
The Weekly Parish Light

February 17, 2024

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



From the Rector – The Rev. Sarah Nelson

Lent is upon us. Those forty days and forty nights throughout history have been a time to prepare us for Easter. This year, the scriptures that we will hear on Sunday mornings in our lessons taken from the Old Testament have to do with God's covenant with us. In its most simple form, that covenant is, "I will be your God and you will be my people." What a covenant or promise that is! God's promise to God's people is that in all moments and in all occasions of our lives, God will be God – abiding, loving, comforting, healing each of us.

During these weeks of Lent, the church calls us to a season where we focus our being into living in that promise. You may say, "I am having a rough time these days. I don't have time for anything but just getting through." That covenant reminds us that indeed God is right there wanting better things for us than we can ask or imagine. If we were able to live in the reality of that promise, you might say, "I am so busy, I just cannot take on another thing." Lent is the season to be reminded of God's promise to be God, lifting that burden from us.

As you prayerfully consider your Lenten practice, you might ask yourself what stands in the way of your seeing more fully God's promise to be your God. You might ask what can you change so that you might realize that promise more completely? The road to China begins with a single step. During Lent, can you take a step closer to the God who loves and cares for you even beyond what we humans can take in?

Faithfully,

Sarah



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

My St. James Friends,

Transfiguration Sunday as well as our Bishop's visit have passed and now we are in the Liturgical season of Lent. From both a musical and spiritual point of view, Lent has always been one of my favorite and most meaningful liturgical seasons. Spiritually preparing for the Passion, or the Crucifixion, and then the glorious Resurrection of Jesus is most meaningful and important. I always say that the mountaintop is even more glorious when one has spent some time down in the valley.

On the first Sunday in Lent, many churches say or sing the Great Litany. The Great Litany is one of the oldest and certainly one of the most comprehensive prayers of the church. It was first published in 1544 but various versions were certainly said or sung well before that. It is lengthy but listen carefully to the many petitions sung by the cantors so that each of the congregational responses will have personal and spiritual meaning.

The choir's anthem for this Sunday is a setting of the text, "*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days,*" by John Leavitt, set to the early-American hymn tune "*Consolation.*" This tune is one of several that are still included in contemporary hymnals that have been taken from a popular early-American hymnal, Kentucky Harmony, 1831.

Blessings,

Dr. Michael Larkin
Director of Music Ministry




THIS SUNDAY

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
February 18, 2024

SUNDAY’S LITURGIES – *Old Testament: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm: 25:1-9;*
Epistle: 1 Peter 3:18-22; Gospel: Mark 1:9-15.

LAY MINISTERS –

Director of Music Ministry:	Dr. Michael Larkin	Greeter:	Penny Geist
Worship Leader:	John Grim	Usher:	Denise Jarrell
Old Testament Reader:	Marti LaRue	Altar Guild:	Carol Hall
New Testament Reader:	Denise Jarrell	Counters:	Tom Reilly & Marti LaRue
Acolyte:	Tom Reilly		

 **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 *George Fischbach, Jim Bender, Sandy Grim, Patti, Penny, & David Edwards, Ann, Carmen Scott, Penny Wilhelme, Diane Geist, Lindsey, Kira, Preston, Cindy, Dave, Terri Parton, Tom Hall, Butch & Betty VanHekle*
– Pray for those who have died.

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Skip Bentley, Alberta Regan, Mary Wade, Ryan Warrington, The Rev. Sarah Nelson, James Bush, Ken Stafford.

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for the Chapman-Hubert family. Please remember to pray for Roxanne, Thomas, Allie, and Jaxson 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.

Prayer for Coral Springs

Jesus, I ask for comfort and hope for those who are in nursing homes. May they feel your presence and know you see them as precious and having your love in their hearts. May they be treated with dignity. I also pray for the caregivers. They have such a hard job and many times don't receive acknowledgement for what they do. May they know the importance and beauty of their job and realize they are bringing you to the people they are serving. Please give them strength when they become tired and when the job becomes very stressful. May the people who make decisions regarding the money that nursing homes receive know they too will be older one day and to be sensitive to the needs and challenges of these wonderful people. Amen.

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER – Pray for the Anglican Church of South Sudan.

DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for The Episcopal Church in Delaware Joint Leadership Team.

2024 STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Our prayerful consideration of our pledges has begun. Offering envelopes are now available if you would like to use them.

PLEDGE CARDS have been ***distributed***. Each Pledge Card received will be linked to your envelope, if you desire to use the envelopes.

As each has received a gift,
use it to **serve one another**,
as good stewards
of God's varied grace:
1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

MEETINGS



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – 2024 SCHEDULE

You are invited to join in a study of scripture with others seeking to know God. Each Wednesday we will gather at 10:00 a.m. 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 – FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

February 21 – Mark 8:21-28 and February 28 – John 2:13-22



VESTRY MEETINGS: Vestry meetings are scheduled on the following dates:
March 17; April 21; May 19; June 16.



WORSHIP MEETING: The Worship meetings are usually scheduled on the fourth Sunday of the month. **Note:** There will **not** be a February meeting.



HEALING SERVICES:

Healing services are generally held on the first Sunday of each month in the Chapel immediately following the 10am worship service. They have been scheduled on the following dates: Mar. 3 (will be incorporated into the 10am worship service); Apr. 7; May 5; and June 2.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

To submit exciting details about achievements about your Young Person, please email information (and if you desire, a picture) to: martilarue828@gmail.com . Please know that by sending us a picture, you will be authorizing and agreeing to having your youth's picture appear in our newsletter.

FUNDRAISER EVENT



WILLIAMS SYNDROME ASSOCIATION: Check out the ***Bender Twins' Team fundraising page!*** Click on the link below for more information. They are still accepting donations 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>

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK :

Be the change you want to see in the world.

LENTEN SERIES AT SAINT JAMES



What Does It Mean To Be Chosen?

Join us **beginning Tthis Sunday, February 18 through Lenten Sundays** after services to explore the answer to this question as we view the groundbreaking series, *The Chosen*. Filmmaker and author, Dallas Jenkins, beautifully presents the life of Jesus in such a way that promises to move you forever while enhancing your knowledge of scripture and what it truly means to be chosen. **Notebooks, pens, and Bibles are encouraged for those who would like to jot down items they want to delve into further at their own pace.** Several episodes will be shown each week and light snacks will be provided; **however, all are welcome to bring their own snacks/sandwiches if preferred.**

A BRASH FISHERMAN. A DEMON-POSSESSED WOMAN. A PIOUS RELIGIOUS LEADER. A THIEVING TAX COLLECTOR. Christ's love saw beyond their brokenness and transformed their lives. To Simon Peter, Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, and Matthew. Before they were heroes of the faith who inspired *The Chosen* series, they were desperate sinners like us.

When the Son of God walked the earth in our shoes, He connected with humanity through story. Jesus used our own tales to help us understand God's truths. He communicated the immutable principles of the heavens with parables of familiar, earthly circumstances and relatable characters to which any of His listeners could universally identify. They were anecdotes, chronicles, and narratives that became like soul food to everyone He met.

That's how God the Father has been giving His revelation to humankind since the dawn of the cosmos. Through story, because God is and has always been the First Author: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1, emphasis added).

God knows that when we are most hungry spiritually, the themes of heaven--grace, forgiveness, sacrifice, redemption, reconciliation, and resurrection--will resonate in our hearts and draw us closer to Him. Those themes are like violin strings running through our souls and, when plucked in just the right way, always reverberate back the plumb line of God's truth.

That is what my friend, Dallas Jenkins, is creating with his powerful media series, *The Chosen*, which takes us on a journey with Jesus through the eyes of the real people whose lives He absolutely transformed with His words, love, and deeds. Imagine what it would be like to walk the dusty roads of those characters who encountered the Messiah.

(continued on next page)

The Chosen....(continued)

That is what you are going to find in this beautiful and powerful series. Take *The Chosen* journey with us beginning tomorrow, February 18th. Watch and reflect on these episodes. Digest them as food for your soul. And then write them in your heart, not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. ---Brian Bird

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE CHOSEN

I've been a believer my whole life, I've attended Christian schools my whole life, and I've heard stories of Jesus countless times. I've also seen every Jesus movie and miniseries ever made, and there have been dozens. So why a new TV show about Jesus?

Because of what you're reading now.

I have a passion for people to hear the "old, old story" again... for the very first time. When I see Jesus movies, it's very rare for me to be moved or excited, and the same is true for a lot of Jesus-related devotionals. Quite frankly, I've heard it all before, and it's hard to relate to the perfect and sinless Son of God. However, I can relate to the sinner who surrounded Him. Problem is, most Jesus projects just take you from Bible story to Bible story, glossing over the humanity and backstories of all these characters.

So when I started creating a TV show that explores Jesus through the eyes of the people around Him, I found myself getting moved and excited. I was experiencing Him in the way they did, and the reaction to the Christmas special pilot episode about the birth of Christ from the perspective of the shepherds confirmed we were on to something. We kept hearing, "I've heard this before but never in this way."

As we wrote episodes, we explored the backstories of Simon Peter, Matthew, Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, and a few of Jesus' miracle recipients. We couldn't help but identify with their recklessness, rough past, religious piety, and desperation for life change ... and ultimately, their redemption.

Again, why a new TV show about Jesus?

So that we can go deeper. None of this matters if it doesn't compel you back to Scripture—not only so you can experience Jesus the way His followers did, but also so you can change and grow the way they did.

So please, if you've chosen (no pun intended) to dig into this material with us, make full use of it. Jesus' followers were students (it's why they called Him "Rabbi" and "Teacher"). Be a student. Write stuff down, pray on what you're seeing and writing, and celebrate the fact that you're chosen to be an ambassador for the one who created the world.

Let me be clear: we're compelled to show and tell in order to revive your passion for Scripture and the one who inspired it. We hope watching the show enhances your experience of the written word.

I don't know what stage you're at in your journey with Christ – whether you're a Mary Magdalene who encountered Jesus after a horrific past without Him ... or you're a Nicodemus who's been a lifelong member of the God team. But as Jesus proved over and over, we've got tons to learn and innumerable traits that need change. Thanks for taking that journey with us.

– Dallas Jenkins, Director, *The Chosen*

BIRTHDAYS CALENDAR

<p><u>FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS</u></p> 	1	– Layla Tjaden	25	– Gaelen Nelson
	1	– Melina & Sophia Erdman	28	– Cassandra DeMaio-Temme
	4	– Caleb Nelson		
	8	– Nazir Washington		
	10	– Dave Spendio		
	18	– Skip Bentley		
	21	– Alberta Regan		
	22	– Ryan Warrington		
	24	– The Rev. Sarah Nelson		
	24	– James Bush		
	24	– Ken Stafford		

MISCELLANEOUS



Altar Flowers: 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: St. James Church. 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. **NOTE: There are No Altar Flowers during Lent.**



Coral Springs Nursing Home: 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.

CALENDAR – FEBRUARY 18 – MARCH 17, 2024

Sunday, February 18

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.
Viewing of “The Chosen” (Episodes 1 & 2) – Parish Hall
– Light snacks (or BYO snacks)

Wednesday, February 21

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. – Lounge

Sunday, February 25

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.
Viewing of “The Chosen” (Episodes 3 & 4) – Parish Hall
– Light snacks (or BYO snacks)

Wednesday, February 28

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. – Lounge

Sunday, March 3

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:00 a.m. **
Viewing of “The Chosen” (Episodes 5 & 6) – Parish Hall
– Light snacks (or BYO snacks)
****The Healing Mass** will be part of the Worship Service to allow for the viewing of
“**The Chosen**” which will be shown in the Parish Hall.

Wednesday, March 6

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. in Lounge

Sunday, March 10

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.
Viewing of “The Chosen” (Episodes 7 & 8) – Parish Hall
– Light snacks (or BYO snacks)

Wednesday, March 13

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. – Lounge

Sunday, March 17

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.
Vestry Meeting – immediately following worship service – Lounge

'TIS A GIFT

During this season of Lent, as we move towards stillness and listening to God, we look around us to see the many gifts and blessings God has bestowed upon us. During these Lenten days as our scriptures tell us, “to those with ears let them hear.” As we hear God calling, may our eyes be opened to see the gifts in one another.

As you are sitting in your pew on Sunday, first, take special notice that our “Circle of Blessings” in the front of our Sanctuary has become our **Circle of “GIFTS.”** Then, as you look around, begin recognizing those gifts you see in one another! There will be “ornaments” that you can write a name on one side and on the other side, the gift you know that person has. In ways both great and small, recognize those gifts which abound. For example Penny – You always extend such a warm welcome to those who come through our doors! Betty – Your exuberance of faith in your final amen warms my heart!

On the Sunday following Easter, you will receive all your ornaments that others have recognized your gifts!

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: Carol Hall and Marti LaRue

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	Frank Dean	Joshua John	Reese
Alan	Diana and Pevan	Sister Julian	Neil Reilly
Alethia	Rose DelliGatti	Carolyn Karney & Family	Aaron Richers
Alex	Henry Diaz	Juanita Kavanaugh	The Roche Family
Allysa	John DiOrio	Kathy	The Family of
Amy	Ross Donovan	Melvin Kessler	Fr. Ruben Rodriguez
Andrienne	Deborah Earley	Kiara	Roy
Anna	Vern Earley	Ritchie Kinlaw	Emily Ruggieri
Anne	Patti Edwards & Family	Kira	Henry Saffer
Christina Azwol	Penny Edwards	Sara Kirk	Sally
Tony Andres	Carol Edwards & Family	Susan Kriznuski	Daniel Sanchez
Sage Andrews	Ellie Rose	Marti & Ron LaRue	Gabriela Santiago
Barbara	Eli	Laura	Mike Scarpetti
Scott Battaglia	Eric	John Lewis	Scott
Seth Bayless	Janice Fischbach	Liam	Carmen Scott
Jim Bender	George Fischbach	Lilly	Richard Scott
Trish Bender Bayless	Mary Ellen	Lois	The Francis Scott Family
Jeff Biscoe	Kira Fix	Allen Luckey	Maria Perdikis
Bobbie Blevins	John & Harriet Flynn	Cindy & Dave Mahoney	Mike Pierce
Eileen Borders	John	Mallory	Seth
Barry Boulden	Joan Frati	Marie Marcinkowski	Linda Sheesley
Paula Boulden	Ginny	The Martinez Family	The Slocomb Family
Myrle Bowe	Diane Geist	Mary Helen	Earlene Smith
Ronald Boyce	Fred Geist	Jude Matejkovic	Dan Sommers
Doris Brown	Gerike Family: Adam,	Melvin	Kenny Stafford
Charles Brown	Lindsey, & Oliver	Missy	Dorothy Stephens
Eleanor Buchanan	Glenn	Carmen Moore	Steve
Crystal Bush	The Gracie Family	Shirley Moore	Gavin Stiteler
Douglas Bush	Brittney Griffin	Ann Moses	The Family of
David Butters	Sandy Grim	Jay Muckle	Paula Szczuka
Fran Pearlman-Butters	Scott Gunn	Randy Murray	The Szotkiewicz Family:
Cameryn	Carolyn Halfen	Sara Musselman	Joanna, Michael,
Caroleen	Tom & Carol Hall	Natalie	Hannah, Charles
Carolyn	Ike Hammond	Maren Nelson	In Thanksgiving for the
KayMaire Castro	Lindsey Hammond	The Rev. Sarah Nelson	Birth of Maxwell
Cathy	Amy & Rick Harra	Sue Nelson	Thomas
Wayne Chapman, Jr.	Major Scott M. Harra	Nicholas	Lorayne Titter
Chris	Rick Harvey	Noah	Jack Tucker
Cindy	Nancy Hoffman	Cassandra Norsworthy	Shon Tucker
The Clapp Family	Travis Hoffman	Paula Orty	Tyler
Linda Clark	Holly	Mark Parton	Jack
Clint	Eileen Hughes	Terri Parton	Butch & Betty Ann
Bill Cole	Peter Huiner and Family	Debbie Papa	VanHekle
Brittany Collins	Kaylee Jackson	Madeline Pepe & Children	Preston VanHekle III
Christina Conaway	Jennifer	Pat	Mary Wade
Presiding Bishop	Jenna & John	The Pease Family	Nancy Walls
Michael Curry	Jeremy	Maria Perdikis	Valerie Warrington
Daisy	Jim	Mike Pierce	Missy Wieland
Dave Cullen	Joan	John Pumphrey & Family	Penny Wilhelme
Kate Deal	Joe	The Pat Purdy Family	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 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. 02/03/24