

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: June 11, 2017

First Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday)

Bible Verse

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.
- 2 Corinthians 13:13

Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I recently read an article on income disparity - a centuries-old concern of the church. In it, the author (David Atkins, a researcher in politics and consumer technology) noted that the growth of income inequality over the past forty years has coincided almost exactly with the decline in trust of institutions. That is to say, as the gap between rich and poor has increased over the past four decades to a size never seen before in the USA, so has the distrust in institutions.

Concern and care for those left behind economically is always part of the Church's mission, but so is the loss of trust - because the Church is undeniably a major institution. Church leadership has been tracking this loss of trust with great anxiety, wondering what it meant and how to address it. You have probably been able to see it in shrinking attendance - not just in the Episcopal Church but in every denomination and among non-denominational churches. Moreover, other institutions such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the Rotary Club, the Elks, Moose, and Kiwanis have also seen similar drops in membership and trust.

What does that mean for us as the Church? First of all, we should not place all blame for lack of trust and participation in institutions at the feet of income inequality. Many other reasons have been suggested that deserve consideration. Social Media is a popular culprit because it seems to drive people, especially young people, away from human-to-human contact. Others suggest it is the over-scheduling our youngest citizens face every day, where there is no moment when they do not have an activity or obligation in their calendars. Setting a play date for small children even can be a logistical nightmare. This means that institutions which are not mandatory (and not necessarily an escape from life's hard edges) are the first to fall by the wayside.

Then there is the hard truth that many simply no longer believe in God. While I believe science is a great way to learn how God works, many look at it as proof that there's nobody there. Now, I admit that I have no real knowledge of what God is like, but each time I begin to wonder if maybe it was just a big mistake, little things bring me back to the assurance that God is, and God is love.

My point here is that we have an obligation and Christians to understand the world around us and to respond accordingly. If there is growing income inequality, we fight to reverse that trend because Christ's primary concern always starts with the weak, powerless, and poor. If there is a social media gap, we have an obligation to learn how to harness its power. If there is an over-scheduling problem, we have an obligation to monitor our lives and fight for a more balanced approach. And if

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there is an increasing number who no longer believe in God, then we have the obligation to go out into the world and share our faith, making disciples in the world and baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

This Sunday is Trinity Sunday, when we recognize that our God is far more complex than people ever imagined - and more than we can grasp. If God is infinitely complicated, so is the Body of Christ, which we are part of. It will have times of discord and confusion.

But our job, regardless of economy, communications, or schedules is always to love God and make Christ's love known to the world. And that job is one you and I together can do.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

Did you know?

What the altar guild does? The Altar Guild is one of those all-important yet rarely heralded and little-understood ministries. It is the group who sets the altar every week. The Altar Guild has to understand the seasons of the church year and set out the appropriate colors (it's White this week. Wonder why?). They order wine and liquid wax and candles and vestments and linens. They clean the linens, too. The Altar Guild sets up the books for worship and those hymn numbers that we rely on. And when we have services in places (like outdoors or the chapel), they transport all that stuff. The Altar Guild are quiet heroes. Next time you see a member of the guild, say Thanks. Better yet, join them!

Announcements

Women's Dinner

Mark your calendars for the next Women's Group meeting, which is Monday, June 12 at 6:00 PM.

Men's Breakfast

Mark your calendars for the next Men's Breakfast is Saturday, June 17 at 8:00 AM. As usual, we will meet at Cranberry's.

Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, June 25, we recognize our Sunday School students and teachers as well as our Acolytes. Please be sure to be in church that day as we celebrate their achievements and their service to God.

Summer Adult Forum

Our Easter Forum between services (starting at 9:15 and ending at 9:45) was quite a success, and several of those who attended asked that we might have more such classes. SO....

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.

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).

According to data collected through the National Human Trafficking Hotline, New York is one of the 5 top states for human trafficking. New Yorkers most likely to encounter a victim include employees of hotels, which are primary venues for sex trafficking of adults and children. Act now to help our state fight human trafficking!

Tell your state representatives to vote YES on S 5955/A 06834!

June 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11 Trinity	12 Office Closed 6PM Women's Group	13	14 10 AM Morning 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	15 11 AM Bible Study	16	17 8 AM Men's Breakfast
18 Fathers Day	19 Office Closed	20 7 PM Vestry	21 10 AM Morning	22 11 AM Bible Study	23	24
25 Recog- nition Sunday	26 Office Closed	27	28 10 AM Morning	29 11 AM Bible Study	30	
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 <http://www.diocesen.org> and click under "Beliefs and Practices."

- 11 Trinity Sunday Grace Church, Millbrook
- 12 St. Bartholomew's Church, Manhattan
- 13 Church of the Holy Trinity, Manhattan

14	Diocesan Pilgrims to Ireland
15	Holy Trinity Church (Inwood), Manhattan
16	Trinity Church, Ossining
17	Church of the Holy Trinity, Manhattan

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, Charles Pardee, 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):	Jackie Schroeder, Lynne Sanford Bielemeier Koch, Stephen Weaver, Wilma Tully and Mary Grosskopf
Birthdays (this coming week):	Anna Marie Pitcher
Acolytes:	June 11: Team 1 June 18: Team 2
Altar Guild:	June 11: Team III June 18: Team I
8 a.m. Readers:	June 11: Debbie Belding and Grant Ferris June 18: Lucille Ogden and Sue DeLorenzo
10 a.m. Readers:	June 11: Russell Urban-Mead/Andy Hall June 18: Regina Ardini/Judy Douglass
Ushers:	June 11: Andrew and Tonya Hall

June 18: Judy Douglass, Vince Asher
Pledge Clerks: June 11: Joanne Lown and Janet Bright
June 18: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
Parish Cycle of Prayer: June 11: David, Manuela, Isabel and Grace Roosevelt, Hank and Jackie Schroeder and Rick, Suzanne, Christian and Brooke Schroeder
June 18: Suzanne Schryver, Phil, Kathy and Ross Schultz
Coffee Hour Hosts: June 11: Jodi Triola, Ross and Connie Eames
June 18: Deirdre Mae Micker, the Urban- Meads

This Week's Lectionary

Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

This Week's Hymns

Processional: Hymn 362 - Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty
Sequence: Hymn 528 - Lord, You Give the Great Commission
Offertory: "Oh, Let the Son of God Enfold You"
Communion: Hymn 366 - Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Recessional: Hymn 371 - Thou Whose Almighty Word

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Day of Pentecost (Whitsunday) (June 4, 2017)

Because we had a guest preacher, there is no manuscript or recording of his sermon.

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