

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 22, 2016

### **Pulpit Notes**

Brothers and Sisters:

I don't normally use this space for a public service announcement, but this is an important practical matter for your Sunday worship.

There is no water.

We discovered a leak in the pipe feeding from the Parish House to the Church, and it can not be easily fixed. The leak went undiscovered for several months because it is underground somewhere and left no visible signs that it existed. The only way we learned of it was when the meter reading came in at more than three times its normal usage. Even then, because there was no evidence of a leak, the Water Company replaced the meter, thinking that was the problem, but now we know.

The pipe in question runs under the parking lot, through the meditation garden, and directly under the columbarium. We have isolated the pipe, which means we have shut off the water running to it. That means there is no water in the church - no toilet, no boiler, no faucets.

We have no idea how long this state will last. Just finding where the leak is will take specialists using specialized equipment. Depending on those results, we will have to decide whether to repair the leak, replace the entire pipe, or look for a third option.

The Vestry is working on the issue with as much speed and care as they can, but I would ask your patience. We are thankful that this was discovered just as the weather is growing warmer so that we don't have to worry about heat.

Still, you'll want to plan for the inconvenience. Please use the restroom in the Parish House. If there is a chilly Sunday morning, please wear your coat and a smile. The altar guild will need to adapt to a waterless sacristy, but I am confident in their ability to deal with it, and thankful for their graciousness in doing so.

Our buildings are old, and with age comes increased maintenance. We estimate the pipe in question to be nearly 60 years old. When the diagnosis is given and a course of action is decided upon, I'll let you know.

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 22, 2016

Until then, let's remember that nothing in this world is meant to last forever. The eternal is reserved for the Kingdom of Heaven. And things are so eternal there that I hear they don't even have a Buildings and Grounds committee.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck+

**An Extra Note:** Before the leaky pipe issue, I wanted to remind you that today is Earth Day - this week is Earth Week. If you can find some way to treat the environment a little better today - some way to learn how to be more environmentally responsible in the long term, please use this opportunity to do so. The earth probably doesn't care what we do - it's arc is long and after humans have ceased to exist, it will heal itself. The real need for environmental care - which means learning how to cooperate as partners with the flora and fauna of the world - is our own survival. Until we as a species grasp that we are partners, not masters, neighbors not victors, we will continue to drive toward our own extinction. And that, I believe is no God's will. So let's learn how to live with all of God's creation! And there will be much joy.

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 22, 2016

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

**Fr. Chuck Away:** From Monday afternoon through Wednesday, I will be at the annual Priests' Conference. We will hear speakers and work on the strategic plan for the diocese's future. (see the Lay Meeting on the Strategic Plan below). If you have a pastoral emergency, I can still be reached, but our deacons will probably be able to help as well.

**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 22, 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 22, 2016

### **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.

**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).

**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.diocesen.org> and click under "Beliefs and Practices."

24 Chancellor and Vice Chancellors of the Diocese

Jewish Holy Day: Passover begins

Gracious God, fill with your joy and hope those who keep the feast of Passover. May all who turn to you for liberation likewise show forth your redeeming love. Amen.

25 The Church of St. James the Less, Scarsdale

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 22, 2016

- 26 The Church Attorney of the Diocese
- 27 St. Mark's Church, Mt. Kisco
- 28 The New York Intern Program
- 29 St. Peter's Church, Peekskill
- 30 Delaware Catskill Episcopal Ministry: St. John's Episcopal Church, Monticello

### **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:**

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.

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 22, 2016

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.

## **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): Wendy Urban-Mead; Todd Weaver; Katherine Sanford Koch Edwards; Steven Gausepohl

Birthdays  
(this coming week): Walter Lommel Koch; Floraine Knauss; Rachel Ogden; Barbara Jane ("Bobbie") Sprinz Wells; Jeet Shahani

Acolytes:  
April 24: Nancy, Kirstin and Deirdre Mae  
May 1: Russell, John Beyer and Anna

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 22, 2016

Altar Guild:	April 24: Team Number II May 1: Team Number III
8 a.m. Readers:	April 24: Angela Henry and Lucille Ogden May 1: Debbie Belding and Lynne Koch
10 a.m. Readers:	April 24: Russell Urban-Mead and Nancy Montero May 1: Wilma Tully and Andy Hall
Ushers:	April 24: Nancy Montero and Anna Marie Pitcher May 1: Andrew and Tanya Hall
Pledge Clerks:	April 24: Paul Littlefield and Dean Caswell May 1: Joanne Lown and Janet Bright
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	April 24: Leslie Quick; Brian Rance, Melinda Harris and William Rance May 1: Daniel, Alyssa and Aldonna Raugalis; Patricia Rooney
Coffee Hour Hosts:	April 24: Saira Shahani; Brian Rance May 1: Audrey Horne

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

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

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  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
(April 17, 2016)

"Straight Talk"

# St. James' E-pistle

## April 22, 2016

At our Men's breakfast, someone asked me what today's sermon title was. I said, "It's Straight Talk. Somebody said it reminded them of a cell phone commercial. Another said it was so vague as to mean nothing. I'm going to have to get better at sermon titles...

What I meant was plain talk. As in when the leaders told Jesus to tell them plainly whether or not he was the Messiah. (Quick note: it says "the Jews", but we are to understand the Jewish leaders, remembering that John was writing to a gentile audience who were unfamiliar with Jewish nuances).

Jesus responds to their demand with the following:

- A) You're not listening
- B) You're not watching... Because
- C) You're not my sheep

That is, Jesus' words were words of love. His actions were actions of love - and if someone is not tuned in to a loving response to the world, nothing you do or say will make sense. I mean, you already know there are people - even today - for whom all the plain speaking in the world, all the plain evidence available will mean nothing.

- \*There are people who refuse to believe in evolution
- \*There are people who refuse to believe the world is round,
- \*There are people who refuse to believe there was a moon landing
- \*There are people today who refuse to believe in climate change
- \*There are people who refuse vaccines because they think they cause
- \*There are people who claim kids these days are no good...

In Jesus' day, even rising from death did not convince those who had already set themselves against him. They could not shift and would not.

Or as Jesus said, "You're not my sheep. My sheep know my voice."

For Jesus, it's always been the voice, the grace, the love. You recognize what is loving versus what is rude, hateful, arrogant, self-centered, condescending (& more). The first is of Jesus' voice, the others are not. Choose.

This is one reason why the miracles were never Jesus' main focus.

Same with Tabitha (which most don't even know) - didn't make others believe - they were simply acts of love which only meant something to people tuned into love.

And the lesson for us is to move on. That is to say, We hear his voice. We know his voice and follow. We tell our story. We Love. And then we don't worry if others choose not to get it. We move on.

In the end, what John is saying is simple. Your journey with Christ can't depend on what others say, do, believe or refuse to believe. Look at the world and look in your heart. Then listen. You'll know when you hear his voice. It's plain enough. And when you hear it, you'll know what to do. Amen.