

# St. James' E-pistle

## Date of Sunday Service: September 16, 2018

### Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

#### Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This Sunday, Sunday School starts up again. So, do the Between Service Classes. We're also getting ready to do a special Inquirers Series for a couple of parishioners who would like to be confirmed at the June 1, 2019 diocesan confirmations held at the Cathedral.

So education is our theme for the week. And well it should be! Episcopalians have the reputation for being too bookish, but it's not true. Though there are brilliant scholars (and we have some brilliant parishioners, too!), for the most part, we don't know enough about our faith. And often, knowing about is a crucial step in knowing intimately.

This avoidance of knowledge, though, is epidemic, not only in church but in our society. A few weeks ago, one of the comedy "news" shows sent a reporter out into the streets of a city with a map of the world in which all the names of the countries had been deleted. The reporter went around asking people how many countries they could identify just from their position and outline on the map. Most, I'm shocked to say, couldn't even identify the United States. These were otherwise seemingly articulate, educated people. There is no way that even the least educated among us should do that badly.

I wonder how much better we are at a biblical or theological level. How many of the foundational Hebrew Scriptures do you know? How about the Beatitudes? Can you recite a psalm? Can you recite the Nicene Creed - and do you know the reason we even have it? What are the Episcopal Church's official stances on divorce, or abortion, or immigration or welfare?

One of the reasons I wanted so desperately to have the Between Service classes was that it's been difficult to find a time when adults will come together to learn. The focus this month is on church music - not an insignificant topic! Because music shapes our worship in more ways than you might imagine. That's why it's been such an integral part of our worship since ... well, since before there was a church.

I encourage you to find a class or education opportunity that will help you grow and know God better. If you don't find the class you need, start it. I'll help. In the meantime, ponder how much you know about God - and how well you know God in your life.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

## Announcements

### *Graveyard Tours Coming:*

We are getting ready for the Graveyard Tours! This year is the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I - and we are paying tribute to that commemoration with a focus on characters who served in that war. Every year, we need volunteers: Parking, Tour guides, set up and break down. If you would like to volunteer, please see Brian Rance who is the coordinator. Let's make this the best year ever!

### *Women's Group*

Please join us, no RSVP needed! We will be meeting at Antonella's at 6:30 pm (this is a change).

September 17th

October 22nd

November 19th

December 3rd (Christmas party)

### *Sunday School News*

That time of year again! This year we will hold our open house and registration on the 16<sup>th</sup>. A flyer is attached for more information. The registration will be followed by a Sunday School Family Barbeque. We welcome all pre-k through High School children to become part of our Sunday School family here at St. James'. We will continue using our Curriculum, Weaving God's Promises. This year's theme will be Weaving God's Beloved Community. The lessons will cover the story of how we are called by God to live in loving Community with one another, to fulfill God's promises for us in the healing of all creation.

A registration form is attached and will be available in the Narthex starting this Sunday.

We are also looking for more teachers! If this might be something you are interested in, please contact me right away. The internet-based curriculum allows for easy lessons which require very little time to prepare for. This is an important ministry that is extremely rewarding.

For more information, feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

-Valerie Gaulin – [vgaulin51@gmail.com](mailto:vgaulin51@gmail.com) – 845-849-0221.

# St. James' Sunday School Open House & BBQ

September 16, 2018



Come and see  
your classroom,  
meet your  
teacher and  
register for the  
school year.

**Immediately following the  
10:00 service.**

**Then join us outside for a  
Sunday School family BBQ.**

**It's a chance to meet all your Sunday  
School classmates and teachers.**

**Enjoy Hot dogs, ice cream and games!**

**St. James' Episcopal Church**  
**4526 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, N.Y. 12538**

Phone: 845-229-2820 Fax: 845-229-5293

Web Site: [www.stjameshydepark.org](http://www.stjameshydepark.org) Email: [stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org](mailto:stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org)

2018 - 2019 SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name Child Prefers to be called \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Entering \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(If parents live apart, please give address at which the child lives most of the time and indicate which parent is at that address.)

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ May we send e-mail notices to you? Yes / No

Has your child attended St. James Sunday School before? Yes / No

Are you members of the church? Yes / No Has your child been baptized? Yes / No

Will you be attending church while your child is in Sunday School? Yes / No

If not, emergency contact info:  
At what phone can we reach you in case of emergency? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional emergency contact name \_\_\_\_\_  
phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
relationship to child \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any restrictions/conditions your child has, or is there any information the teacher should know in order to make Sunday School a more positive experience for your child? Yes / No  
If yes, please explain.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions, problems, suggestions you or your child might have regarding Sunday School.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*We Need Defibrillator Donations!*

So far, we have collected about \$140 toward our defibrillator. It's a start, but only about 10% there. If you think this is important, please consider, say, a \$20 donation. Just 60 of those ought to get us where we need to be. Or, if 24 people gave \$50 each, we'd have it. We'll continue to keep the envelope out every Sunday until we have enough. Total cost for the defibrillator is between \$1,200 and \$1,500. Some parishioners have been trained on use of the defibrillator, and after we get one, we'll arrange for more instruction.

*Bible Study Is BACK!*

The Thursday morning Bible Study has started back up. If you can make it, we would love to see you at 11:00 AM every Thursday. If you need a different time, let me know, and we'll get to work making one

*Between Service Classes START:*

The Between-Service Classes are back! The new series is on CHURCH MUSIC! What is it, how do we do it, what do we love?

**September 16** - "Why Do We Have Music?"

**September 23** - "Navigating The Hymnal 1982."

**September 30** - "Greatest Hits of the Hymnal."

**October 7** - "Other Hymnals: LEVAS and more."

**October 14** - "Rock Stars of Church Music."

### *SAFE CHURCH Training:*

The Diocese of New York requires SAFE CHURCH training for all clergy and employees of any congregation. It is also required for all Lay Eucharistic Visitors. Bishop Dietsche expects it of ALL Vestry members, Sunday School teachers, or any volunteers who work with children in any capacity. Bishop Dietsche encourages it for all parish volunteers and any parishioner who wants to be further educated. There are two ways to take this training. One is in person: There is a SAFE CHURCH training session on Saturday, September 22 at St. Paul's in Poughkeepsie (8:00 AM - 1:00 PM). There is a \$30 fee, but I (Fr. Chuck) will cover the cost if you choose to go there.

The second way to take the training is online. See me to register, as I am the administrator for it. There are several 15-20 minute classes that you must take and pass a test for it to register. After you have completed all the courses, you will receive a printout certificate.

### *LECTOR Training RESCHEDULED:*

Due to a diocesan function I have to attend, I will have to reschedule the Lector Training session. No more than an hour is recommended - encouraged - for all lectors. As soon as I have a date, I'll pass it along.

### *Free To A Good Home:*

Clarence and Joann Clark have two beautiful handmade Amish rocking horses that once belonged to their grown daughters. The young women have flown the nest, and it's time to let these functional art pieces delight new children.



So if you have kids in the toddler range who would enjoy the simple pleasures, let them (or the church) know! They can bring them to church this Sunday.

### *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.

## **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 21<sup>st</sup>**. Cost is \$10.00 per participant – checks made payable to Diocese of New York

*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 event 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

| September 2018                      |                     |                          |   |                                |        |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------|---|
| Sunday                              | Monday              | Tuesday                  | Wednesday   | Thursday                       | Friday | Saturday  |
| 16                                  | 17<br>Office Closed | 18<br><br>7 PM<br>Vestry | 19<br>10 AM<br>Morning Prayer<br><br>2 PM<br>Hyde Park Assisted<br>Living | 20<br><br>11 AM Bible<br>Study | 21     | 22  |
| 23<br><br>NY<br>Lamentation<br>Play | 24<br>Office Closed | 35                       | 26<br>10 AM<br>Morning Prayer   | 27<br><br>11 AM Bible<br>Study | 28     | 29<br><br>Regional<br>Council<br><br>Graveyard Tours<br>Dress Rehearsal |
| 30                                  | 1<br>Office Closed  | 2                        | 3<br>10 AM<br>Morning Prayer  | 4                              | 5      | 6   |

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/>

- 16 St. John's Church (Tuckahoe), Yonkers
- 17 St. John's Church (Fountain Square), Larchmont
- 18 St. Peter's Church (Lithgow), Millbrook
- 19 Canterbury Columbia-Barnard Chaplaincy, Manhattan
- 20 Church of the Mediator, Bronx
- 21 The Cathedral School, Manhattan
- 22 Mid-Hudson Executive Committee

## 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, Carl Levine, 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), 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<br>(this past week):   | Laura Kinne and Pat Keeffe  |
| Birthdays<br>(this coming week): | Fred Champion, Edith Kline, Thomas I. Finnigan, Kathy Graff,<br>Stephen Gaulin and Laurel Ardini  |
| Acolytes:                        | September 16: Nancy Montero and Jaylen Thatcher<br>September 23: Riley Hall and Amelia McNamara   |
| Altar Guild:                     | September 16: Team II<br>September 23: Team III   |
| 8 a.m. Readers:                  | September 16: Deb Belding and Lucille Ogden<br>September 23: Lucille Ogden and Sue DeLorenzo  |
| 10 a.m. Readers:                 | September 16: Wendy Urban-Mead and Maggie McNamara<br>September 23: Wilma Tully and Barbara Slegel  |
| Ushers:                          | September 16: Maggie and Tom McNamara<br>September 23: Nancy Montero and Anna Marie Pitcher   |
| Pledge Clerks:                   | September 16: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher<br>September 23: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell   |
| Parish Cycle of Prayer:          | September 16: Joe Baldwin and Beverly Briggs, Doug and Deb<br>Belding; David and Carol Bender; St. James' Nursery School<br>September 23: Robin Bohlmann, Justin, Danielle, Emerson and Avery<br>Bohlmann; St. James' Church School |
| Coffee Hour Hosts:               | September 16: Jodi Triola and Mike Fenwick<br>September 23: Deirdre Mae Micker, Wendy and Russell Urban-Mead  |

## This Week's Lectionary

Proverbs 1:20-33  
Psalm 19  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

## This Week's Hymns

Processional: 697 - My God, Accept My Heart  
Sequence: LEVAS 64 - I Love To Tell The Story  
Offertory: Take Up Thy Cross  
Communion: Taizé: "Live In Charity"  
Recessional: 490 - I want to walk as a child of the light

## Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Maker of Them All*

Back when St. James' was founded, we were given our name based on a bible passage. It was the passage we heard today.

The story goes that Samuel Bard was so moved by James' dictate that faith without works is dead that he just knew we needed to be named after this great saint.

It's a great choice though it may be a little ironic. What I mean is, literally two paragraphs earlier, James warns against drawing distinctions between the rich and the poor. And most of our founding members were among the **very** richest in the country in a time when distinctions between rich and poor were at their starkest.

But this just points to one of the two main issues Jesus worked on throughout his entire ministry.

You see, Jesus spent his entire ministry pointing out two things about our relationship with God. Things that people should have known all along since there were hints of them all throughout the Hebrew Scriptures.

**One** was to remind us that you can't earn God's love. God simply loves us.

**The other** - and the one our lessons focus on today - is that God's love is for all, not just a certain group.

James says it, too; "Do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?" But more importantly, it's all over the Old Testament, too.

Look at Proverbs. Yes Proverbs, not a book of the Bible that gets a lot of air time because mostly it's just a book of parental advice on how to work hard and have a good reputation. But then there are passages like today's where the writer says, The rich and the poor have this in common, the Lord is the maker of them all. And goes on to warn against despoiling the poor - because God is the one who pleads their case in the heavens. (And you know how **that** case will end).

And yet **for some reason**, generation after generation, that attitude of some being better or more deserving than others still creeps into our systems. It's like we need people to be worse than us so we can feel better about ourselves, isn't it?

Even Jesus displays this in today's gospel. Now, sure, Jesus as the son of God is perfect, but what happens today doesn't sound very perfect - not unless perfection includes the willingness to learn, to repent, to be taught by others. I mean, in the exchange between Jesus and the Syrophenician woman, Jesus sounds downright mean: She comes begging Jesus to eject a demon from her daughter, and Jesus says, "It's not fair to give the children's food to dogs."

This woman replies: "Yeah, but even the dogs get scraps from the table." Now, in Matthew's gospel, Jesus says, "Wow, great is your faith," while Mark just says, "For that answer, your daughter will be healed." But the point is the same: This *GENTILE WOMAN* just showed exemplary faith.

In other words, the Lord is the maker of them all. Of US all.

We are ALL God's beloved children. Because God made us all. Because there are no people chosen above others. Because rich and poor are all deserving of being treated as heirs to the kingdom. And poor are especially to be cared for. Because people of different nations are all to be treated as family - especially if they are aliens in your country. Because people of different religions are also God's children capable of teaching the supposed chosen religion what faith truly looks like.

We all know the lessons Jesus teaches: God loves us and we're called to love our neighbors. God loves us, and we are all God's children - the Lord is the maker of us all.

But as I said earlier, we ignore this. We just want to have people we're superior to. Why is that? Why - generation after generation - do we ignore this and find people we can make into slaves or find people we can reject from our community or find people we can lock up or keep out or exploit?

Sometimes, I just don't know even when I see it in myself. Most of the time I don't know what to do except to keep pointing to Jesus. And realize that Jesus - throughout the entire gospel - is just pointing to what God has said all along.

EXERCISE: Walk around mall, read paper, watch news - and say to yourself: THIS IS MY brother/sister. I love them. I am responsible for them. (The world would say "No I'm NOT!" But we are not the world).

If you see a person - it is THAT VERY PERSON whom God has placed in your path today. THAT VERY PERSON is made by God and is worthy of your love. Show me a person who is not made by God.

This is the most irritating thing about Jesus - he keeps pointing to the eternal truths. There is no person God didn't make, and there is no person God doesn't love - so whatever their country of origin, whatever their religion, whatever their criminal background, whatever their politics, whatever their gender, whatever their health - whatever their wealth ... there isn't a person in this world God doesn't call on us to love and care for.

We are followers of Jesus Christ. And Jesus Christ points to the truths that have always been there even if they have always been brushed aside by — well, by everyone.

But they remain the truth: There is one maker of us all, and that maker loves us. And calls on us to do no less. 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?*