

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: July 2, 2017

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Bible Verse

I will sing to the LORD, for he has dealt with me richly;

I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

- Psalm 13:6

Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On this Independence Day weekend, there are many things to think about. Usually, on these sorts of holidays, I talk about how we need to consider why the holiday exists rather than on all the trappings surrounding it.

You know the trappings: parades, picnics, fireworks...that sort of thing. So often, those become our main considerations rather than remembering the conflict and resolution that led to that holiday.

But today, I will trust that you remember the purpose of Independence Day and the reasons for declaring that independence from Great Britain. Today, I want to focus on the picnic. Well, not any old picnic ... and not actually a 4th of July picnic.

The picnic I want to talk about is one being held on the lawn of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Beacon. It's called "Episcopalians in the Park" and is a celebration of being an Episcopalian in Dutchess County. Several churches have banded together to create this event which is meant for all of us.

I put the announcement in the Epistle last week (and it's still there so you can get the details), but I want to make a case for all of us attending - as a congregation.

For too long, Episcopalians have - in general - had a bit of an inferiority complex. We're just a little church. We aren't much. We can't make a difference. In addition, we have felt alienated from each other. What happens in New York City, or Beacon, or even Poughkeepsie has nothing to do with us. We have no connection. We feel alone.

We all fall into that trap on occasion - it's just the human condition. But this is an opportunity for us to get to know each other, to see how wonderful we ALL are, to make bonds that not only emphasize affection (and fun) but that let us share our family stories and maybe even "tricks of the trade."

However, I believe this works best if we go as a contingent rather than as individuals. Not only do we have the company of people we already know (if you're shy), but it helps everyone get a sense of group identity - which definitely has its place in human interaction.

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In order to encourage your participation (and you need not worry if this applies to you - it does), I will pass around a sign-up sheet over the next couple of Sundays. The organizers ask each congregation to consider bringing a food type (ie., St. James' could volunteer to bring appetizers or desserts or whatever we agree upon). They've also asked that any musicians who feel so moved bring their instruments so picnickers can have a fun jam session.

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, July 29 from 2:00 - 7:00 PM. Let's make this a wonderful St. James' outing with other wonderful congregations.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

Did you know?

...how many Eucharistic prayers there are? The answer isn't all that simple. In the prayer book, there are at least six. Six? Yes. In Rite I, there are two Eucharistic Prayers, though we only use one. There's the familiar Prayer I which we use each Sunday beginning on page 333, but there's also Prayer II on page 340. This prayer has clearer references to the creation, the Incarnation, and the Second Coming. It also contains the phrase, "that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ," which comes from the 1549 Book of Common Prayer. Although we don't use this Eucharistic Prayer II, there's nothing that says we can't!

Next week, the four Eucharist Prayers of Rite II - and more.

Announcements

Summer Adult Forum

The Summer Adult Forum will begin on **Sunday, July 9 - 9:15 AM** in the Wilkes Room. They will run every Sunday through August 20. This series of quickie classes will focus on the Sacraments. What are they? Why do we have them? What does each one mean? Who can take part in them? There will be seven sessions since there are seven sacraments. You can attend one, two or all of these sessions - each session works independently of the others. The first class is: **Baptism.**

Episcopalians In The Park

Come to an Episcopalian Celebration! The Church of the Resurrection in Hopewell Junction is teaming up with St. Luke's and St. Andrew's in Beacon on **Saturday, July 29** for "Episcopalians In The Park." It is a way for Episcopalians all over the area to get to know each other better, and to have some fun and (of course) food! This day where we celebrate being Episcopalians takes

place on the large grounds of St. Luke's in Beacon from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM. If you are a musician, they're looking for folks from all over to get together and make beautiful music.

As the organizers say, "This is really to get to know each other and have a wonderful day being Episcopalians. If we really know each other, maybe we can also join in on some service projects together, or help each other out in other ways. You never know where the Spirit might lead us - together."

Please let Fr. Chuck know if you are interested - we'll have a sign up sheet going around over the next several Sundays so we can RSVP.

So save the date! July 29. And join us!

Call to Fight Human Trafficking

The Episcopal Public Policy Network is asking all Episcopalians to join the fight against modern-day slavery today by asking your state representatives in the Senate and Assembly to support groundbreaking and crucial legislation on human trafficking. The New York Senate and Assembly have introduced legislation (S.5955/A.06834) to lessen the prevalence of human trafficking in hotels and put systems in place to identify and protect victims. This legislation would require hotels to train their employees to identify potential trafficking situations and report suspected cases. It would also bring awareness to the public and possible victims by requiring hotels to post a notice in the lobby about what human trafficking is and how to obtain help by calling the National Human Trafficking Hotline (888-373-7888). Tell your state representatives to vote YES on S 5955/A 06834!

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Office Closed	4 Independence Day	5 10 AM Morning Prayer	6 11 AM Bible Study	7	8
9	10 Office Closed 6PM Women's Group	11	12 10 AM Morning Prayer	13 11 AM Bible Study	14	15 8 AM Men's Breakfast
16	17 Office Closed	18 7 PM Vestry	19 10 AM Morning Prayer	20 11 AM Bible Study	21	22
23	24 Office Closed	25	26 10 AM Morning Prayer	27 11 AM Bible Study	28	29 Episcopal Celebration

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.

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

- 2 Episcopal Chaplaincy at the United States Military Academy, West Point
- 3 Corporation for the Relief of Clergy Widows and Orphans
- 4 All from the Diocese Who Serve in the U.S. Military
- 5 Christ Church, Marlboro
- 6 La Misión Episcopal Santiago Apostol, Dover Plains, Harlem Valley Ministry
- 7 The Diocesan Missioner for Latino/Hispanic Ministries
- 8 The New York Haiti Project

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, Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Cath Holywell (priest in the Church of England and Indaba partner who worshiped with St. James' - undergoing heart surgery), Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), John Ross, Richard Secor, Sharon Secor (recovering from heart surgery), James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Patricia (sister of Barbara Slegel), 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 all right.

Birthdays
(this past week): Lucille Ogden

Birthdays
(this coming week): Brooke Schroder, Liz Handman and Paul Littlefield

Acolytes: July 2: Team 1

	July 9: Team 2
Altar Guild:	July 2: Team II July 9: Team II
8 a.m. Readers:	July 2: Lucille Ogden and Jim Smyth July 9: Debbie Belding and Thomas Finnigan
10 a.m. Readers:	July 2: Wendy Urban-Mead and Deirdre Mae Micker July 9: Russell Urban-Mead and Justin Bohlmann
Ushers:	July 2: Dean Caswell, Audrey Horne July 9: Bill and Regina Ardini
Pledge Clerks:	July 2: Doug Belding and Judy Douglass July 9: Joanne Lown and Janet Bright
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	July 2: Barbara, Tim, Craig and Dalton Slegel, Jim and Jan Smyth July 9: Randy and Barbara Soden, Marguerite Spratt, Gully Stanford
Coffee Hour Hosts:	July 2: Summer Schedule--No Coffee Hour July 9: Summer Schedule--No Coffee Hour

This Week's Lectionary

Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

This Week's Hymns

Processional: Christ is Made the Sure Foundation (#518)
Sequence: O Zion, Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling (#539)
Offertory: God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets' Heirs (#359)
Communion: Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face (#318)
Recessional: Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise (#345)

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Third Sunday after Pentecost (June 25, 2017)

Discipleship of Confrontation

Each year about now, we celebrate all the graduates, especially from high school and college. It's traditional for me to give graduates some words of wisdom during the sermon. And believe it or not, grads, I do have words for you today - from today's gospel. Good words. Challenging words. But first a story...

Last week, I was going to visit a parishioner but didn't have a car, and my scooter was in the shop. Now, I could have rescheduled the visit, but instead I decided to ride my bicycle. After all, it was only a mile or so away down on River Road.

The ride there went well. In fact, I was able to coast a good deal of the way. It was only after the visit that I realized the problem. Let me illustrate. (Drawing...). This is River Road down here (horizontal line at bottom), and this is Route 9 up here (horizontal line at top). And this (drawing nearly vertical line between them) is the incline of the road. Approaching the climb on my bike, many thoughts ran through my head.

Like... "Aaaaaah!"

And, as I dropped down to fifth gear, ... "I'll never make it!"

And then (4th gear) ... "What a fool I was!" Followed by (3rd) ... "I hate you, hill!" In second gear I turned into Captain Ahab with the hill as my Moby Dick ... "I will defeat you! I will defeat you!" Eventually, I was down to first gear and still barely able to pedal. But I said to myself, "Just go ten more feet and you can rest. Now ten more feet. Maybe another ten..." And suddenly, I was at the top.

Now ... imagine that hill was a person - or an institution or system rather than an inanimate object. Imagine you didn't just have to climb it but face down that person or institution or system because they were hurting people.

Then, you wouldn't just have a challenge - you'd have a confrontation.

This is important because, as you go off to college, you *will* have confrontations - in fact, college is a setting that encourages you to find your voice, to stand up and be counted, to confront things you feel are wrong.

This is where Jesus has words for you because he was the master of confrontation. And he called his disciples - that's us - to also engage in holy confrontation. Discipleship - which we started talking about last week - always involves confrontation. Read the gospels: on nearly every page, Jesus is confronting either an individual or a whole system pointing out their error, their faithlessness, or their hypocrisy.

And look at today's gospel. "I don't come to bring Peace but a sword. I'm setting set son against father, daughter against mother...you name it."

"If you follow me," he says, "Confrontation will be your lot, even with your closest friends and family. We do not ignore God's will for anyone."

Perfect for college, right? Change the world! Indeed... confronting things you feel need changed *is* good. But a word of caution.

Sometimes, in youthful enthusiasm, you forget that there are people on the other side of that confrontation. Real people who don't always respond well to being yelled at. Sometimes they just quit listening. Sometimes they get defensive and go on the attack. Sometimes they collapse into a little ball.

All you may see is an evil that needs to be stopped. And there *may* be real evil, but that doesn't change the fact that, whether it's an individual or a group or a whole system you're confronting, they are God's children, too. And when we forget that, the change we desire rarely happens.

Neither does it change the fact that sometimes we believe ourselves to be right only to discover that we were mistaken. We have to hold lightly onto our certainty.

Here's where Jesus has words - and actions - of real wisdom for all of us.

First, we can get a good idea of what we need to confront because we are Jesus' disciples. If Jesus stood **against** something, we will probably do well to also stand against it. If Jesus stood up **for** something, we can be pretty sure we're on the right track if we stand up for it, too.

Jesus stood **against** greed and abuse of power. He stood up **for** the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and society's outcasts. But he also confronted people he loved if he thought they were doing wrong. Remember when he told Peter, "Get behind me, Satan!" because Peter tried to stop him from going to Jerusalem and the cross? We know what to call good or ill because of Jesus.

Second, if we watch Jesus carefully, we get an idea HOW to confront people. If it's an individual, for example, Jesus says to go to them quietly and point out what's wrong. No drama, no shaming. An example of that would be a friend of mine many years ago when he was in college - for years he'd known his father was an alcoholic, but when he came from for break, he saw just how bad it had become, so he privately, gently, but firmly told his father it needed to stop. It wasn't easy, and it took a lot of similar confrontations - but then, positive change almost never comes quickly or easily. Still, eventually his dad **did** get help, and they are close today.

Sometimes, Jesus was much more public in his confronting a wrong. When he went to the temple and saw the money changers turning worship of God into a business, he knew that action was needed right away - so he drove them out. We might not need to make whips and overturn tables, but there are times when you see a wrong and need to confront it right away, even if it's just writing a letter to Congress.

Jesus knew when to confront a wrong ... and how. He knew that each situation demanded its own, unique response. You don't go marching in the streets for *every* thing that's wrong. He knew that you can't change everything all at once, so he accepted little tiny steps in progress - like making it ten more feet up a hill.

On the other hand, you don't ignore wrong either. Jesus called out people and institutions when they harmed others or their relationship with God. If you are a disciple of Jesus, you are called to confront - in the words of the baptismal covenant - the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God. As long as there are people, there will be evil powers to confront.

But Jesus *always* remembered that the goal of confrontation is never to beat down or destroy. It's not to "win" but to reconcile. Always. Everyone you confront is your brother and/or sister.

And this brings us back to my hill. It isn't a person or an institution. It's not doing anything wrong. But like the wrongs of the world, that hill isn't going anywhere. It'll always be there. And I won't get anywhere by cursing it.

But I can learn how to approach it better so that I travel more effectively and even more harmoniously. I can learn not to hide from the hill just because it's hard. By facing it wisely, with persistence, I save fossil fuels and maybe become a healthier person. In the same way, when you confront wrong with courage, wisdom and compassion, you can improve the world if only a little - and become a healthier disciple of the one we call our lord.

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