

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: July 23, 2017

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Bible Verse

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!"

- Genesis 28:18

Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Hot enough for you?

Some of you may remember that about 10 years ago, for about six weeks, we hosted an exchange student from Greenland. If you're unfamiliar with Greenland, take a look at in on the globe. Very big and very white. Lots and lots of ice and snow.

He arrived in August, but the weather was mild. One day we went to the mall, and it was in the mid 70s. As we walked, we noticed he was lagging behind. We waited, and as he caught up, he said, "It's too hot." I just stepped outside and realized that he would not have fared well today.

In fairness, while it's been hot, it hasn't been unbearably so. Summer is, by its nature, hot. Nevertheless, we get up and go about our dallying lives because that's what's necessary. The same is true at St. James'. We have our meetings, we go to church, we work out in the garden (well, others do), we get out and around as necessary.

And we complain about it! It's just what we do.

But even in the midst of our complaints, we look up now and then and realize, "God is in this place - and I did not know it!" We don't know it because we get so caught up in our stresses and personal agendas and crises of the day. But when we stop for a moment and look around, then we become aware.

In the Summer Forums on Sacraments, we talked about Grace (because a sacrament is an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual grace). One definition for Grace I've heard and like is that it is "God's being active in our lives...and us being aware of it." Because God is always there, always active in our lives, but often have no clue. It's that moment of awareness that hits us in the heart - that is Grace.

So what Jacob is describing in that little quote from Genesis is a real awakening. It is Grace.

May we all, this summer, wake up to a shining moment like Jacob's where we recognize God's presence. With that in mind, I truly wish you

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

Did you know?

...about chanting in church? At St. James', we chant the *Sursum Corda* ("Lift up your hearts...") and the *Proper Preface* during the program year (we just say it during the summer). But in the liturgy, almost *everything can* be chanted. When I grew up, the Nicene Creed and the Lord's Prayer were always chanted, and more of the Eucharistic Prayer was as well. While that's not the practice at St. James', there's nothing wrong with it, and should people want to chant more someday, we could do it. Chanting has ancient roots, a way to not only give the liturgy a special air, but also to make it louder and easier to remember. You can find many of the chants in the Hymnal (in the front). Take a look!

Announcements

This Week's Summer Adult Forum:

We got off to a great start for the *Summer Adult Forum* with an introduction to the Sacraments, starting with Baptism. **THIS Sunday, July 23 (from 9:15 to 9:45 AM)** in the Wilkes Room, the session will be on **CONFIRMATION**.

Youth Group Parents' Meeting

There is a meeting of youth group parents **this Sunday right after the 10:00 AM service**. This is for parents of all youth who will be in Middle and High School next year. We will meet in the Wilkes Room.

Episcopalians In The Park

THIS SUNDAY is the last day to sign up for the Episcopal Celebration! It's at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Beacon, on **Saturday, July 29** for "Episcopalians In The Park." It's from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Many thanks to those who have already signed up! Let's have a wonderful time with our fellow Episcopalians in the Park!

As a reminder, if you are a musician, they're looking for folks from all over to get together and make beautiful music.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: PRAY, FAST and ACT

On May 21st of this year, we participated, through our Prayers of the People, in the Global Day of Prayer to End Famine. More than twenty million of our neighbors are at risk of starvation and many more millions suffer from drought and food shortages around the world. Are you aware that famine is more than lack of food? Famines result from multiple reasons: conflict, drought, poverty and global inaction.

Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, along with leaders of other faith communities, has expanded this initial call to a monthly call on the 21st day of each month through December, 2018 - the end of the 115th Congress. It is a day for all of us to address hungry and poverty and to encourage Congress not to cut public programs that support our brothers and sisters living in poverty here in our country and around the world.

Why the 21st of the month? Are you aware that on the 21st of the month, ninety percent of our neighbors who receive SNAP (formerly food stamps) have used up their benefits. Saying it another way - the last week of each month finds the most people here in America suffering from hunger.

Last month (June 21st), the emphasis was on Domestic Human Needs with the focus on “advocating for vital nutritional assistance, housing and community-strengthening federal programs funded through the appropriations process.”

On Friday, July 21st, FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS, will focus on programs “that work around the world that aim to alleviate hunger, create economic opportunities, promote health and respond to disasters.”

A copy of this month’s Episcopal Public Policy Network Policy Alert: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: July 2017 - Foreign Assistance and Humanitarian Aid can be picked up in the narthex of the church.

Please prayerful consider participating in this day of action. Peace, Deacon Gail

Dear God. You understand the needs of our broken world. Please guide us to share our time, talent and wealth to help end extreme poverty, that we may deeply engage in our church’s mission of global reconciliation. Amen.

(from Lifting Women’s Voices: Prayers to Change the World)

RURAL AND MIGRANT MINISTRY: Request for School Supply Kits

Rural and Migrant Ministry will again be offering a variety of summer youth programs. These programs include day camps, a leadership academy, residential programs, an overnight leadership camp and high school and college internships. These programs make a huge difference in the lives of our young people. These programs can also be life-changing. This year's theme is *Challenges*.

Accompanying the list of needed school supplies that comprise each kit was a letter from Richard Witt, Executive Director of RMM. I would like to share part of his letter with you.

Richard wrote:

“I am finding it most difficult to write to you about our Summer Youth Programs. This is one of the most critical appeals I have written during my twenty-five years at Rural and Migrant Ministry.

The pressure upon the children of our programs and their families is tremendous during these tumultuous times. Children are spending time and energy doing things I believe they should not be doing: worrying about the disappearance of their parents and about their own safety. Our children are looking about them and they are seeing people being detained and deported: they are seeing families being torn apart. They are going to school wondering what they will come home to, and for many, while they are at school, they are facing increased bullying.

These difficult realities are not just impinging upon the immigrant children of our programs, but all of our rural children. The healthcare that is protecting them is in jeopardy. The programs that provide resources to their families: to develop training, to nourish them through school meals and to protect them from pesticides in the fields and toxins from rural factories are all under threat.”

So what is RMM doing about all of this? What we have always done: we are standing with our young people through a variety of summer programs and providing resources and nurturing as they live into facing their challenges. We are working hard to help our youth build skills, emotional strength and resiliency, to not just trudge forward, but to thrive. Our summer programs focus on being effective, creative and having fun.

(Frankly, one great sadness is that children are being denied the opportunity to just be children.)” RW

Please prayerfully consider making a donation of a school kit: The kit should include 4 composition notebooks (NO spiral notebooks), 4 sturdy (2) pocket folders, 1 package of notebook paper, 1 box of primary colored Crayola washable markers, 1 24-count box of Crayola crayons, 1 soft pencil envelope/case that includes 1 package (12) #2 pencils, 1 eraser, 1 pencil sharpener, 1 ruler, 3-6 ball point pens, 2 glue sticks, a pair of school scissors and a small package of construction paper.

or if you would like us to do the shopping, please prayerfully consider making a cash donation. Cash/Checks payable to St. James' Church, memo line - RMM school supplies. Special Offering envelopes can be found in the narthex of the church.

Deadline for donations: Sunday, August 6, 2017.

On behalf of the campers who will benefit from your donation: THANK YOU!

Deacon Gail on behalf of the Outreach Committee

July 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 11:15 Youth Group Parents Meeting	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.diocesenyny.org/administration/for-clergy/liturgical-and-sacramental/diocesan-calendar-of-intercession/>

- 23 Diocesan Council
- 24 Christ's Church Nursery School, Rye
- 25 St. James' Church, Callicoon, Delaware Catskill Episcopal Ministry
- 26 St. Ann's Church, Bronx
- 27 St. Ann's Church for the Deaf, Manhattan
- 28 The Canon for Pastoral Care
- 29 St. James' Episcopal Church, Hyde Park

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 Konya, Barbara Kubiak (Mother of Donna Tracy-Coffman), 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):	Rick Schroeder, David R. Bender and William Ardini
Birthdays (this coming week):	Barbara Hobens, Georgianna S. Pardee, Patricia Glancey, Barbara Soden, James Matranga, Clarence W. Clark, Nick Granados-Kramer, Clifford Wells, David Wardell and Patricia Drake
Acolytes:	July 23: Team 1 July 30: Team 2
Altar Guild:	July 23: Team III July 30: Team I
8 a.m. Readers:	July 23: Debbie Belding and Grant Ferris July 30: Debbie Belding and Sue DeLorenzo
10 a.m. Readers:	July 23: Patty Caswell and Maggie McNamara July 30: Wendy Urban-Mead and Nancy Montero
Ushers:	July 23: Maggie and Tom McNamara July 30: Nancy Montero, Anna Marie Pitcher
Pledge Clerks:	July 23: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell July 30: Joanne Lown and Tanya Hall

Parish Cycle of Prayer: July 23: Cathy, Aric and Andrea Tegtmeier and Geoff, Charlessa, Jasmine and Jaylen Thatcher
July 30: Jodi, Dave, Taylor and Travyn Triola, Wilma Tully
Coffee Hour Hosts: July 23: Summer Schedule--No Coffee Hour
July 30: Summer Schedule--No Coffee Hour

This Week's Lectionary

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

This Week's Hymns

Processional: 686 - Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Sequence: 635 - If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee
Offertory: 453 - As Jacob with Travel was Weary One Day
Communion: 507 - Praise the Spirit in Creation
Recessional: 465 - Eternal Light, Shine In My Heart

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (July 16, 2017)

Discipleship And Power

Earlier this week, I went on retreat with the diocesan Reparations Committee up in Auburn, New York. We toured and had our meetings at the home of Harriet Tubman.

Though I'm sure you know who Harriet Tubman was, you may not know everything about her. She was born into slavery in Maryland about 1820. In 1854, after a life of beatings and seeing brothers and sisters sold off, she decided to run away. She was married at the time, but her husband - who was free - did not want to leave. She ran anyway.

After a couple of years of safety in Canada, she felt wrong about leaving her family in bondage, so she hatched a daring plan to free them all and bring them north to freedom. Of those she could find, she freed them all - but her husband had remarried, so she left him behind. Then she kept going back to free others via the Underground Railroad. In all, she led between 70 and 100 people to freedom - never losing a single "passenger."

During the Civil War, she went back south to serve as a spy and a nurse and eventually as a fighter. She became the first woman in US history to lead troops into battle in a series of raids. After the war, she returned to New York where she became active in the women's suffrage movement, wrote two best-selling books, helped build a church, and opened and operated a home for the aged.

In all that time, she lived with a form of epilepsy that gave her sudden, debilitating seizures. Oh, and she never learned to read or write.

Fascinating, right? But what has she got to do with discipleship and power? Well, actually, I think you can figure THAT out. Essentially, those things she did were acts of discipleship. Acts she performed because she believed in her heart that God had called her despite having no education, no money, no social status, and a price on her head.

Fine... but what does she have to do with our scriptures? How about this? Like Harriet, scripture reminds you that **you** have power, too. The only question is, will you use that power to serve God and your brothers and sisters - or not?

Here's what I mean. The Apostle Paul tells us that we are freer than other people because we are in Jesus Christ which guarantees us forgiveness and eternal life. We can do whatever we want, and it won't count against us. Now that's power! Except... Paul assumes that to be truly in Christ, you'll only WANT to do as Christ would - devote yourself to worshiping God, feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and spreading the good news.

But what really hits home is today's gospel where Jesus compares us to a farmer scattering seed all over the place - not very efficient, by the way, but the practice of the time. In this parable, the power rests with the farmer - that's the disciple - who is scattering the seeds of God's love to all people (who are the soil).

I was recently told that preachers are very much like this farmer. It's a one-sided relationship where the preacher is up here alone telling everyone else about God (and this is true whether it's from the pulpit, in the aisle, or in one of those dialogue sermons that were once really popular). In the end, the power and responsibility rests with the preacher, with the farmer who is scattering the seeds.

But in preaching, you don't know on any given day, who is going to hear what you're saying, or what impact it will have. I've had sermons where all the types of soil were hit at the same time. I remember one where one person angrily called me a radical, another came up with tears in his eyes to tell me it was the very word of God he needed to hear, and most said, "Nice sermon," or nothing at all. And one said, "I couldn't hear you." Good thing we get to come week after week - because the sermon that did not touch you last week might be the very word of God you need this week - you never know.

And that's the point: **you don't know what impact your discipleship** will have on others. And you can't be paralyzed into inaction by worrying about it. If you're a disciple of Jesus, you have the power of the Holy Spirit. Use it. You can do more than you imagine, like a woman raised in captivity who decided she preferred freedom - not only for herself but for others. **You** have the seeds of God's love, and God calls you to scatter those seeds wherever you are, not worrying what kind of reception they'll receive.

What **does** matter is what kind of seeds you're scattering. Because just as surely as you can scatter seeds of love, so can you sow seeds of fear, anger, greed, abuse, and domination.

This whole Discipleship series of sermons has been about you and me - and what it means to be followers of Christ. About knowing that sharing Christ's love is dangerous because of the wolves - the hostility you encounter toward God - but knowing those wolves need you. It's about confronting others when necessary, not to beat them but to restore relationship. It's about self-sacrifice where necessary, and it's about being present for those who need you.

Discipleship is all of those things because as a disciple, you have a power that eludes others. You KNOW you are loved and wonderfully made. You KNOW that nothing can separate you from the love of Christ. You KNOW that you can do all things in Christ. The question is, with all that power, how will you use it?

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