

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: August 5, 2018

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We have had a particularly hot and muggy summer, and I can only be thankful that we have not experienced the horrors of California's massive fires, or the flooding in many of the Pacific Islands. We are truly blessed.

At the very least, it puts our problems with the air conditioning system into perspective. As you know, the entire climate control system of the church - including all the duct work - has to be removed and replaced. The work was initially supposed to start at the beginning of July, but as with many contractor situations, work had to be pushed back.

As of right now, work on removing the system is to begin next Wednesday, August 8. It should only take a few days to have everything out. Unfortunately, nobody can know the next steps - the extent of work needed, what system will work best with our layout - until everything is out and inspected.

I wish I could give you a hard date by which all work - removing of the old and installation of the new - will be completed. However, that is not possible. We hope for sometime at the end of September, but I am not holding my breath. So many variables are beyond our control.

In the meantime, I thank you for your patience and continued good humor. Last Sunday, the weather was wonderful, and it was quite comfortable in church. This Sunday is also predicted to be dry and not too hot, so it should be a good day to go to Church!

Let us pray for pleasant weather all the Sunday's to come! Because being at church is an active witness to your faith, to your belief in God, in God's love for us, and in your commitment to following Christ as we journey together toward the Kingdom of God. Our presence together is ministry in every sense of the word, and I so very much appreciate your part in it.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

Announcements

Pray for the Presiding Bishop:

The Most Reverend Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop, underwent surgery this week for prostate cancer. The initial reports are that everything went well. As more information comes in, we'll update you. Please keep him and the entire church in your prayers.

SUMMER PLEDGE APPEAL:

We are in full summer mode now, and that means travel. It also means it's easy to forget your pledge. This is your friendly reminder to keep up with your pledge so your St. James' family can keep up with the work God has given us to do together. If you have yet to pledge for this year, it's never too late! God is good, and so is your partnership in the Jesus Movement.

We Need A Defibrillator!

When a group from St. James' went to the firehouse for CPR training, the teacher encouraged us to invest in a defibrillator for the church. We took note of it and felt it was a good idea. However, there is no money in our budget for it. A defibrillator and wall-mount case runs roughly between \$1000 and \$1200. Would you be interested in contributing toward one? The parish has not yet set up a fund for a defibrillator, so don't starting sending in checks just yet, but be prepared for a call. And if you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me and ask. These are some of the best ways to save a life in an emergency, so it's well worth considering.

Bible Study Takes A Break:

The Thursday morning Bible Study will be on summer break this month. We resume meeting on Thursday, September 6 at 11:00 AM.

Nursery School News:

Our Nursery School has a great reputation, and it shows in that the 3-year-olds class is now at capacity. We had to cut off registration for that class this week. There are still four slots in the 4-year-olds class, so if you know someone looking for a school, feel free to let them know about us. There will be an open house on Wednesday, August 15.

Between Service Classes:

The Between-Service Classes take a break in August but resume in September with a look at Church music (among other issues, what it is, why we have it, how we got it, why we use organs - or don't - and how we can all be a part of it).

LAY READER Training:

We had a great Lay Reader training session last Saturday that will lead to licensing of at least five lay readers. An alternate session will take place Friday evening, August 4 at 7:00 PM. We'll start in the Wilks Room. Please note: according to diocesan rules, all lay readers who bear the chalice must be licensed. This class should fulfill requirements for licensing.

REGIONAL COUNCIL AND POSSIBILITIES:

Below, you will find a flyer and registration form for Regional Council. We are encouraging ALL parishioners to attend if possible - and other churches have also encouraged their parishioners to come. Want it to be an event for all Episcopalians in the Hudson Valley. But hurry! The deadline is September 21. St. James' is hosting this year, so you know how to find it!

The Regional Council is an annual meeting of the Hudson Valley churches - especially Dutchess and Ulster County. Each parish has two delegates, but all Episcopalians in the region are encouraged to attend. See below for registration information.

ALSO: Clergy from the region this week discussed the idea of a smaller groups - Inter Parish Councils - meeting six months after the Regional Council. This would be a way for parishioners to discuss additional topics of interest and to keep relationships strong.

I WANT MY CHURCH TO GROW:

In April, the diocese hosted a workshop called “I Want My Church To Grow.” It was so popular that they have decided to host another one in our region.

Right now, the *proposed* date for the even is November 3.

This is a workshop for everyone who loves God and their parish.

Topics for this include:

- Episcopalians Evangelize? Using Community Organizing Tools for Church Growth
- You Start with what You Have: Asset Based Congregational Development
- We Need More Money: Best Practices for Your Stewardship Campaign
- Everything Keeps Changing! Vestry 101 for the 21st Century

Save the Date!

***Mid-Hudson Regional Council Meeting
Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018
9:30am-3pm at St. James Hyde Park***



After our business meeting, we will engage with the topic
of **CLIMATE CHANGE**
and our role in caring for God's creation.

*Featuring keynote speaker, **the Rev. Jeff Golliver** and
Hudson River Playback Theatre, a group that fosters
change through storytelling, music and interactive
performance.*

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Dietsche will preach and preside
at Holy Eucharist. More information and registration
materials will follow soon.

The Mid-Hudson Regional Council
Saturday, September 29, 2018 - 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CLIMATE CHANGE:
Our role in caring for God's Creation

St. James', Hyde Park

~ Registration Form ~

Parish: _____

City/Town: _____

Clergy Attending:

Voting Delegate(s):

Other Attendees:

Please complete this form and send it to:

The Episcopal Diocese of New York
The Mid-Hudson Regional Office
30 Pine Grove Avenue
Kingston, New York 12401

Please note that each parish, regardless of size, is entitled to two (2) voting delegates. All clergy are voting members. We welcome and encourage other members of your parish to attend. Deadline for registration is Friday, September 21st. Cost is \$10.00 per participant – checks made payable to Diocese of New York

RURAL AND MIGRANT MINISTRY: Request for School Supply Kits

Rural and Migrant Ministry will be offering a variety of summer youth programs. This year these programs include summer day programs and an overnight camp that will be held the week of August 12th at the Presbyterian Camp in Holmes, NY. These programs make a huge difference in the lives of the young people who attend and often, these experiences are life-changing. This year's theme is *RESISTANCE*.

One of the most needed items for each child that participates in RMM's summer programs is a Back to School Supply Kit. Last year our parish family donated thirty-eight kits.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation of a school kit. The kit should include 4 composition notebooks (NO spiral notebooks), 4 Sturdy (2) pocket folders, 1 package of notebook paper, 1 box of primary colored Crayola washable markers, 1 24-count box of Crayola crayons, 1 soft pencil envelope/case that includes 1 package (12) #2 pencils, 1 eraser, 1 pencil sharpener, 1 ruler, 3-6 ball point pens, 2 glue sticks, a pair of school scissors and a small package of construction paper.

or if you would like us to do the shopping, please prayerfully consider making a cash donation. Cash/Checks payable to St. James' Church, memo line - RMM school supplies. Special Offering envelopes can be found in the pews or in the narthex of the church.

Deadline for donations: THIS SUNDAY, August 5, 2018

On behalf of the campers who will benefit from your donation:
THANK YOU!!!

Deacon Gail on behalf of the Outreach Committee

August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Unction Deadline for RMM School Kits	6 Office Closed	7	8 10 AM Morning Prayer	9	10	11
12	13 Office Closed	14 NO VESTRY MEETING IN AUGUST	15 10 AM Morning Prayer 2 PM Hyde Park Assisted Living	16	17	18 8 AM Men's Breakfast Fr. Chuck on Vacation
19 Fr. Chuck on Vacation	20 Office Closed Fr. Chuck on Vacation	21 Fr. Chuck on Vacation	22 10 AM Morning Prayer Fr. Chuck on Vacation	23 Fr. Chuck on Vacation	24 Fr. Chuck on Vacation	25 Fr. Chuck on Vacation
26 Fr. Chuck on Vacation	27 Office Closed Fr. Chuck on Vacation	28 Fr. Chuck on Vacation	29 10 AM Morning Prayer Fr. Chuck on Vacation	30 Fr. Chuck on Vacation	31 Fr. Chuck on Vacation	

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.diocesen.org/administration/for-clergy/liturgical-and-sacramental/diocesan-calendar-of-intercession/>

- 5 The Church Pension Group
- 6 Church of the Transfiguration, Manhattan
- 7 Church of the Epiphany Day School, Manhattan
- 8 The Laurel & Rose Butler Nursery School of St. John's Church, Yonkers
- 9 Diocesan Mutual Ministry Review Consultants
- 10 The Diocesan Director of Human Resources
- 11 Diocesan Disciplinary Board

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ashley, John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Darlene Calgagni, Mariel Carter, Joanne Clark, Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Brian Ganter (deployed to Afghanistan), Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), Gloria Golden, Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Tedi Kramer, Hope Jennings, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Jim Lynn (Carol Bender's brother - facing surgery), Doris Mack, Margaret, 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), Pat Rooney, 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): Patricia Drake and Christian Schroder

Birthdays
(this coming week): Patricia Holland, Jeffrey Thatcher, Mary Gabel, Gordon Mackenzie, Jim Matranga and Suzann Kinne

Acolytes:
August 5: Amelia
August 12: Braeden

Altar Guild:	August 5: Team II August 12: Team III
8 a.m. Readers:	August 5: Deb Belding and Grant Ferris August 12: Deb Belding and Sue DeLorenzo
10 a.m. Readers:	August 5: Patty Caswell and Justin Bohlmann August 12: Russell Urban-Mead and Andy Hall
Ushers:	August 5: Patty Drake and Bobbie Wells August 12: Maggie and Tom McNamara
Pledge Clerks:	August 5: Joanne Lown and Sue DeLorenzo August 12: Doug Belding and Judy Douglass
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	August 5: Russell, Wendy, Kassie and Charlie Urban-Mead, Liz Van Wagner August 12: Janet Veith ,Georgia Verven; Stephen, Amanda, Trevor, Travis and Troy Verven
Coffee Hour Hosts:	August 5: No Coffee Hour August 12: No Coffee Hour

This Week's Lectionary

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
 Psalm 51:1-13
 Ephesians 4:1-16
 John 6:24-35

This Week's Hymns

Processional: 658 - As Longs the Deer for the Cooling Streams
 Sequence: LEVAS 146 - Break Thou The Bread of Life
 Offertory: 709 - O God of Bethel, by who's hand they people are fed
 Communion: Taizé: "Eat This Bread"
 Recessional: 699 - Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

“How We Use Power”

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord - my strength and my redeemer.

We all know that scripture talks a lot about money and how we treat those less well-off than us. But one of the other things scripture spends an awful lot of time on is power.

Why is that, do you think?

I'll guess it's because we all want it, at least a little. Even if we don't want to admit it. Power is seductive because it makes us feel like we can do what we want, or what we think needs to be done.

Power itself is neither good nor bad - it is merely having **the ability (physical and mental), authority, and means** to act. But with power, we can do great good — or great harm.

It's how we choose to use it that concerns scripture, and today we see examples of good and evil.

Let's start with the bad. David and Bathsheba is a story we all know, right? Bathsheba is following the religious laws of purification after her time of the month when David sees her. David sees and takes her because he can. Because he's king. He has ability, authority and means.

He can also do so because all the other men of power - including Bathsheba's husband - are away at battle. (Side note: we don't know why David isn't off at battle where at least the writer presumes he ought to be. Maybe he's injured or sick - maybe he just decides to sit this one out.). So not only does he have power, but it's unchecked.

Then he uses his power to try to force Uriah to come sleep with his wife to cover up the fact that David got her pregnant. When Uriah refuses, David uses his power to have him killed, and then to take Bathsheba as his wife.

Bathsheba has no power here. She must follow the laws. She must let her king do to her as he pleases. She is the one who gets pregnant. She is the one whose husband is murdered. She is the one who is taken as the wife of the man who raped her.

The contrast between the one who abuses his power and the one who has all power stripped from her is striking.

Now, compare that with the power Jesus displays in today's gospel.

I mean, yes, the two miracles he performs are pretty impressive. He feeds 5,000 with just a couple of loaves and fishes, right? Then he walks on water. That's power!

But for what purpose? Jesus was not in the habit of just flashing his power around for fun. He was always fully aware of what he could do - and the responsibility he bore to use it well. Most of the time, when Jesus displayed power, it was to teach.

In John's version of the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus poses this problem to the disciples: How're we going to feed them all? Let's work this problem.

At first, you see dismay among the disciples... Impossible! Six months wages couldn't feed this crowd! But then, you see some hints of hope: Well, here's a kid with five loaves and two fish - but what good is that?

Jesus takes this little flicker of hope and makes it grow. Like with many of his lessons, he shows them that there doesn't have to be MUCH to work with - just a tiny seed of faith, just a flicker of hope, just a faint light in the dark - for God's power to begin to work.

He's teaching the disciples that God's power doesn't need much help to flow into the world - in fact that God's power can flow through each of them - through each of US. But in order for this to happen, we are called to remember that it is GOD'S power, not ours.

David grasped and abused his own power. Jesus taught the disciples that if we are to be God's agents in the world, it must be God's power, not ours. And God's power is not to harm others but always embody God's love.

As Paul prayed for the Ephesians that they would have the power to comprehend the breadth, length, height and depth of God's love and be filled with it. That's God's power.

God's power is that which feeds the hungry, welcomes the stranger, lifts up the weak and speaks the truth.

You may not be big sports fans, but last week were the ESPY awards - sort of like the Oscars for pro athletes. But they had a special award for all the women who came forward to report the abuse of Larry Nassar against gymnasts on the national team. More than a hundred women stood on stage, all of them victims when they were still young and vulnerable. But now, they were reclaiming their power.

And that's the thing about power. It can be taken away, but it can also be regained. Reclaimed.

Bishop Dietsche, when he says grace, often uses one of the traditional graces that ends with, "make us mindful of the needs of others." But he says, "make us mindful of the needs - and possibilities - of others."

Jesus feed 5,000 people not to show what a powerful guy HE was, but to show the disciples what was possible for THEM. He walked on water, not to show HIS power - he knew it already - but to help them grasp the power of God that is flowing through each of US.

If power is simply having the ability, the authority, and the means to act, Jesus is telling them that they have it. He's given them (and us) the authority to make God's love known to the world - to every single person, starting with themselves. He's given them (and us) the ability - all it takes is one person to reach out a hand or to speak a word. And he's given them (and us) the means - just a few loaves of bread will multiply.

What today's scriptures tell us is that WE have power. Even if others have tried to take it away from us, we can reclaim it. Because God's power flows through us. God's power - not human power which can abuse for its own pleasures. God's power, which will always seek to lift up, heal, feed, strengthen, and fill with life.

We all - at least a little - want power. The question I leave with you is, what kind of power do you want? And how will you use it? 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?