
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
December 9, 2023**



Everything has a beginning, a middle, and an end. Last Sunday was the beginning of the season of Advent, the season on beginnings, and the first Sunday of Advent, the time of hope.

This second Sunday of the season of Advent is the Sunday of Love. One of my favorite Advent hymns is the plaintive, “Of the Father’s love begotten.” Truly, that is what the season of Advent is all about: the Christ child begotten of God’s love for God’s creation and for everything contained in creation.

Many of you will remember my pup Zohar. Zohar was named for the ancient Hebrew scripture, the holiest of scripture. Zohar is commentary on Kabbalah which is commentary on Torah. The beginning of Zohar is the story of the creator. The creator has so much love that *that* love is poured into a vessel. The vessel is unable to hold all of the love that is poured into it. A larger container is created but it too cannot contain the love. Even larger containers are found but none can control the love. Finally the container, filled to the brim but with so much more love to be poured out, finally shatters into millions of pieces. There is no container large enough to contain the love.

So begins the 33 books of Zohar. Everything that is and was and will ever be is begotten of the Creator’s love. Zohar, translated as that which we see, is only a fraction of what there is. It is beyond even our imagination to even begin to comprehend the magnitude of God’s love. There is nothing that can even begin to contain that love.

The second Sunday of Advent draws our attention to that love. Our cradle of hope is lined with the warmth of love. As we create this most holy of spaces, this space, not only within the manger but also the space within our being, we make space for the hope promised in the Christ. We make space for the love so great that it warms our days and our nights, promising that *that* love which cannot be contained will come within us and will be a Keaton to the world of God’s abiding love and presence.

*“Of the Father’s love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending He,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!”*

Faithfully,

Sarah



MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES
from Dr. Michael Larkin,
Director of Music Ministry

My St. James Friends,

The gospel themes for the second and third Sundays of Advent always focus on the life and preaching of John the Baptist. John was Jesus' cousin who constantly exclaimed the words of Elijah, "Prepare the way of the Lord." Accordingly, the choir anthem for Sunday is my choral setting of those very same words.

I share a gentle reminder about our combined Lessons and Carols service this Sunday at 3:00 p.m. at the "other" St. James, just off the Kirkwood Highway near the Midway Shopping Center. I hope to see many of you there for this beautiful and meaningful Advent worship experience.

The following Sunday, December 17, is a busy Sunday. Our 10:00 a.m. service will include our Youth Christmas Pageant and then in the evening is our Quiet Christmas service at 7:00 p.m. with light refreshments available at 6:30 p.m. This service is a wonderful way to "catch your breath" during what can be a hectic, very busy time of the year.

Blessings,

Dr. Michael Larkin

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 10, 2023

SUNDAY'S LITURGIES – *Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm: 85:1-2, 8-13;*
Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Gospel: Mark 1:1-8.

LAY MINISTERS –

Director of Music Ministry:	Dr. Michael Larkin	Greeter:	Sandy Grim
Worship Leader:	John Grim	Usher:	Carol Hall
Old Testament Reader:	Tom Hutt	Altar Guild:	Dawn Martinez
New Testament Reader:	Tom Hutt	Counters:	Tom Reilly & Dawn Martinez
Acolyte:	Tom Reilly		



The first Candle on the Advent Wreath (the Candle of Love) will be lit by the Luckey Family.

HOPE, LOVE, JOY, PEACE



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.



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, Lindsey, Kira, Preston, Cindy, Dave. Pray for those who have died.

Anyone wishing to have someone **placed on or taken off the prayer list** may email Marti LaRue ([martilarue828@gmail.com](mailto:martilae828@gmail.com)) or call the church office at 302-994-2029.

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Jason Grahe and Dottie Huber.

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for the Bender family. Please remember to pray for Andi Jim, Samantha, Autumn, Cody, Seth, and Shane 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.

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER – Pray for The Church of Pakistan (United).

DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for All Saints’ Church, Rehoboth Beach, and St. George’s Chapel, Harbeson, The Rev. Shelley McDade, Rector, The Rev. Judith Rhodes, Assistant Priest, The Rev. Deacon Christine Miller-Marcin, Director of Growth and Family Engagement.



In last week’s *Parish Light* edition, several events were highlighted that **YOU** have helped us make successful by giving us your help and support! Here are a few more which were inadvertently omitted:

- *The Worship and Hospitality Committees presented “Coco” to celebrate All Saint’s Day. Dawn Martinez did a fabulous job creating an Ofrenda for all church members to share their loved ones’ pictures. What a beautiful way to remember those we love!*
- *The Outreach Committee along with our parishioners have done a fine job of cutting and tying blankets for the residents of Coral Springs. The blankets have recently been delivered in the hope of sharing our Christmas spirit with those in the nursing home.*
- *On Pearl Harbor Day last Thursday, December 7th, Del Vets hosted its annual celebration and lunch at St. James for local veterans. A very moving commemorative ceremony, held outside at the flag pole (and yes, with snow coming down!), was presented by cadets from Delaware Military Academy. Thanks to all who baked cookies for the **Cookie Walk!** It was a success! The cookies were sold during the lunch and proceeds were given to St. James!*
- *We are collecting **Food for Families at Richey School** and we would like to thank the Delaware Military Academy for donating five bags full of food for our project!*

AND NOW, WE HAVE ANOTHER REQUEST! Please start collecting **small glass jars**. We need them to use for votives for the Epiphany Three Kings Sunday Celebration in January. (One suggestion is the size of glass jar that *Oui* Yogurt comes in.)

You may start bringing in your clean glass jars (no labels, please) this Sunday, Dec. 10th, running through Sunday, Dec. 24th. Thank you.

MEETINGS

BIBLE STUDY (Weekly) – Bible Study is generally scheduled every Wednesday at 10:00am in the Lounge. **There is only one more meeting this year: Dec. 13th** (John 1:6-8, 19-28). *Than on to 2024!*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS



Now's the time to place your order for RED POINSETTIAS to be placed on the Altar at Christmas In Memory Of or In Thanksgiving For Loved Ones. There will be a form in the Sunday Bulletins from November 26 through December 10. The cost of each Poinsettia is \$10.00. You may pick up your poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Eve service on December 24. (**Deadline** to place and pay for your order is Sunday, **December 10th.**)

DINNER & FELLOWSHIP



Our Christmas *Mingle and Jingle* will be held at **Tony's Bistro** on Thursday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. Join us (**Children are welcome, too!**) to celebrate the season with a little festive fun! **Each person should bring one wrapped gift** priced at or under \$10.00 so we can do a Gift Exchange! (Gift can be nice, or funny, or creative!)

There is a menu from **Tony's** on the easel in the lobby for your reference. (**Note:** Each person will be responsible for their own dinner.)

If you will need a ride to Tony's, carpooling can be available by meeting at St. James at 5:15 pm.

Please RSVP to Carol Hall by this Sunday, December 10th if you plan to attend, need a ride, or have any questions. Carol's email is teegunner@aol.com OR you may sign up on the easel in the lobby.




CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – The children will have their Annual Christmas Pageant during the 10:00 am worship service on **Sunday, December 17th**. Reception will follow in the Parish Hall after the service. You won't want to miss this!!

FUNDRAISER EVENT



WILLIAMS SYNDROME ASSOCIATION: Check out the *Bender Twins' fundraising page!* Click on the link below for more information and to thank this wonderful Association on behalf of Samantha and Autumn! (If you are unable to click on the link below, copy and paste into your URL.)
<https://www.williams-syndrome.org/team/500609>

<u>DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS</u>		
	3	– Samantha Holmberg
	8	– Christian Padovani
	9	– Chase Carew
	12	– Jason Grahe
	13	– Dottie Huber
	24	– Sandy Grim
	24	– Mark Hutchinson
	27	– Eliza Nelson
	29	– Nicholas Harvey
	31	– Constance Ruggieri

CALENDAR – DECEMBER 3 - 13

Sunday, December 10 (Advent 2)

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Service of Lessons & Carols, St. James Newport & St. James Millcreek – 3:00 p.m. Will be held at St. James Millcreek

Deadline Today for ordering and paying for the Red Poinsettias

Deadline Today to RSVP to Carol Hall if are planning to attend the *Mingle & Jingle* at **Tony's Bistro** on Thursday, December 14th. See more details on page 5.

Wednesday, December 13

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. in Lounge – this is the last meeting of the year. (The next meeting is scheduled for January 10th.)

Thursday, December 14

Christmas Mingle and Jingle will be held at **Tony's Bistro** at 6:00 p.m. **(Children are welcome, too!)** Each person should **bring one wrapped gift** priced at or under \$10.00 so we can do a Gift Exchange! **Please RSVP to Carol Hall by this Sunday, December 10th**

Sunday, December 17 (Advent 3)

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Children's Christmas Pageant during service

Quiet Christmas Service – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24 (Advent 4)

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Monday, December 25 – *Merry Christmas!*

No Worship Service

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK :

If you want the rainbow, you have to put up with the rain.

ST. JAMES VESTRY

Sr. Warden: George McDowell

Jr. Warden: Tina Geist

Christian Education Chair: Tina Geist

Finance: George McDowell/Tina Geist

Outreach Chairs: Dawn Martinez and Janice Fischbach

Pastoral Care Chairs: Dawn Martinez and Marti LaRue

Property Chairs: Tom Reilly and Andi Bender

Hospitality/Fellowship Chairs: Marti LaRue and Carol Hall

Worship Chairs: John Grim and Dawn Martinez

Recording Secretary: Marti LaRue

Clerk of the Vestry: Janice Fischbach



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

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.*

Rev. 10/20/23