
The Weekly Parish Light

February 24, 2024

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

From the Rector – The Rev. Sarah Nelson



Sometimes it just feels like one thing after another. Sometimes it feels like a list of another thing to be accomplished and checked off the list. Sometimes it feels like Groundhog's Day, difficult to distinguish one day from the next. If that is not enough, now it is the season of Lent, a season where I am being asked to do, or think about, another thing. Sometimes it feels like enough is enough.

Our scripture for this second Sunday of Lent is the place that I find hope and promise. Jesus tells his disciples that anyone who gives up their life **FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL** will save their life. Why is that a message of hope and a message of promise you might ask? The Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, reminds me that life is not simply one thing after another or a hamster wheel of just going round and round. Rather, all of our being, our actions, our prayers, our thoughts are all in pursuit of one thing: bringing God's kingdom into being. God created this world for us and created it in the perfection that is the divine. Stuff happened and now we live in quest of bringing that kingdom into fruition and living in that creation.

Every now and then we get a glimpse of the kingdom. I love the poem that I used in last week's sermon. The perfection of the paradise that God created we see in the flowers of the earth, the stars in the sky and in the eyes of a child. If you pause for even a moment, you can quickly recall moments of your own when you have glimpses of the divinity in creation. Sometimes in worship there are moments when you are lifted far beyond the time and space of the church walls and feel a part of something far greater than yourself.

I have found myself this week thinking of our own Nancy Walls: her sense of adventure, her ability to look beyond a problem and seek a solution, her sense of humor, and her unwavering faith. Nancy's death, for me, is a glimpse of the kingdom where each life is precious and a gift. It isn't simply one thing after another. Instead, each moment holds the possibility of bringing us a step closer to making that kingdom a reality.

Lent calls us to slow down, to even – for a moment – step outside the usual and prayerfully ponder the wonder of God's gracious kingdom. The hamster wheel of life continues but what a gift to have the invitation to seek those moments that transcend the "everyday" and, as the poet tells us, for a moment to "touch the hand of God."

Faithfully,

Sarah

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR'S WARDEN

Fellow Parishioners of St. James,

Despite the weather, illnesses, and general blahs of winter, I hope that you have been able to participate in some of the activities of the reinvigorated ministries of our parish. I know that they are all hard at work planning for the growth of our Christian life in the “new normal” of a post-pandemic world. Your Vestry is also working to see how we can best support their missions. Toward this goal, I would like to thank those who have already pledged of their time, talent and treasure. If you are still considering how you can best make your contribution, please do so as you are able. If you have misplaced your pledge card, another is always available!

Thanks for being a member of our parish family.

With His blessings,

George McDowell
Rector's Warden

Funeral Service Details for NANCY ANN WALLS

When: Saturday, February 24, 2024

Visitation: 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Services: Will begin at 3:00 pm

Location: Mealey Funeral Home, 2509 Limestone Rd., Wilmington, DE 19808

[Click here](#) for obituary, or go to Mealey Funeral Home website:

<https://www.mealeyfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Nancy-Ann-Walls?obId=30816018#/obituaryInfo>

In Lieu of Flowers, the family suggests contributions to St. James Episcopal Church in Newport, 2 S. Augustine Street, Newport, DE 19804.



THIS SUNDAY


THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 25, 2024

SUNDAY’S LITURGIES – *Old Testament:* Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; *Psalm:* 22:22-30;
Epistle: Romans 4:13-25; *Gospel:* Mark 8:31-38.

LAY MINISTERS –

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

 **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 *Butch & Betty VanHekle, Penny Wilhelme, Sandy Grim, George Fischbach, Jim Bender, Patti, Penny, & David Edwards, Ann, Carmen Scott, Penny Wilhelme, Diane Geist, Lindsey, Kira, Preston, Cindy, Dave.*

– Pray for those who have died, especially *Nancy-Ann-Walls.*

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Gaelen Nelson, Cassy Temme.

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for the Conway family. Please remember to pray for Danielle, Chris, Nathan & Leila 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 Church of Tanzania.

DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for St. Thomas' Parish, Newark, The Rev. Dr. Howell C. Sasser, Jr., Rector; The Rev. Kevin Clay Brown, Curate; The Rev. Deacon Sheila Brigid Sharpe, Anamchara Fellowship.

2024 STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING ENVELOPES are available if you would like to use them.

PLEDGE CARDS 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)

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.

MEETINGS



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – 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



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 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.

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 :

Download your worries – get on-line with God.

'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!

LENTEN SERIES AT SAINT JAMES



What Does It Mean To Be Chosen?

Join us this Sunday, February 25 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 | | |
| | | | | |
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| | | | | |

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 25 – MARCH 17, 2024

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

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 VanHekle |
| Bill Cole | Peter Huiner and Family | Debbie Papa | Preston VanHekle III |
| Brittany Collins | Kaylee Jackson | Madeline Pepe & Children | Mary Wade |
| Christina Conaway | Jennifer | Pat | Family of Nancy Walls |
| Presiding Bishop | Jenna & John | The Pease Family | Valerie Warrington |
| Michael Curry | Jeremy | Maria Perdikis | Missy Wieland |
| Daisy | Jim | Mike Pierce | Penny Wilhelme |
| Dave Cullen | Joan | John Pumphrey & Family | Andy & Linda Wolf |
| Kate Deal | Joe | The Pat Purdy Family | |

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. 02/23/24