

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: June 23, 2019

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

By the time you read this, work will have started on the organ. On Tuesday, the Vestry voted to pay the money required to clean the organ and put it into good working order. The amount will be about \$32,500.

We have contracted with Meloni & Farrier Organ Builders, a company recommended by the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The work will require the organ to be dismantled to some degree, and parts removed to the workshop. Work is slated to be completed by August 31 but could be done earlier.

The company has assured us that this will not impact our regular worship — we will not have to leave the church during the organ's cleaning.

I feel it is important to say a word about this decision because it was not one that the Vestry reached lightly. It involved reading, listening to, and discussing the comments of parishioners both via the special email address and in person.

You should know that there was no real consensus in parishioner feedback on a course of action. Responses fell in roughly three equal categories: 1) Clean the Organ, 2) Replace the organ, and 3) Do whatever is most cost effective. Some of you had very strong opinions, both for and against the current organ, but I believe all of us appreciate the challenges the Vestry faced in making a decision, and I believe that those who did not have their desired outcome will nevertheless rejoice that the Gospel is both preached and lived out here — which is the most important thing for a church after all.

For the record, the majority of the Vestry expressed a preference for selling our current organ and replacing it with a digital organ. However, in the end, they felt that the inevitable delay caused by replacing the organ, the difficulty of selling the current organ, and the costs of purchasing a new organ combined to force a decision to repair and clean what we have now.

This is not to say that in the future, parish leaders would not consider moving to a digital organ. Most expressed the belief that a digital would provide equivalent music quality with increase flexibility as well as ease of maintenance and less maintenance cost. Sometime down the road, the parish may indeed go digital.

One important note: Since returning to the church, the choir has sat up front. I have had numerous comments about this, virtually all of them positive. Some have asked if the choir could stay up front even after the organ is repaired. It has added a wonderful layer of depth to our worship.

I am perfectly comfortable with this, though I understand choir members would love to have more appropriate seating that could accommodate their books and afford them the opportunity to kneel. This is a topic we can revisit later. In the meantime, the choir is on its summer break.

I am proud of our Vestry for the tremendous work, the countless hours, and their ability to put the needs of the congregation ahead of their own desires. You might want to consider thanking them for their service. The challenges they have faced recently with church renovations, mold, organ, and other buildings and grounds issues have been daunting. They have risen to the task, and for that, I am grateful.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

Thought for your week:

“For the most part all our trials and disturbances come from our not understanding ourselves.”

— Theresa of Avila

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 to John and Gloria Golden:

Congratulations to John and Gloria Golden who had the new fitness center at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School named for them. They worked hard to make sure that the high school could have a state of the art fitness center not only for the athletes but for all students. It is beautiful.

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.

Allan Ford Farewell — June 30.

Just thought you ought to know that our good friend, Fr. Allan Ford, is retiring as Vicar of St. Margaret's Church in Staatsburg on June 30. Please keep him and his wife Leslie in your prayers, and keep our brothers and sisters at St. Margaret's in your prayers as well as they seek a new spiritual leader.

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.



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
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 Allan Ford Retirement	24	25	26	27 Fr. Chuck at Reparations Retreat	28 Fr. Chuck at Reparations Retreat	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.diocesen.org/administration/for-clergy/liturgical-and-sacramental/diocesan-calendar-of-intercession/>

- 23 Community of St. John Baptist
- 24 Christ Church New Brighton, Staten Island
- 25 Parish Church of Christ the Redeemer, Pelham
- 26 Integrity/Dignity Chapters of the Diocese

- 27 Church of St. Luke in the Fields, Manhattan
- 28 On this fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, with gratitude for the inclusion. In the common life and mission of the Diocese of people across the spectrum of human sexuality. full
- 29 Saint John's in the Village, Manhattan

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ashley, Joe Baldwin, John Bohlmann, Justin Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Fr. Fred Cartier, Patty Caswell, Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), John and Gloria Golden, Kathy Graff, Nick Granados-Kramer, Robert Guariglia, Clifford Hallmark (father of Alyssa Raugalis), Dalton K., Edith Kline, Lynne Koch, Ashley Konyn, 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):	None
Birthdays (this coming week):	Chris Mackenzie, David Triola and Suzanne Schroeder
Acolytes:	June 23: Jack Canez June 30: Bill Fenwick
Altar Guild:	June 23: Team I June 30: Team II
8 a.m. Readers:	June 23: Lucille Ogden and Irene Kipp June 30: Debbie Belding and Lynne Koch
10 a.m. Readers:	June 23: Wilma Tully and Mike Fenwick June 30: Wendy Urban-Mead and Charlotte DeGroff

Ushers:	June 23: Dean Caswell and Audrey Horne June 30: Nancy Montero and Anna-Marie Pitcher
Pledge Clerks:	June 23: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell June 30: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	June 23: Randy and Barbara Soden, Marguerite Spratt, Gully Stanford June 30: Audrey Stenger, Bev Tas
Coffee Hour Hosts:	June 23: Brian Rance, Saira Shahani June 30: Summer Break--No Coffee Hour

This Week's Lectionary

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a
 Psalm 42 and 43
 Galatians 3:23-29
 Luke 8:26-39

This Week's Hymns

Processional: 601 - Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service
 Sequence: 676 - There is a Balm in Gilead
 Offertory: 529 In Christ There is No East Nor West
 Communion: Taize 47 -In the Lord, Ill Be Ever Thankful
 Recessional: L183 - God Will Take Care of You

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on First Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday)

"All About The Dance"

I grew up near the Mississippi River and have been watching with concern how that mighty river has been wreaking havoc on communities and farms for a thousand mile stretch. The Mississippi does this now and then. The Army Corps of Engineers tries to harness the river with levees and dams and dikes to make it more navigable, but the big muddy will not be trapped inside human limits.

The river and its power came to mind the other day when I was talking to a friend about the Nicene Creed. I know, that seems like a stretch, but bear with me. The Creed, as it turns out, is a stumbling block for a lot of folks. In part that's because there's a bunch of stuff in there that isn't exactly biblical. But in part, it's because the creed tries to limit God.

What that has to do with today — the Feast of the Trinity — is that the Nicene Creed is mostly about defining the Trinity.

Think about that for a moment.

The creed — and we should say, the creeds — are an attempt to define God. To put God in a box and say, this is what you have to believe in order to belong. It's never a good idea to try to put God in a box.

Of course, another — better — way of looking at this is to suggest that the creeds are just an attempt to *understand* God in all of God's complexity.

That, of course, is *also* an impossible task, and anyone who thinks they can understand God is delusional. But it IS a task we're all called to. More than that, it's something we're DRAWN to. It's irresistible, trying to understand and relate to God — even the most skeptical of us keep looking for that something more.

One of the things the early church members understood was with Jesus, they had to re-think God. Even during his earthly life, Jesus was shaking our understanding of God — from overwhelmingly royal talk — God as King — to parental language. Jesus constantly refers to God as Father in the most intimate of terms. *Happy Fathers Day, by the way.*

But even before Jesus, Hebrew Scriptures gave us a more complicated understanding of God. God refers to God-self as “We” and “Us” from the very beginning. When God appears to Abraham, it's as three persons. Even then, scriptures referred to the Spirit of God — the Ruach, which in Hebrew is feminine.

So it's no surprise that after the resurrection, after the ascension, folks kept pondering in their hearts and minds what this all meant. What DID just happen? Taking everything they had learned in scriptures and their own experience, they concluded that God is more than just a person. God is LOVE.

And so they worked at figuring out what this meant, first coming up with a basic statement about God incorporating the Creator Father, the Redeeming Son, and the Spirit — we call it the Apostles Creed. Then over the next couple hundred years or so, they refined their ideas about the Son and the Holy Spirit into an official statement we call the Nicene Creed.

The problem for them wasn't in pondering this amazing imponderable — it was in making it authoritative. Because the Trinity — like the Mississippi only more so — will not be contained by human boundaries.

Besides, the creeds miss some crucial elements of who God is — elements that Jesus so beautifully shared with us like the almost giddy love God has for us, the sheer delight God has in just looking at us. For my money, creeds miss what's most important: the Love.

Fortunately, there's art to pick up where words fail. A couple of weeks ago I mentioned an icon written by Shannon Butler where the three identical persons of God are joined in a dance. It's based on a much older icon in which the three persons of the Trinity sit at table staring into each others' eyes.

Both of these images tell us — or at least tell me — pretty much everything I need to know about God. God is LOVE.

God isn't some benevolent overlord who condescendingly looks down on his creations like a kid looks at his aquarium or ant farm. God is actively engaged in loving, in an eternal dance, not distant, not disengaged, but intimate and passionate.

I have said before, and I hold it to be true that if God is Love, then God is by definition relationship. There HAS to be more than one person for God to be God, and those persons are not merely existing but dancing, smiling, laughing. Now this is funny coming from me because I don't dance. Nevertheless, hold that image in your mind; God dancing with God. You can feel their love.

It is this same love that overflows to us. The music, the rhythm. I'm not sure what heaven is like, but I suspect it is us being invited to join the dance. In my dreams I can almost hear the music — and I imagine even I could be enticed to join that dance.

The Trinity, then, isn't just some theological statement that says, "You have to understand these three aspects of God or you won't pass into heaven." No. It's a dance. A professor in seminary said we only know about three members of that dance because we are so limited as human beings — there could be any number. That's not for us to worry about. For now, it's enough to simply enjoy God's eternal dance and maybe, let the rhythm move us.

I know, this is a vague, fuzzy, kind of sermon. It's the Trinity after all. It's not the time for dry theological statements or calls to action. But it might be time to sway to the music. 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?