service to support our youth.

### *Food Pantry Donations:*

The Hyde Park Food Pantry at Regina Coeli is located at [28 Harvey Street, Hyde Park, NY](#). Food donations are welcome and may be dropped off at the Pantry on Friday mornings [9:30 AM - 11:30 AM](#), or in the basket at church on Sunday mornings. Correspondence and donations (checks payable to the Hyde Park Food Pantry), may be mailed to Hyde Park Food Pantry, [PO Box 171, Hyde Park, NY 12538](#). Any questions, contact Patty Moore at [845-233-4057](#) or Sue Eagan at [845-889-4416](#). Any form of support is greatly appreciated.

*Monastic Internship Program Taking Applications:*

*We received the following notice from Holy Cross Monastery for your consideration:*

We are now taking applications for our next round of monastic internships. The objective of the internship is full immersion in twenty-first century Benedictine monasticism. Interns experience this by living alongside the community here at Holy Cross Monastery and participating fully in our daily rhythm of prayer, work, and study. The program is available to men and women ages 22 to 35. This is a nine-month program.

For more information, go to <https://holycrossmonastery.com/about-us/monastic-internship-program/>. Or contact Br. Josép Martínez-Cubero, Director of Monastic Internships at [Josep@hcmnet.org](mailto:Josep@hcmnet.org).

*Meals-to-Go - sponsored by Rural & Migrant Ministry*

As part of Rural & Migrant Ministry's Summer Camp Overnight Leadership Camp 30th Anniversary Fundraiser, there will be an Eat-in or Take-out Barbecue Dinner offering. Although the anniversary celebration will take place on Saturday, June 8th here at St. James', **orders for the meals must be placed by May 15th**. There are order forms in the narthex. Each dinner is \$20.00.

So on June 8th, you will have a choice of Eating-In or Taking Out either between 12:00-12:30pm or between 4:30-5:00pm.

Catered by Barbecue Specialists of the Hudson Valley, the menu will consist of 1/2 BBQ Chicken with roll, corn on the cob, baked beans and macaroni salad. There is a vegetarian option for the chicken: portobello mushroom with cherry sauce.

June 8th is a day long event with a variety of activities (come for part or all of the day) - Meals-to-Go . . . . Walk-a-thon along the Vanderbilt Loop . . . . A Taste of Camp with dancing, drumming and much, much more with the day ending with Vespers. Details of the day to follow in the coming weeks.

However, if you interested in ordering meals, please remember that the deadline is May 15th. For questions you can call RMM at 845-485-8627 or speak with me.

Peace, Deacon Gail

*Episcopal Charities Sunday - Sunday, May 12th (Mother's Day)*

On Sunday, May 12th, we will be celebrating and giving thanks for the work and ministry of Episcopal Charities. Incorporated in December, 1996, Episcopal Charities is the mission arm of our Diocese.

Did you know that “hunger and food insecurity are closely related, but distinct. Hunger is the personal, physical sensation of discomfort when one has not eaten, while food insecurity refers to the lack of available financial resources to supply food to an individual or household.” (source: Feeding America: Understanding Food insecurity)

Are you aware that 9.4% of our neighbors here in Dutchess County, including 15.3% of children are struggling with food insecurity? Are you aware that households receiving emergency food assistance here in the Mid-Hudson Region have at least one adult working and yet, still cannot make ends meet?

Episcopal Charities currently supports 47 feeding parish-based feeding programs throughout our Diocese of which eleven of these programs are located here in the Mid-Hudson Region - Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster Counties. And out of the eleven, three are located here in Dutchess County - St. Paul's Church - Poughkeepsie, St. Thomas Church - Amenia Union and Zion Church - Wappingers Falls. In addition to the actual grant, Episcopal Charities provides strategic training, operational support and networking opportunities to parish programs through workshops and one-on-one consultations.

As faithful followers of Christ, please prayerfully consider making a donation to Episcopal Charities. There are Special Offering Envelopes in the pews for you to make your donation. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to St. James' Church, memo line: Episcopal Charities.

On behalf of all our neighbors throughout our Diocese who struggle with food insecurity and who will benefit from your donation - **THANK YOU!**

Peace, Deacon Gail

*FUNdraiser—Save The Date*

The Sunday School will be holding another "FUNdraiser" this year, on Saturday, June 22nd. See the enclosed flyer. Anyone interested in helping with the event can speak with Valerie Gaulin or Patty Glancey.



St. James' Sunday School

60's/70's

FUNDRAISER

\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*

Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 5pm- 8pm

Dust off your bell bottoms, throw on your love beads & Join us for a Buffet dinner and live music as things "Heat-up" in the Parish Hall to help "Heat-up" our church!

PEACE LOVE MUSIC



More Information to come. Tickets go on sale soon!

4526 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538 / Office: 845-229-2820 / Website: [www.stjameshydepark.org](http://www.stjameshydepark.org)

# May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Inquirers	<b>1</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer	<b>2</b> 11 AM Bible Study  3:30 - Reading Adventures	<b>3</b>  FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	<b>4</b>  <b>Kaleidoscope Conference</b>  <b>Wardens Conference</b>
<b>5</b>  Unction	<b>6</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Inquirers	<b>8</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer	<b>9</b> 11 AM Bible Study  3:30 - Reading Adventures	<b>10</b>  FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	<b>11</b>  <b>Mothers Day Tea</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Inquirers	<b>15</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer  2:00 PM. Hyde Park Assisted Living Eucharist	<b>16</b> 11 AM Bible Study  3:30 - Final Reading Adventures of the year	<b>17</b>  FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	<b>18</b> 8 AM Men's Breakfast
<b>19</b>  <b>Journey 2 Adulthood Ceremony</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Vestry Meeting	<b>22</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer	<b>23</b> 11 AM Bible Study	<b>24</b> 2 FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Inquirers	<b>29</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer	<b>30</b> 11 AM Bible Study	<b>31</b>  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.diocesenyny.org/administration/for-clergy/liturgical-and-sacramental/diocesan-calendar-of-intercession/>

- 5 Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors of the Diocese
- 6 St. Ambrose Church, Manhattan
- 7 St. John's Church (Fountain Square), Larchmont
- 8 Guild of St. Ives
- 9 The Diocesan Church Attorney
- 10 Church of the Good Shepherd, Granite Springs
- 11 Postulants and Candidates for the Vocational Diaconate

## 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, Kathy Ganim, Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), John and Gloria Golden, Nick Granados-Kramer, Robert Guariglia, Clifford Hallmark (father of Alyssa Raugalis), Dalton K., Edith Kline, Lynne Koch, Ashley Konyon, Tedi Kramer, Hope Jennings, Rosemary Leuken, Lorraine, 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):	Barbara Jane ("Bobbie") Sprinz Wells and Jeet Shahani
Birthdays (this coming week):	Erika Seagren, Rebecca Gausepohl and Walter Koch
Acolytes:	May 5: Nancy Montero and Jaylen Thatcher May 12: Riley Hall and Amelia McNamara
Altar Guild:	May 5: Team I May 12: Team I
8 a.m. Readers:	May 5: Shannon Butler and Sue DeLorenzo May 12: Lucille Ogden and Jim Smyth
10 a.m. Readers:	May 5: Wilma Tully and Nancy Montero May 12: Patty Caswell and Justin Bohlmann
Ushers:	May 5: Nancy Montero and Anna-Marie Pitcher May 12: Andy Hall and Tonya Hall
Pledge Clerks:	May 5: Joanne Lown and Sue DeLorenzo May 12: Doug Belding and Judy Douglass
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	May 5: Leslie Quick, Brian Rance, Melinda Harris and William Rance May 12: Daniel, Alyssa, Altoona and Andrew Raugalis, John Robinson
Coffee Hour Hosts:	May 5: Audrey Horne, Eric Zavadil May 12: Jodi Triola and Mike Fenwick

## This Week's Lectionary

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)  
Psalm 30  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19

## This Week's Hymns

Processional: L 41 - Christ has Arisen  
Sequence: 177 - Over the chaos  
Offertory: "Dona nobis pacem"  
Communion: TAIZE - Raise a Song of Gladness  
Recessional: 209 - We walk by faith, and not by sight

## Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Second Sunday of Easter

### *"Circle Ball"*

Back when I was a student at Mary W. French Elementary School, there were several large circles painted onto the asphalt playground. They were divided into quarters like pizza slices. These circles were where we we played a game called Circle Ball.

You had one person in each quarter, one playground ball, and no net. It was a bit like four-person tennis where you let the ball bounce only once in your quarter while returning it to the other person and trying to get them to miss. Only it didn't matter who you hit it to, so the ball could go in any direction.

At the end of recess, whoever had the most points, won. Or if a lot of kids wanted to play, you were eliminated after getting so many points against you.

One of the strategies we learned was for three players to gang up on the weakest (or conversely the best). No matter who got the ball, it always came right back around to that poor picked-on player. Maybe it was unfair, it was frustrating, it wasn't nice, but that was Circle Ball.

I bring this up because today's scriptures are a bit circular — in a couple of different ways.

First, we have Thomas. Every time I think of him, I see that poor kid designated to be the Circle Ball victim. Not only must he have felt like the other disciples were ganging up on him, but every second Sunday of Easter, we come back to this embarrassing story even though it only appears in the Gospel of John. There are plenty post-resurrection stories, but every year we bounce back to doubting Thomas. It is a circle indeed, and endless one for Thomas. Geez.

The other circle we encounter is an endless one. A circle of eternity. The circle of Alpha and Omega. In Revelation, we read, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Like an eternal circle, there is neither beginning nor end to God. God simply is.

So what can these circles teach us? Why do we keep coming back to the same thing year after year? What does this eternal loop mean for us as followers of Jesus? Does it matter if God is eternal? Does it matter if our doubts, like Thomas', don't seem to go away — that they just circle back after we thought we'd dealt with them?

Once you start asking these questions, of course, you're headed down the rabbit hole, and before long you might find yourself asking if anything matters at all.

When I stare that question in the face, I sometimes come back to Circle Ball. What I mean is, nobody in the world cared a jot that a bunch of kids at Mary W. French Elementary School played Circle Ball. Nobody but us. I can't tell you who won how many games, or who was the best, but I *can* tell you that playing mattered. It mattered because we were engaged with each other. It mattered because we grew our bodies and our brains playing that game. It mattered because when we played, we felt alive.

And yes, we got into squabbles over who cheated, or whether it was fair to gang up on someone, or whether it was really just a stupid game after all.

Nevertheless, we kept playing.

So if we look back at Thomas, you *can* imagine him thinking, "Why are they ganging up on me?" He might've thought the disciples were piling on him because he missed the first experience of Jesus — maybe he thought they were playing a sick joke. But I wonder if Thomas feels like the church is piling on him, too, by coming back to the same embarrassing story every year.

Now, in fairness to the other disciples, they were *not* ganging up on Thomas. Besides, many of these questions about what matters were in *their* minds, too. Remember, at this point, they're all on edge. They don't understand what's been going on — the crucifixion, the resurrection reports, the visit they had from Jesus. They don't understand what they're supposed to do with all of this. And now they have Thomas crying, "No fair! You're messing with me. Unless I see for myself, I won't believe."

So, it's a tough, uncertain time for all of them. They're filled with doubt. And there's no reason to believe this was the last time they had doubts. Doubts tend to circle back round to us even after we thought we'd dealt with them. Because we will never be done with our doubts as long as we live.

Yet, like the disciples, we keep playing this game called Faith because we know that our lives are richer, fuller, more meaningful, more alive. We know intuitively that — even if nobody else cares — this thing we do here matters.

It matters especially in a world that is constantly trying to make us feel inferior, harried, unsettled and afraid, unable to sit down and breathe. It's constantly trying to make us snap at each other — as if everyone were ganging up on us. But then we see Jesus like the disciples did — slipping through the chaos that keeps us so scattered — just long enough to breathe on us and remind us that we are God's beloved children, and that God has work for us to do. Just long enough to remind us that Christ is alive, and because of his eternal life, we have an eternity to understand and live in God's love.

Poor Thomas keeps having this story circle back round every year because his doubts are our doubts. He reminds us that we are here because knowing Jesus, experiencing God's love, sharing that quest to do the work of God fills us with joy, meaning, and life. Here, we engage with each other in a special way. Here, our hearts grow. Here, we grow in a relationship that continually perplexes and elates us. Even when we inevitably get mad at each other. Even when it feels like we're just going round and round and getting nowhere.

Like Circle Ball, we keep playing this game because it matters.

Not because there are winners or losers. The game has no end. Nor does it have a beginning or an end. It is simply here for us to grow, to engage with each other, and to find joy.

And when we leave this life, the game continues. In the endless habitations of the Alpha and the Omega, we can continue to grow together and delight in God's company and each other's. And that, my brothers and sisters, is a game worth playing. 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](http://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?*