
The Weekly Parish Light 2023

St. James Episcopal Church · 2 S Augustine St. · Wilmington DE 19804 · 302-994-2029

**From the Rector – The Rev. Sarah Nelson
September 29, 2023**



I love discovering new things! Sometimes something small seems to be the entire landscape. Suddenly, what I *thought* that I knew takes new meaning – like a bolt of lightning from the sky that was once hidden is now in plain view. Martin Luther, of course, used that image long ago. Luther described the grace of God as a lightning bolt flashing in the sky as we walk across a cow field. We know that in a cow field you must watch your feet, because where there are cows, there are cow patties! These are rather messy when you step in them. Luther wrote that in much of life, we must navigate through the messiness of life. Every now and then, though, a flash of lightning occurs and you can, for a moment, see where you are placing your feet. For a moment, you can see and even remember what is in front of you. *That*, Luther spoke of, is grace.

Last week in our Gospel reading, we read again of the bystanders surrounding the cross as Jesus hung there. They misinterpreted Jesus’s words of “My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?” to be a call for the prophet Elijah. The remembered learning, the flash of lightning, occurs when I remember that not only is Elijah one of the great prophets but he is known as the “Rescuer of the Righteous.” The seemingly clueless bystanders – perhaps in a statement of faith, perhaps in a moment of intuitive understanding – give voice to Jesus as the righteous one. He is innocent of all these charges and is dying a righteous death in order to proclaim God’s grace, God’s love for creation. Calling for the Rescuer of the Righteous changes the story for me. The bystanders may not understand the full significance of what is before them but they know Jesus is the righteous one of God.

Just as I often ask myself how many bushes are out there burning, I often wonder what flash of lightning is bursting forth so that, for a moment, I can see a bit more clearly. Where is the righteousness of Christ revealed in my life, in my world? Where do I need to put aside what I think to be true and be open to the new possibilities revealed in Christ?

The flash of lightning brightens the sky but only for a moment. In that flash, though, is a vision from on high. My prayer is to seek those occasions and the blessings that they bring.

Faithfully,
Sarah



Music Ministry Notes
from Dr. Michael Larkin, Director of Music Ministry
will return next week.

THE 3rd SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF CREATION
THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023
MOUNTAIN SUNDAY

Today is “Mountain” Sunday at St. James, the third Sunday in the Season of Creation. We will hear Scriptures read from Isaiah, Romans, and Mark. The Isaiah text introduces the hope that creation can be transformed and renewed so that there will be “peace in creation.” The imagery may seem to conflict with the normal pattern of ecosystems, but ultimately provides a promise that God, through Christ, is working towards peace in our world, including peace in creation. This peace is described as being ‘on my holy mountain.’ One of the arrogant ideas of humans is that they can actually “conquer a mountain,” like Everest. In Romans, Paul even says that neither height nor depth nor anything ‘in all creation’ can separate us from the love of God in Christ. The prayers and hymns today will also be magnificently centered around mountains. The Parish Choir will sing “The Gift of Love,” an American Folk Tune arranged by Hal Hopson.

ALSO THIS SUNDAY



LITURGIES for MOUNTAIN SUNDAY –

*Old Testament: Isaiah 65:17-25; Epistle: Romans 8:35-39; Psalm: 121;
Gospel: Mark 16:14-18.*



Sunday School is available for all children during the 10:00 am worship service. Sunday School Lessons are planned to match the Lectionary reading for the week. A discussion about the lesson and a craft or activity will follow. The children join their families in church for the Eucharist, or if Miss Tina is singing in the choir, the children will come in during the peace. All children are welcome to attend our class, even if they are not here every week or are just visiting. Please ask a Greeter to direct you to the classroom.

LAY MINISTERS –

Worship Leader	Marti LaRue
Readers	Lisa Bowe; Kenny Stafford
Acolyte	Tom Reilly
Greeter	Penny Geist
Usher	Dawn Martinez
Altar Guild	Carol Hall
Counters	Tom Reilly; Tom Hall



ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER – Pray for The Nippon Sei Ko Kai.

DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for Immanuel Highlands Episcopal Church, Wilmington, The Vestry Leadership and Parish.

PARISH PRAYER LIST – Please see the last page of this newsletter and pray for those in need of our prayers for strength, guidance, or healing especially Patti, Penny, & David Edwards, Carmen Scott, Diane Geist, Fr. Reuben, Lindsey, Kira, Cindy, Dave. Pray for those who have died.

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Butch VanHekle, Autumn VanDerryt, Patty Cannon-Yeatman, Sophia Temme, George McDowell, Jacob Purdy, Lisa Foglia (McHale), Betty VanHekle.

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for Maria and her family and friends. Please remember to pray for them during the service on Sunday and keep them in your thoughts during the week.

A Prayer for Families: Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we humbly pray to you to guide and govern us by the Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget you, but remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, & OPPORTUNITIES

COME JOIN OUR



BIBLE STUDY – Join us every Wednesday at 10:00am in the Lounge. *See the new Schedule on page 5 under “Meeting.”*



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED ONCE A MONTH!! If you enjoy sharing coffee, a snack, and conversation with friends (old and new) after the 10:00 am service, we hope you will consider being a Host for one Sunday a month. Come early – it takes about 15 minutes to set up and 15-20 to clean up. If you’re interested, please contact Carol Hall or Marti LaRue or see them on Sunday! Pick a month that you (and a friend) would like to be Hosts for Coffee Hour!

FUNDRAISER EVENT



WILLIAMS SYNDROME ASSOCIATION: Check out the *Bender Twins’ Team fundraising page!* Click on the link below for more information and to donate to this wonderful Association on behalf of Samantha and Autumn! (If you are unable to open the link below, copy and paste into your URL.)

<https://events.williams-syndrome.org/team/500609>

MEETING

BIBLE STUDY

September 13th – December 27th, 2023

As Christian people we set ourselves on a lifelong course of increasingly learning about our God and God's purpose for our lives. We know many of the stories and we know about God's plan of salvation. Truly, this is a life-long task.

As we "read, mark and inwardly digest" the words of scripture, we know that God continues to speak to us each and every day. Because God continues to reveal God's self, we turn our hearts to be open and responsive to what God is saying. Throughout history, Christians have engaged in the practice of reading and studying scripture. Beginning on Wednesday, September 13th, you are invited to join in a study of scripture with others seeking to know God. Each Wednesday we will gather at 10:00am in the Lounge to consider the words of the Gospel for the coming Sunday. While we will be meeting in person, if you would like to join us by Zoom, please let the office know.

I hope that you will join us.

Sarah

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – 2023 SCHEDULE

~~September 13 – Earth Sunday – John 1: 1-14~~
~~September 20 – Sky Sunday – Mark 15:33-39~~
~~September 27 – Mountain Sunday – Mark 16: 14-18~~

October 4 – Humanity Sunday – Mark 10: 41-45
October 11 – Saint Francis – Matthew 11:25-30
October 18 – Matthew 22:15-22
October 25 – Matthew 22:34-46

November 1 – All Saints – Matthew 5: 1-12
November 8 – Matthew 25: 1-13
November 15 – Matthew 25: 14-30
November 22 – **No class**
November 29 – Mark:13:24-37

December 6 – Mark 1:1-8
December 13 – John 1: 6-8, 19-28
December 20 – **No class**
December 27 – **No class**

Then on to 2024!

UPCOMING EVENTS and OBSERVANCES

ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS – We will be celebrating All Saints and All Souls this year on Sunday, October 29th. Last year, Dawn Martinez set up an Ofrenda – a memorial for us to commemorate all our faithfully departed saints (see picture below).

We will be doing this again this year. If you would like to include a picture of your loved ones on the display, **please start bringing in copies* of your loved ones' pictures (no larger than 4"x6") and give them to Dawn Martinez, or you may drop them off in the office, no later than October 18th.** (*If you submit an original picture, a copy will be made and your original will be returned to you.)



MISCELLANEOUS


<u>CHURCH EXPENSES</u>	<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u>	<u>CORAL SPRINGS NURSING HOME</u>
<p>Remember that even when you are away, the church expenses are not. Our pledges are what keeps the church going and the air conditioning running. Your pledge to the ministry of the parish is much appreciated! Thank you!</p>	<p>If you would like to place flowers on the altar in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one, flower forms are available on the table in the church foyer, or you may contact the church office. The cost for flowers is \$30.00. Checks should be made payable to: <u>St. James Church</u>. Please write "Altar Flowers" on the memo line of your check. The check can be placed in the Offering plate or dropped off at the office.</p>	<p>On the First Sunday of the month during our worship service, Rev. Sarah will consecrate the Host that will be distributed to the residents of Coral Springs Nursing Home on every other Monday each month.</p>

MEMORIAL GARDEN BRICKS

Simply seeing the name of another evokes all sorts of memories, experiences, even emotions. Our Memorial Garden and the brick walkway lovingly planned and laid out by Tom Reilly and Kenny Stafford is a pleasant, peaceful place. It is a place for reflection, gratitude, and celebration. If you would like to honor someone or some occasion, or if you would like to pay tribute to someone who has finished this earthly race, you can purchase a brick, which will be laid in the Garden. There is a card on the table in the Narthex (foyer). If you'd like to purchase a brick, simply fill out the necessary information and give the card to the Greeter or place it in the offering plate. The cost is One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per brick.

CALENDAR – OCTOBER

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CREATION 3 – MOUNTAIN SUNDAY</u></p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship Service (w/ choir) 10:00 am Healing Service (Chapel) after service</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4</u></p> <p>Bible Study (Lounge) 10:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CREATION 4 – HUMANITY SUNDAY</u></p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship Service (w/ choir) 10:00 am Vestry Meeting in Lounge after service</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4</u></p> <p>Bible Study (Lounge) 10:00 am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ST. FRANCIS –</u> <u>BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS</u></p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship Service – outside 10:00 am (weather permitting)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18</u></p> <p>Bible Study (Lounge) 10:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22</u></p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship Service (w/ choir) 10:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25</u></p> <p>Bible Study (Lounge) 10:00 am</p>
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<p><u>OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS</u></p> 	<p>1 – Dave Edwards *</p> <p>2 – Butch VanHekle</p> <p>3 – Autumn VanDerryt</p> <p>3 – Patty Cannon-Yeatman</p> <p>3 – Sophia Temme</p> <p>4 – George McDowell</p> <p>5 – Jacob Purdy</p> <p>6 – Lisa Foglia (McHale)</p> <p>7 – Betty VanHekle</p> <p>8 – Dorothy Shearer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* Happy Heavenly Birthday, Dave!</p>	<p>12 – Astra Penn</p> <p>20 – Tina Geist</p> <p>22 – Ken Davis</p> <p>24 – Annalyssia Castro-Cruz</p> <p>28 – Allen Luckey</p> <p>28 – Amber Price</p> <p>29 – Aubree Rutkowski</p> <p>31 – Jason Rutkowski</p>
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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Life is like a camera ...

FOCUS on what's important,
CAPTURE the good times,
DEVELOP from the negatives,
And if things don't work out,
Take another SHOT!



A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

*Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby
Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell*

Prayer in the Midst of Violence

Lord, in our shock and confusion, we come before you
in our grief and despair in the midst of hate,
in our sense of helplessness in the face of violence,
We lean on you.

For the families of those who have been killed, we pray.
For the shooters – *help* us to pray, Lord.
For the communities that have lost members, their anger, grief, fear,
We pray.

For the churches striving to be your light in darkness
beyond comprehension,
We pray.

Lord of all, gather us up – your creatures, your world –
and bring an end to the violence.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Amen.

*Taken from “**Prayer for mass violence**” by Grace Claus
written for faithward*

Prayer for Refugees

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness
and brought them to the promised land.
Guide us now so that, following your Son, we may
walk alongside vulnerable refugee families as
they build a new life in the county of your love and mercy. Amen.

ST. JAMES PRAYER LIST – Please use this Prayer List and include the following people in your daily prayers. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month. If you want to keep someone on the list, add, or remove anyone, please email (stjamesnew@verizon.net) or call the church office (302-994-2029).

Abigail	Cullen Kate Deal	Joshua John	Mike Pierce
Alan	Frank Dean	Sister Julian	John Pumphrey & Family
Alethia	Diana and Pevan	Carolyn Karney & Family	The Pat Purdy Family
Alex	Rose DelliGatti	Juanita Kavanaugh	Reese
Allysa	Henry Diaz	Kathy	Neil Reilly
Amy	John DiOrio	Melvin Kessler	The Rev. Reuben
Andrienne	Ross Donovan	Kiara	Rodriguez
Anna	Deborah Earley	Ritchie Kinlaw	Aaron Richers
Anne	Vern Earley	Kira	The Roche Family
Christina Azwol	Patti Edwards & Family	Sara Kirk	Roy
Tony Andres	Penny Edwards	Susan Kriznuski	Emily Ruggieri
Sage Andrews	Carol Edwards & Family	Marti & Ron LaRue	Henry Saffer
Barbara	Ellie Rose	Laura	Sally
Scott Battaglia	Eli	John Lewis	Daniel Sanchez
Seth Bayless	Eric	Liam	Gabriela Santiago
Jim Bender	Janice Fischbach	Lilly	Mike Scarpetti
Trish Bender Bayless	George Fischbach	Lois	Scott
Jeff Biscoe	Mary Ellen	Allen Luckey	Carmen Scott
Bobbie Blevins	Kira Fix	Cindy & Dave Mahoney	Richard Scott
Eileen Borders	John & Harriet Flynn	Mallory	The Francis Scott Family
Barry Boulden	John	Marie Marcinkowski	Maria Perdikis
Paula Boulden	Joan Frati	The Martinez Family	Mike PierceSeth
Myrle Bowe	Ginny	Mary Helen	Linda Sheesley
Ronald Boyce	Diane Geist	Jude Matejkovic	Earlene Smith
Doris Brown	Fred Geist	Melvin	Dan Sommers
Charles Brown	Gerike Family: Adam,	Missy	Kenny Stafford
Eleanor Buchanan	Lindsey, & Oliver	Carmen Moore	Dorothy Stephens
Crystal Bush	Glenn	Shirley Moore	Steve
Douglas Bush	Brittney Griffin	Ann Moses	Gavin Stiteler
David Butters	Scott Gunn	Jay Muckle	Paula Szczuka
Fran Pearlman-Butters	Carolyn Halfen	Randy Murray	The Szotkiewicz Family:
Cameryn	Ike Hammond	Sara Musselman	Joanna, Michael,
Caroleen	Lindsey Hammond	Natalie	Hannah, Charles
Carolyn	Amy & Rick Harra	Maren Nelson	Thomas
KayMaire Castro	Major Scott M. Harra	The Rev. Sarah Nelson	Lorayne Titter
Cathy	Nancy Hoffman	Sue Nelson	Jack Tucker
Wayne Chapman, Jr.	Travis Hoffman	Nicholas	Shon Tucker
Chris	Holly	Noah	Tyler
Cindy	Eileen Hughes	Cassandra Norsworthy	Jack
Linda Clark	Peter Huiner and Family	Paula Orty	Betty Ann VanHekle
Clint	Kaylee Jackson	Mark Parton	Preston VanHekle III
Bill Cole	Jennifer	Terri Parton	Mary Wade
Brittany Collins	Jenna & John	Debbie Papa	Nancy Walls
Christina Conaway	Jeremy	Madeline Pepe & Children	Valerie Warrington
Presiding Bishop	Jim	Pat	Missy Wieland
Michael Curry	Joan	The Pease Family	Andy & Linda Wolf
Daisy	Joe	Maria Perdikis	
Dave			

For those serving our country: National Guard: Terron Barnes, Brad Pastore, Christina Pastore;
U.S. Army: Maj. Scott M. Harra. *Give grace, O Lord, to our brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer physically and emotionally, that they may be healed. Grant them trust and love that their prayers may be answered and that they may be relieved from their suffering. Amen.*