

St. James' E-pistle

March 3, 2017

Pulpit Notes

"One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

--Matthew 4:2

Brothers and Sisters:

This is one of the most famous lines from scripture, though when I was growing up, I learned that "Man does not live by bread alone." Either way, however, the point was clear: we are more than our bodies, more than our comfort, more than our possessions, more than all of our earthly connections all put together.

We are - and this tells us everything we need to know - God's children.

Last night, I went to my second Reparations Committee meeting. The committee is the Diocese of New York's response to a national call for the church to look dispassionately and honestly at its own role in slavery, but just as importantly, to look at how the legacy of slavery - and the long ugly Jim Crow era that followed - still affects us today.

One of hard realizations of that committee's work is that most people simply don't realize how intertwined or current tensions are with the past. They are like an unbroken tangle of threads leading back to those first African slaves brought to New York by the Dutch.

These threads lead us to the realization that slavery and its ongoing aftermath were as much economic expediencies as they were racial. That is, businessmen tried out different groups as slaves before settling on Africans as the most easily controlled (because they were taken so far from their native lands). The concept of race was created largely to make them a permanent underclass deserving of nothing better.

The Reparations Committee's work is to help us - together - lament what was done to our brothers and sisters, repent and apologize for it, and seek to repair the breach as much as possible.

In short, it is to show us that we do not live by economic expediencies, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Later this month, St. James' will host a live simulcast of the Trinity Institute's conference called "Water Justice." It also deals with economic expediencies. How we have treated our water as a garbage pit and economic engine; how we have controlled - often taken away -

4526 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park NY 12538 T 845-229-2820 F 845-229-5293

W www.stjameshydepark.org E stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org

f at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/22692330307>

St. James' E-pistle

March 3, 2017

water from others so we can have it for ourselves; how we have ignored the needs or even undermined the needs of those who are not close to us or not like us, giving ourselves clean water while corrupting that of the most vulnerable.

Historically, we have corrupted this essential resource largely out of a desire to make more money. And so, the Trinity Institute will drive home not only that we do not live by economic expediencies, but that as we immerse ourselves in the word of God, we will be able to see a way forward to healing the breach between ourselves and God's creation. Both of these initiatives are perfect areas of focus for Lent. How do we re-center on the Word of God and less on the bread that drives our confused hearts?

I invite you to find time to learn more - the Trinity Institute is just next week.

In addition, St. Margaret's has asked St. James' to partner with it in a workshop on reparations. Although it is not finalized, it looks like there will be a two-session program as early as Wednesday, March 29 (the second date to be determined). Look for more information soon - because Lent is the time when we remember that we do not live by bread - or other economic expediencies - alone. You and I need God's every word, and these opportunities offer a way to hear them.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck+

St. James' E-pistle

March 3, 2017

The News of the Church

Lenten Morning Prayer: This year, we are excited to offer daily Morning Prayer for your Lenten discipline. While the timing won't work for everyone, we hope that you will be able to attend at least one - but whether it's just one, one a week, or every day, we'll be here for your spiritual benefit.

It is especially gratifying that we have six volunteers who are offering their time to lead Morning Prayer. Vince Asher, Wilma Tully, Janice Syedullah, Tom Finnigan, and Patty Caswell will each officiate one day a week at 10:00 AM. For those who need a little earlier, Wendy Urban-Mead will lead Morning Prayer on three Mondays at 8:00 AM.

If anyone wants to officiate at 6:00 AM (or Saturdays), let me know - the more we offer, the more opportunities there are for your fellow parishioners - and our neighbors - to attend.

So come to the church on Lenten mornings - it will make your Lenten discipline that much more meaningful.

Five people attended our first daily Morning Prayer on Thursday.

Lenten Quiet Day: The Companions of St. Mary the Apostle, is hosting a Lenten Quiet Day at the Church of Christ the King in Stone Ridge on **Saturday, March 4**. It runs from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and will be led by Sisters Elizabeth and Shane of the order (CMA), and Lorraine Coscia-Ackerman, and Covenant Companion of the CMA. Cost is \$35 sliding scale, bring your lunch.

Book Signing: Many of you (especially in the choir) may remember Geraldine Hawkins, a Park Ranger who used to attend St. James' before being transferred away. She will be speaking at the Wallace Center **March 9th** at 7:00 p.m. for the "launch" of her book Elliott and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Story of A Father and His Daughter in The Gilded Age. There will be Q&A and book signing. She would love to see members of the congregation there, so I hope you'll consider it!

Explore the Choir! "If you have any interest at all in singing and/or playing an instrument - no matter how much experience you have - do consider participating in the St. James music

St. James' E-pistle

March 3, 2017

ministry! You can contact St. James' Music Director Sarah Rodeo (sarodeo@vassar.edu) at any time!"

Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast: Troop 80 is having another Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for the scouts who are going to SeaBase High Adventure Camp.

It is Saturday, March 11 from 8 to 11a.m. in the Parish Hall, \$8.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children.



St. James' Hosting Trinity Institute Simulcast: St. James' is the only Midhudson Valley site hosting a simulcast of this year's Trinity Institute Conference which takes place **March 22-24**. The Trinity Institute is a three-day conference attracting participants from around the world. Each year it focuses on one topic of importance to people of faith. This year's conference is titled: "Water Justice" and centers on the sacredness of water and the necessity of protecting it so we can all live. From the Trinity Institute website: "Water is a gift. Water is life. As water crises increase, access to safe and clean drinking water decreases.

From Flint to Standing Rock, many of today's most pressing social issues revolve around water. Faith communities worldwide can help."

The simulcast will take place in the parish hall. We encourage everyone to be part of this - for all three days if possible, but for one day if that's all you can do.

A Diocesan Date of Interest: It is important to be in communion with other Episcopalians in our diocese. While many events are held in New York City, some are more regionally available. Here is one event that you may be interested in.

March 18, 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM - Eucharistic Minister/Eucharistic Visitor Training (in Cornwall)

St. James' E-pistle

March 3, 2017

Churchyard Committee: Our churchyard committee wants you. The committee oversees one of the most historic graveyards in the region, and is responsible for making sure it is kept up. It handles the sale and digging of graves as well. If you value our churchyard and want it to continue to be a source of comfort whose loved ones rest here as well as historical interest to those who visit, please join our committee. If you're interested, you can contact Carol Vinall at vinehall3@aol.com.

Spiritual / Educational Online Resources to deepen your faith:

- Acts 8 Movement
 - GrowChristians
 - Episcopal Cafe (a favorite)
 - The Slate Project (not affiliated with Slate magazine)
 - Virtual Abbey
 - Second Life Church (gives you a virtual church experience if you're into that sort of thing. Fun to look at maybe).
 - Inward/Outward (daily meditations sent to your e-mail)
 - "Edge of Enclosure" (weekly lectionary-based blog post)
 - The Celtic Christian Tradition (via Facebook)
 - Anne Lamott (via Facebook)
 - Fr. Richard Rohr's blog <https://cac.org/richard-rohr/richard-rohr-ofm/>
 - Jan Richardson - <http://paintedprayerbook.com>
- Especially good for those grieving or interested in women's spirituality.

The News of the Diocese

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 <http://www.diocesenyo.org> and click under "Beliefs and Practices."

- 5 St. John's Episcopal Church, Cornwall
- 6 Church of St. John the Evangelist, Barrytown
- 7 St. Andrew's Church, Walden
- 8 The Church Club of New York
- 9 Diocesan Clergy Critical Needs Committee
- 10 The Diocesan Director of Human Resources
- 11 St Mary's Ghanaian Church, Bronx

Praying For Peace Everywhere:

St. James' E-pistle

March 3, 2017

Let us continue to light a candle for peace in the Holy Land - and everywhere. Prayer is our most potent antidote to hatred.

1. **Candle for Peace**

Please also light a candle on Fridays - holy to both faiths - for Peace

Let us Light Candles for Peace

Two mothers, one plea:

Now, more than ever, during these days of so much crying,
on the day that is sacred to both our religions, Friday, Sabbath Eve

Let us light a candle in every home - for peace:

A candle to illuminate our future, face to face,

A candle across borders, beyond fear.

From our family homes and houses of worship

Let us light each other up,

Let these candles be a lighthouse to our spirit

Until we all arrive at the sanctuary of peace.

2. **The Mothers Prayer:**

God of Life:

You who heals the broken hearted, binding up our wounds.

Please hear this prayer of mothers.

You did not create us to kill each other

Nor to live in fear or rage or hatred in your world. You created us so that we allow each other to sustain Your Name in this world:

Your name is Life, your name is Peace.

For these I weep, my eye sheds water:

For our children crying in the night,

For parents holding infants, despair and darkness in their hearts.

For a gate that is closing – who will rise to open it before the day is gone?

With my tears and with my constant prayers, With the tears of all women deeply pained at these harsh times

I raise my hands to you in supplication: Please God have mercy on us.

Hear our voice that we not despair That we will witness life with each other, That we have mercy one for another, That we share sorrow one with the other, That we hope, together, one for another.

Inscribe our lives in the book of Life

For Your sake, our God of Life Let us choose Life.

For You are Peace, Your world is Peace and all that is Yours is Peace,

May this be your will

And let us say Amen.

Sheikha Ibtisam Mahameed and Rabba Tamar Elad-Appelbaum

St. James' E-pistle

March 3, 2017

English Translation Amichai Lau-Lavie

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Susie Buhalis, Mariel Carter, Dee, Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Steven Foote, Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Charles Pardee, Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), John Ross, Richard Secor, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Carl Smith, Marguerite Spratt, Janice Syedullah, Tracy, 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 alright.

Birthdays (this past week):	Gilbert O'Halloran, Karen Pitcher. William Rance and Richard K. Wager
Birthdays (this coming week):	Faith Kinne and Carl Needy
Acolytes:	March 5: Team 2 March 12: Team 3
Altar Guild:	March 5: Team III March 12: Team I
8 a.m. Readers:	March 5: Debbie Belding and Sue DeLorenzo March 12: Lucille Ogden and Jim Smyth
10 a.m. Readers:	March 5: Patty Caswell/Nancy Montero March 12: Regina Ardini/Andy Hall
Ushers:	March 5: Nancy Montero, Anna Marie Pitcher March 12: Andrew and Tonya Hall

St. James' E-pistle

March 3, 2017

Pledge Clerks: March 5: Joanne Lown and Janet Bright
March 12: Doug Belding and Judy Douglass

Parish Cycle of Prayer: March 5: Walter and Lynn Koch, Ashley Konyn, Paul Littlefield
March 12: Joanne Lown, Doris Mack

Coffee Hour Hosts: March 5: Lenten Breakfast
March 12: Lenten Breakfast

This Week's Lectionary

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

This Week's Hymns

Processional: Hymn 143 (The glory of these forty days)

Sequence: Hymn 147 (Now let us all with one accord)

Offertory: "Jesus Christ The Apple Tree"

Communion: Hymn 311 (O saving Victim, opening wide)

Recessional: Hymn 150 (Forty days and forty nights)

NOTE: Audio recordings of some sermons are now available on
St. James' website, www.stjameshydepark.org Look under "Worship"

Sermon Preached on
Last Sunday after the Epiphany
(February 26, 2017)

The Rev. Sam Owen preaching

Peter wrote: "You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place."
Good morning, and thank you for the privilege of sharing the Good News with you this morning.
My name is Sam Owen, I am the priest in charge of the Haitian Congregation of the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in the Bronx.

St. James' E-pistle

March 3, 2017

If you are wondering how a non-Haitian came to serve an all Haitian congregation, preaching and worshipping in Creole and French every Sunday, please come to my presentation in the parish hall after worship.

This last Sunday after Epiphany is known as Transfiguration Sunday.

The season of Epiphany begins with the revelation to the three wise men that Jesus is the Messiah, Emmanuel, God who came from heaven to be with us.

The season ends with the glory of Jesus being revealed to his closest disciples Peter, James and John.

The message of the Transfiguration is that God's glory is with us, each of us who believe in Jesus Christ, and that we don't need to be afraid.

In fact the message is that God's presence with us gives hope that we can live without fear in this moment and in the life to come.

It's easy to forget that message or have it get buried under a pile of earthly worries and concerns.

We live in a time of polarization and factions.

It's certainly true in our country, but it's also true in the church, and it's often true in our own homes and in our own hearts.

The worries and concerns of the world pile up.

It doesn't matter what your political beliefs are this is a scary time. Many people are nervous.

The truth with a capital T was revealed by Peter six days before this gospel lesson today, as told by in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 16.

Jesus asks "Who do you say that I am?"

Peter responds that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of the living God.

So today I want to talk about what it means to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,

and then talk about what that means for our lives as believers.

If we believe it, what do we do about it?

Like many of you I am a white middle class Christian,

As a kid I went to church and to Sunday school

and I thought I had a pretty clear idea what it meant to be a Christian.

I accepted most of the things I learned,

I went to church semi-regularly,

and I had an idea that being a Christian

meant that I should try to be a good person,

treating others with love and respect.

It meant being generous with my money and time,

and it meant believing in a God who loves me unconditionally,

St. James' E-pistle

March 3, 2017

a God who loves me so much that he sent his son Jesus
to earth to enable me to access God's divine love more.
And I really thought it ended there.
I thought that if I believed and did all those things,
I was good to go. I didn't need to do or believe more.
I could do what I wanted,
I'd give God my Sundays
but much of the rest of the week was the gift God gave me.
It wasn't a bad way of thinking,
but it was incomplete and it led to me being divided in my heart.
The problem with that path
is that it's very me-centered.
I began to think of God as my guide, or coach or mentor only
without being willing to give my life in service to God.
But then I went to Haiti in 2006
and I learned that not all Christians think of God that way.
In Haiti I saw people who put God first in their lives.
They put God first because they didn't have a choice.
With no money, no health care and no idea
where tomorrow's food will come from
I saw people who put their whole trust in God.
I heard people say things like "see you tomorrow, God willing,"
and they really meant If God wants.
And I realized that I had things backwards.
Instead of God being here for my personal fulfillment
I was here to serve God, and that God would take care of my needs.
Maybe if I trusted God to lead me,
instead of me telling God where I wanted to go
and then asking for Him to make it happen for me
that I would be able to live a life that was more fulfilling and authentic.
Of course I didn't just wake up one day and say
'I think I'll go to Haiti and then put God first in my life.'
I had some crises in my life that forced me to completely change how I was living.
At the time these crises seemed tragic,
but in hindsight they were the beginning of learning
how to trust God more fully with my life.
In some ways this is the message of the cross.
Jesus' death seemed like the worst possible thing,
it seemed like the death of a movement that promised hope.

St. James' E-pistle

March 3, 2017

Instead it led to the fulfillment of God's promise to humanity,
that even though we all have fallen short of God's glory,
God gives us the gift of his grace, which means
God will not abandon us no matter what.
I had to learn from people who had no choice
that when I have a choice and I choose to serve God first,
I can live a life that is not based on fear and that God will not let us down.
I don't do it perfectly, but life is much more God-centered than
when I viewed Jesus as my teacher and personal transformation coach.
The choice to put God first is available to all of us.
We live in a scary time, our society is changing quickly...
whether or not you like it or not.
The gospel lesson today has several important insights for us in our time.
The first is that Jesus really is the son of God.
He was foretold by the law and the prophets,
and that is why Moses and Elijah appear with him.
Moses represents the law,
Elijah represents the prophets.
God tells us to listen to him,
and for us that means we can listen to his words certainly,
but we can also listen to the example of the life he lived.
We see first that everything Jesus did in his life,
he did for the glory of God.
All of his teachings and conversations recorded in the gospels
show God's love for humanity,
show God's presence among us in every moment,
including this moment right now,
and show God's future glory that's waiting for us,
a future where we rise to a life without fear.

If we believe these things, what are we to do?
I think our roles as Christians
is to start by putting our trust in God first,
knowing that he is with us.
The message of Epiphany is that God in Jesus Christ
has always been with us and will always be with us.
It means we should seek to align our own wills and our lives to God's will,
seeking to serve God first, using Holy Scripture as our guide.
Yes, these scriptures were written by humans,

St. James' E-pistle

March 3, 2017

but Peter reminds us they were inspired by God.
Let's trust God to show us the right actions to take,
whether it's serving the poor at home or abroad
or standing up for justice.
May God bless these words.
May God bless each of us.
Amen.