

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 15, 2016

### **Pulpit Notes**

Brothers and Sisters:

Not long ago, I had a conversation with someone about reading in church. We talked about what it takes to read during the service (mostly an ability to read out loud), and then we came to the issue of what we say before and after the reading.

You're probably aware that we introduce each reading with, "A reading (or lesson) from the Book of..." (or "from the letter of X to Y"). At the end of the reading, we usually say, "The Word of the Lord."

But, what if - so our conversation went - it's not the word of the Lord. What if it sounds like something far removed from the love of God which the Gospel attests to. What if you believe that the only real Word of God is Jesus Christ himself?

What do we mean when we say that little conclusion? Do we mean that every word contained within scripture is literal fact? Do we mean that God is speaking through these words at this very moment?

For help, let's turn to the Catechism (page 853 of your prayer book):

Q. Why do we call the Holy Scriptures the Word of God?

A. We call them the Word of God because God inspired their human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible.

Additionally, according to the Articles of Religion (starting page 867), scripture "containeth all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man..."

What does that mean? It means that God speaks through the scriptures and gives us sufficient information to come to a love of Christ. It also means that we don't add doctrines or requirements onto believers if they can't be found in scripture.

In short, yes, God does touch us through the scriptures. It is not necessary to believe that every single word is literally true or even that we have to agree with everything written. Personally, I get into lots of mental arguments with the epistles, and I am sometimes horrified by attitudes expressed in the Old Testament.

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 15, 2016

And yet, I do believe that, if we listen, we can sense God speaking. God, in these words written by others, can call us to pay attention, to consider an issue, to renew our discipline in making time for God, to reconsider whether our life arc is just and loving.

So, in that regard, I have no problem saying, "The Word of the Lord."

Nevertheless, you'll notice the prayer book also gives you the option of saying, "Here ends the reading." That is a perfectly legitimate ending. In fact, in previous prayer books, it was the only ending. Well, it said, "Here endeth the Epistle," because there was no Old Testament reading in those days, but you get the idea.

At any rate, I do not believe it is necessary to limit ourselves to only one of the authorized conclusions. So if you are a reader (or want to be) and are uncomfortable with those words, "The Word of the Lord," just know that it's okay to use the alternative. One word of warning: There's no response by the congregation.

After all, you don't want to say, "Here ends the reading," only to have the congregation say, "Thanks be to God!"

Grace and Peace,

Chuck+

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 15, 2016

### **The News of the Church**

**Men's Breakfast Saturday:** The monthly Men's Breakfast takes place this Saturday, April 16, at 8:00 AM. We meet at Cranberry's. All men 18 and over are invited. Come eat, get to know the guys better, maybe plan a little work day. Even pray for each other. We'll save a seat for you!

**Congratulations Dalton!** Congratulations go to Dalton Slegel who will receive his Eagle Scout rank this Sunday afternoon in a special Court of Honor at the parish hall. Eagle is the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America.

**Inquirer's Sign Up:** If you have not already signed up to be part of the Inquirer's Classes, a new sign up sheet will be available this Sunday. Inquirers are for all Episcopalians who want to A) be confirmed, B) be received into the Episcopal Church, or C) publicly reaffirm their faith when the bishop comes. Bishop Allen Shin will be here for confirmations on December 4. Classes begin Thursday, May 12 at 7:00 PM in the Wilks Room.

**40 Under 40:** Congratulations to Justin Bohlmann, who has been selected as one of Dutchess County's "40 Under 40"! He will be honored at the 11th Annual Shaker Awards ceremony, which is sponsored by the Dutchess County Chamber of Commerce and will take place on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. Congratulations, Justin!

**Boy Scout Troop 80** will be having a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Saturday April 30 from 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm.

\$10 adult/\$7 child ages 10 & under. Please see Dalton Slegel for tickets.

**Blue Mass:** The Staatsburg Fire District, together with the Hyde Park Fire & Water District, are sponsoring a "Blue Mass" on Saturday, April 23, 2016, beginning at 5:00 pm at Regina Coeli Church.

# St. James' E-pistle

April 15, 2016

**ONE CLICK EVERY DAY THROUGH APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>!**

HELP WIN A CONTEST TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY GARDEN!  
*PLEASE SHARE WITH FRIENDS*

**GO TO: [SEEDSOFCCHANGEGRANT.COM](http://SEEDSOFCCHANGEGRANT.COM)**

**Just 20 seconds a day could win us \$20,000.  
Click on VOTE. Type in "Hyde" to get to our page.  
Click "Not a robot" and that's it! THANK YOU!**

Seeds of Change® Grant Program



#### **Hyde Park Community Garden**

#### **HOW WOULD YOU USE THIS GRANT TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY?**

Our Community Garden is now entering our fifth season. We have two missions at the garden. Our first is growing, harvesting and donating an assortment of organic vegetables, herbs and flowers that are then delivered to the Hyde Park Food Pantry and Hyde Park Meals on Wheels. Our second objective is to have community gardeners who do not have a place to garden to lease out spaces at a nominal cost to plant for themselves. Our use of the grant monies is to have a permanent deer and woodchuck prevention fence around the entire perimeter of the garden which is 90' wide X 180' long. Many of our crops were destroyed because of these animals coming in and feasting. By having this permanent fence we would be confident that 100% of our seedlings will mature for donations to our local neighbors who love having fresh vegetables on their tables. Our existing plastic deer fence has never been the solution to this problem.

# St. James' E-pistle

April 15, 2016

## *View the Resurrection Through a New Lens*



*Gold from the Silver Screen:  
Resurrection, the Core of Our Faith*  
will use the films *Awakenings*, *Peaceful Warrior*, and *Woman in Gold*  
to help you gain a new and more personal experience  
of the resurrection this Easter season .

Co-led by the Revs. Masud Ibn Syedullah and Garrett Mettler,  
this four-day retreat takes place from April 26th – 29th  
at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY.

Accommodations at the monastery and all meals are included  
in the \$335 registration cost.

To find out more and to register visit  
[www.holycrossmonastery.com/retreat-programs](http://www.holycrossmonastery.com/retreat-programs)  
or call Lori Callaway at 845-384-6660

St. James' E-pistle  
April 15, 2016

St. James' Episcopal Church

Presents

A Mother's Day  
Tea Party



4-Course Luncheon  
&  
Light Entertainment  
Provided by Local Actress Angela Henry

May 7, 2016

Two Seatings  
12:00 pm and 3:00 pm

\$25 per person

Reservations Required, Limited Seating

Gift items available for purchase

celebrate with your mother, sister, daughter, or best friend  
in a special way at a special place

4526 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park, NY 12538 Phone: 845-229-2820

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 15, 2016

**Lay Eucharistic Minister and Eucharistic Visitor Training:** Saturday, April 23, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. St. John's Church, 207 Albany Avenue, Kingston.

Participants will learn:

- What is the Holy Eucharist?
- How do you serve as a Eucharistic Minister?
- How do you serve as a Eucharistic Visitor?

Participants will have hands-on experience in what it means to serve in these licensed lay ministries.

Class limit: 35 people Cost: \$25. Coffee, tea and lunch included.

To register, go online at: <http://www.diocesenyn.org/dioevents/emev416/>

If you have questions, please contact: Arlene Bullard, [abullard@diocesenyn.org](mailto:abullard@diocesenyn.org), or 212-932-7322 .

### Strategic Plan Listening Sessions for Lay People (including Wardens):

ALL lay people of the Diocese are invited! This is an opportunity to learn - and influence - how the Diocese of New York will thrive and grow in the difficult environment in which we find ourselves. But the process depends on as many people as possible becoming involved. Let's get a group from St. James' to go!

The Session will take place on:

May 5, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
St. Paul's Church, 161 Mansion Street, Poughkeepsie  
(845) 452-8440

**Join the 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](mailto:vinehall3@aol.com).

**Pledge Envelopes:** If you pledged but have not yet received your pledge envelopes, you can do so on Sunday. You can also pick up your 2015 statement of giving (helpful for taxes).

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 15, 2016

**PLEASE PLEDGE!** If you have pledged for 2016, thank you! If you have not yet pledged, it's not too late. We would like 100% participation this year in pledging, no matter the amount.

### **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.diocesenyny.org> and click under "Beliefs and Practices."

- 17 The Church of St. Barnabas, Irvington-on-Hudson
- 18 Congrégation Haïtienne du bon Samaritain, Bronx
- 19 St. Bartholomew's Church, White Plains
- 20 Historiographer of the Diocese
- 21 The Church of the Good Shepherd, Bronx
- 22 Diocesan Environment Committee
- 23 St. Stephen's Church, Staten Island

### **Praying For Peace Everywhere:**

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:**

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 15, 2016

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*

*English Translation Amichai Lau-Lavie*

**Please keep the following people in your prayers:**

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Susie Buhalis, Mariel Carter, Joann Clark, Michael Day, Dottie Drake, Ross Eames, Jr., Linkin Ewalt, Steven Foote, Heather Francese, Jack Gordy, Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Allelu Kurten, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Rev. Tim Millard, Charles Pardee (husband of Sally), Clifford Plass, Gerald Plass, Grace Plass, Linda Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson (brother of Mary Gabel), John Ross, Richard Secor, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Marguerite Spratt, Janice Syedullah, Tracy, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way, Cliff Wells and Shawn Wheeler.

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 15, 2016

### **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):	Dorothy Drake; Brian Rance; Virginia Mackenzie
Birthdays (this coming week):	Wendy Urban-Mead; Todd Weaver; Katherine Sanford Koch Edwards; Steven Gausepohl
Acolytes:	April 17: Jasmine, Jaylen and Bill April 24: Nancy, Kirstin and Deirdre Mae
Altar Guild:	April 17: Team Number II April 24: Team Number II
8 a.m. Readers:	April 17: Debbie Belding and Jim Smyth April 24: Angela Henry and Lucille Ogden
10 a.m. Readers:	April 17: Donna Beyer and Bobbie Wells April 24: Russell Urban-Mead and Nancy Montero
Ushers:	April 17: Patty Drake and Pat Keefe April 24: Nancy Montero and Anna Marie Pitcher
Pledge Clerks:	April 17: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher April 24: Paul Littlefield and Dean Caswell
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	April 17: Anna Marie Pitcher; Diane Plass; Clifford and Christy Plass; Gerald and Linda Plass April 24: Leslie Quick; Brian Rance, Melinda Harris and William Rance
Coffee Hour Hosts:	April 17: Deirdre Mae Micker; The Urban-Meads; The Clarks April 24: Saira Shahani; Brian Rance

### **This Week's Lectionary**

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 15, 2016

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

### Sermon Preached on Third Sunday of Easter (April 10, 2016)

#### "Fishy Stories"

I never liked fishing. About the only experience I had of it as a child consisted of going out with my grandpa on his little boat on a lake in Indiana where he'd drink a couple of beers and smoke his cigars, and we'd hold our rods waiting for something to happen.

When we got back home, he'd tell grandma, "Oh yeah, we caught some nice crappies, but we let them go." My conclusion was that fishing was boring and required a little creative story telling. I think I may have ruined fishing for the nursery school kids this week for much the same reasons. I read them a child-appropriate version of this story, and - well, how do you make "they fished all night without catching anything" interesting? They liked the part about Jesus and the full nets, but as one of the little boys said, "That never happened to me and my dad."

You have to admit, if Jesus weren't involved, this would be a tough fish story to swallow. Just about as hard to believe as Paul's story on the road to Damascus. This guy who hates the followers of Christ (they weren't called Christians yet) is hit by a bright light, talks to Jesus, is blinded for three days, and after something like scales fall off his eyes, he's converted.

Kind of wild stories, and maybe they are a little fishy. But in neither of them is the fish - or the scales - the point. In the gospel, Jesus tells Peter to "feed my sheep," and to "follow me." In Acts, Paul isn't sent on his way once he's healed but is given a commission to go and preach the good news of Christ.

The point of each of these stories isn't the wild parts but the deeper truth: that Jesus' story goes on. It does not end. And we are invited to be part of it.

This is important because in those early days, nobody knew of the story would continue. Sure, the disciples had seen the risen Christ, but there was unfinished business, and it was not clear that they wouldn't all just disband. The unfinished business centered on Peter who was probably the oldest of the disciples and had openly denied Jesus three times the night he was arrested. It's no accident that Jesus asks him three times, "Do you love me," and tells him three times "Feed my sheep," (which is really mixing metaphors on a fishing trip).

Nobody knew if the whole enterprise would collapse after Jesus ascended, no longer there to guide them. That's why he appeared at least three times - because telling anybody something

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 15, 2016

just once is almost never enough. Even if it's a powerful experience, we usually need reinforcement to make it sink in.

Of course, with Paul, it was different. He had always been zealous in his faith - he just needed his zeal redirected in a positive direction.

Had he not been redirected, had he not had this singular experience, Paul could have spelled the end of Christianity in Israel. He was so anxious to destroy the movement that he wouldn't rest until all were in jail or dead.

But he was changed - and whether or not things happened exactly as described, his entire life took a new direction, and because of that, the story of Christ not only continued but spread across the world.

It might be worth mentioning that each of these stories focuses on one disciple. The gospel, even though all the apostles are present, centers on Peter who is seen as their unofficial leader. Acts centers on Paul, the leader of the fight against Jesus.

Each of them requires a fantastic experience, a fantastic story even, to put them on the course that would best serve Christ.

What story do you require?

Do you need to be thrown from your proverbial horse and blinded? Do you need to spend the night fishing only to have some stranger point out what you've been doing wrong? Do you need some other fantastic story to help you see God at work all around you?

Or is hearing the witness of not only Peter and Paul but countless others through the centuries enough?

I really don't know what will be enough for each one of us to embrace the risen Christ and share the good news of his love for us all. But I can say this: Jesus' story goes on. It continues today and throughout time - all you need to decide is if you want to be part of it. Amen.