

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: June 16, 2019

First Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday)

Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This past week has been a week of big events and anniversaries. On June 8, not only did St. James' host the Rural and Migrant Ministries Walkathon and Barbecue, but two of our own, Shannon Butler and Lillian Peralta were confirmed and received into the Episcopal Church at a marvelous liturgy at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (see photos). The next day, June 9, we had Recognition Sunday in which we recognized our Sunday School Students and Acolytes as well as our graduating senior, Amelia McNamara. Then there was the Pride March in Poughkeepsie, and we celebrated the renewal of Marriage Vows for Joe and Beverly Baldwin. Oh, on a personal note, the 9th was also the 29th anniversary of my ordination to the diaconate.

Then, on a more somber note, June 10, was the 35th anniversary of the church fire that permanently changed the church's edifice. More happily, the very next day, June 11, was the 80th anniversary of the King and Queen of England's visit and the famous hot dog picnic. For the record, St. James' is the first US church ever to host a sitting English monarch.

Does any of this matter? Well, that depends. Does it matter if we remember events that happened before we were ever born? Or to ask it another way, does it matter that we remember anything? Why do we have commemorations of things in the distant and recent past?

The answer is simple really. It's our story. And our story really is who we are. Many people won't ever care that the founder of this congregation was George Washington's personal physician, but to us, it matters. It's our story.

What we remember — what we choose to remember and rehearse over and over again — helps determine how we see the world and how we interact with others. Are we warriors? Peacemakers? Benevolent overlords? Victims? How we tell our story matters.

That's one reason the Hebrew Scriptures became committed to parchment in the first place. The people were in exile, defeated and subjugated — and they needed to be reminded that they were a great people, a once powerful people who because of their disobedience now suffered. But their story also included the promise of God to always stay true and eventually bring them home. So they repeated the old stories.

We all know that telling the stories does not always mean telling the truth. Sometimes the histories we pass on are pure fiction. The old saying, "Winners write the history," has some truth to it inasmuch as the oldest recorded histories carved in stone are all about the mighty victories of this king or that. Most of those mighty victories are, shall we say, exaggerated.

But even the losers — like Israel — can tell their stories. In the southern US, after the Civil War, some writers began re-writing the history of the war and what led to it. They talked about “states rights” and “northern aggression.” It had nothing to do with slavery, they said (despite the articles of secession of every single Confederate state clearly announcing that they were seceding because of slavery). This re-telling shaped race relations and north/south relations for more than a century.

I mention all this because every week, we tell our story. We remember. It’s not all exact reporting, and we shouldn’t get too bothered by inaccuracies or inconsistencies in the stories. That’s inevitable. Nevertheless, these are our stories, and their intent — to call us to be people of grace, peace, compassion and love — that matters.

So let’s have these commemorations and remember our key events. They are, after all, what make us.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

Thought for your week:

“You, Eternal Trinity, are my Creator, and I am the work of Your hands, and I know through the new creation which You have given me in the blood of Your Son, that You are enamored of the beauty of Your workmanship.”

— Catherine of Siena

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

Congratulations Lillian and Shannon!

Last Saturday, Lillian Peralta was received into the Episcopal Church and Shannon Butler was confirmed in a beautiful Cathedral liturgy. Here are a few pictures:



June 15 - Men's Breakfast:

Come join us on **June 15 at 8:00 AM** for the Men's Monthly Breakfast. We pray together and discuss the issues facing our congregation. Every now and then, we even solve one of the problems of the world.

June 15 - Graveyard Tours Meeting:

At 3:00 PM on Saturday, June 15th we will gather **at the chapel** (not Cranberries) to rehash last season's tours and start planning for this year's. If you're interested in being part of the planning, please come! If you can't make it, please contact Brian Rance (at 917 650 0233) to let him know. We are happy to welcome all help.

June 16 - New York Lamentation:

Speaking of remembering our stories, the next and possibly final performance of “A New York Lamentation” will take place this Sunday at 4:00 PM at St. Thomas’ Church, Fifth Avenue. You are invited to take the trip down to see it!

June 22 - 60s-70s Dance/Dinner:

On **Saturday, June 22**, St. James’ Sunday School is hosting a 60s-70s themed fundraiser with food and music from the Woodstock era. Beatles, Hendrix, Stones, Grateful Dead, The Who, Pink Floyd, Crosby Stills Nash & Young ... you know your groups. Bring friends, family, and strangers! See the attached flyer.

June 23 - 8:00 AM Chapel Service:

On Sunday, June 23, the 8:00 AM service will be held in the St. James’ Chapel, 10 E. Market Street.

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.

A Note From Our Sexton: Kitchen Sinks:

A couple of weeks ago we had a bad clog in the kitchen sink (for cleaning pots). It was so bad we could not fix it. It was so bad that a plumber had to come and spend four hours in order to get it running again. The plumber said grease — a lot of grease — had been poured down the drain and had hardened. The cost was in excess of \$400. We do not have the resources for avoidable problems like this. A new sign hangs over the sinks and implore all kitchen users not to pour anything thicker than soapy water down the sinks. Please obey the signs. Thanks!



St. James' Sunday School

60's/70's fundraiser

Saturday, June 22nd - 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!



Bring a dish to share and ticket will be \$10.00 or \$15.00/ adult \$10.00/child (under 10 yrs. Old) Under 5- free
(All proceeds collected will go towards offsetting the cost of our new furnace for the church.)

PEACE LOVE MUSIC

Reserve your tickets fast- we have limited seating! Ticket Sales will be every Sunday morning 9am- 10, and 11:00-12:00 at St. James' Church, or as last resort, see Dyan our secretary in the office during the week.

(If going through Dyan, Cash must be exact amount, or check- no credit cards please.)

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

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 Recognition Sunday PRIDE March	10 Office Closed 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	11 6:30 Evening Prayer	12 10 AM Morning Prayer Last Day of Nursery School	13 11 AM Bible Study	14 FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	15 8 AM Men's Breakfast 3 PM Graveyard Tour Meeting
16 Trinity Sunday NY Lamentation Performance	17 Office Closed 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	18 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Vestry Meeting	19 10 AM Morning Prayer 2:00 PM. Hyde Park Assisted Living Eucharist	20 11 AM Bible Study	21 2 FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	22 5:00 PM Parish Dinner Fundraiser 60s/70s theme
23 8 AM Chapel Service <hr/> 30	24	25	26	27	28	29
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.						

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/>

- 16 Diocesan Social Concerns Commission
- 17 St. Paul's Church, Chester
- 18 St. Paul's and Trinity Parish, Tivoli
- 19 Trinity Church, Fishkill
- 20 Trinity Church, Garnerville
- 21 Holy Trinity Church (Inwood), Manhattan
- 22 St. Alban's Church, Staten Island

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ashley, Joe Baldwin, John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Fr. Fred Cartier, 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 Konyyn, 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 Ginero 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):	Anna Marie Pitcher
Birthdays (this coming week):	None
Acolytes:	June 16: Riley Hall June 23: Jack Canez
Altar Guild:	June 16: Team I June 23: Team I
8 a.m. Readers:	June 16: Shannon Butler and Jim Smyth June 23: Lucille Ogden and Irene Kipp

10 a.m. Readers: June 16: Jim Oppenheimer-Crawford and Bobbie Wells
June 23: Patty Caswell and Deirdre Mae Micker
Ushers: June 16: Lillian Perrotta and Charlotte DeGross
June 23: Dean Caswell and Audrey Horne
Pledge Clerks: June 16: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
June 23: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell
Parish Cycle of Prayer: June 16: Tim, Barbara, Craig and Dalton Slegel, Jim and Jan Smyth
June 23: Randy and Barbara Soden, Marguerite Spratt, Gully Stanford
Coffee Hour Hosts: June 16: Deirdre Mae Micker, Wendy and Russell Urban-Mead
June 23: Brian Rance, Saira Shahani

This Week's Lectionary

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

This Week's Hymns

Processional: 365 - Come Thou Almighty King
Sequence: 367 - Round the Lord in Glory Seated
Offertory: "Majesty"
Communion: 366 - Holy God, We Praise thy Name
Recessional: 362 - Holy, Holy, Holy

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Day of Pentecost (Whitsunday)

"On Home Fires"

We went to a wonderful service yesterday at the Cathedral in which Shannon Butler was confirmed and Lillian Peralta was received into the Episcopal Church.

It was joyous, and I am delighted to say they are full Episcopalians who will continue in their journeys in Christ — and be blessings to this church.

As important and wonderful as this sacrament was, however, it wasn't the most important step in their journey with Christ. I can't even swear that their baptisms were — though those are such important moments for us!

But what's more important than the actual sacrament is the Spirit that leads to the sacrament. And receiving the Holy Spirit is independent of any sacrament. Sacraments are only signs — they don't give the Holy Spirit — God does.

I've seen people who never set foot in a church unknowingly burn with the Holy Spirit, and I've seen people baptized and confirmed who have no flame.

Just look at the disciples themselves. Nowhere do we have any indication that the disciples had yet been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We know that JESUS had been baptized by John the Baptist, but show me where it says the apostles were.

Don't get me wrong. I have no doubt the apostles were baptized at some point. I'm just saying it wasn't necessarily before they received the Holy Spirit. Makes you wonder why the scriptures don't bother showing them being but, there they are receiving the Holy Spirit.

According to Acts, here's what happened on Pentecost:

A mighty wind rushed through the house

Flames landed on the apostles...and suddenly

They spoke in many languages

Nowhere does it say that the disciples were baptized before they received the Holy Spirit.

This isn't to say that the liturgies don't have value. They have great, great value — that's why we had confirmation yesterday. Sacraments are our way of saying that we are in. And saying it is important. If you don't believe me, just ask anyone who is in a relationship, and their partner never says "I love you." It matters, people!

But for Pentecost, it's not the sacraments that are the focus. It's the Holy Spirit.

And the thing we see in the scriptures is that the Spirit lights a fire in us. And after that fire is kindled, we WILL spread it. Because what's in us spreads, whether you want it to or not.

What is the fire inside you? I won't guess what's burning in YOUR heart, but Jesus tells the disciples what the fire of the Holy Spirit is. Jesus says the Spirit is Truth and Peace, the spirit is a reminder of all that Jesus taught them.

THAT is the fire burning in the disciples. Truth, Peace, Healing, Feeding, Caring — Loving. It's not just social work — it's fire. Truth and Peace. Love.

So the question remains - what is the fire inside YOU? Is the Holy Spirit burning in you?

Pentecost is a day where we do two things; **FIRST** We tend the home fires and **SECOND** we carry the fire out into the world.

We tend the home fires by checking ourselves to see what fire is burning inside. Do I burn with a passion for kindness to others. Do I burn with a passion to tell truth. Do I burn with a passion to bring peace where there isn't any? Do I burn with a passion to feed the hungry, console the sad, welcome the immigrant?

Or is my fire one of pride where I think of myself first? Is my fire one of power over others? Is my fire one that destroys and revels in that destruction?

Check your fire. And if there is no fire inside you, kindle it. Not sure what you believe? Pray about it. Actually, literally talk to God and say, "Are you there? Do you love me? What is it you want me to do?" Make that a daily practice because if I know anything about relationships, it's that saying or asking something one time is **NEVER** enough. Relationships take work.

The second part is carrying the fire out to the world. Actually, whatever fire is burning in you will spread to those around you anyway. When the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they just instantly — and with no plan to do so — started speaking in many languages. Did that literally happen? We can't know for sure, but the clear sign of this passage is that when you have that fire in you, it spreads — and God intends for it to spread **WAY BEYOND** your comfortable circle of friends and family whom you understand.

The disciples spread the fire to people from all over — people they didn't understand themselves but who — somehow — could understand them.

The lesson I get from that is to not worry if we really understand different folks — whether it be due to language or culture or lifestyle or they way God made them. This month is **PRIDE** month, for example, and today is the **PRIDE** parade in Poughkeepsie. Maybe you don't understand your **LGBTQ** brothers and sisters — maybe that's a place where you can spread the fire of Truth and Peace and Love and Welcome and Healing. Because if you are speaking God's love, that's a universal language.

Spreading that fire isn't easy, I know. Speaking isn't something we care to do. If you can't speak, go back to tending your fire. Study, pray, meditate, talk to people you trust. Repeat.

The more we steep ourselves in God's love, the more we'll be able to find the the words that others will understand. And they'll be amazed.

Pentecost says that we don't need all the liturgies of church — as valuable as they are — in order to kindle the fire of God's Holy Spirit right here in our hearts — and to let that fire spread to those around us.

We come together week after week to help each other tend those home fires, sure, but we each have our own fire, and for each of us, it's God who lit it.

So that's Pentecost. The day you know your job is to Receive the fire. Feel the Fire. Tend the fire. Be the fire.

And then spread the fire. 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.

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?