
The Weekly Parish Light

March 9, 2024

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



**Set Your Clocks AHEAD
One Hour Before Bed
On Saturday Night!**

From the Rector – The Rev. Sarah Nelson



We are moving closer and closer to Holy Week, those days that are at the very crux of our faith. From Palm or Passion Sunday throughout the week there are opportunities to walk with our Lord into Jerusalem, to observe the trial and crucifixion, to wait in darkness, and finally to celebrate the joyful resurrection. It is quite a week and even though you and I enjoy the gift of knowing history and knowing that the crucifixion leads to the resurrection, during Holy Week, we are invited to walk with Jesus and to walk with the disciples through these holy days.

This year as we gather to begin this journey, our Passion/Palm Sunday is the week in microcosm. We begin with the waving of palms and the shouting of glad hosannas as we await the arrival of the King of Kings. Our worship then includes the reading of scripture, prayers, and the celebration of the Eucharist. Following this, we will participate in the reading of the Passion of our Lord. We stand at the point when Jesus is crucified. The service concludes in silence. I have asked to include the familiar hymn “Lift High the Cross” in our worship. As you sing this hymn, the words, in my mind, take on a whole new meaning in the context of the Passion. “Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore his sacred name.” The hymn concludes, “...so shall our song of triumph ever be, praise to the Crucified for victory.”

My great mentor in life had a central theme in much of his preaching. That theme was “Easter is only possible following Good Friday.” That is the invitation: to live through the darkness in order that we may behold the great Light. We can only appreciate the Light when we have lived in its absence. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday are days of darkness. We observe this darkness not alone but in the community of believers. Michael Quonset wrote a poem entitled, “It is Dark.” The refrain in the poem reads: “It is dark, Lord. Are you there, Lord? It is dark.” Truly, that is the sentiment in Holy Week. It is dark and we seek the presence of the Divine. I hope that you will mark your calendar for Palm/Passion Sunday, for the Seder on Holy Thursday, for the reading and meditation on the last words of Christ on Good Friday, for the liturgy of waiting on Holy Saturday, and the Great Vigil of Easter on the eve of Holy Saturday.

Holy Week is at the core of our Faith. Come and join our beloved community to observe and walk these days together.

Faithfully, Sarah



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

March 9, 2024

My St. James Friends,

Our opening hymn this Sunday, as well as my prelude, “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” has an interesting story behind its creation. It is a story of overcoming difficulties and redemption. Its writer, Robert Robinson (1736-1790), had a very difficult early life. His father died while he was young. His mother, who was unable to control him, sent him to London to learn how to be a barber. Instead, he learned how to drink, carouse, and enter the gang life!

For some reason, he attended an evangelistic meeting led by one George Whitfield, who preached on sobriety and the wrath to come. Robinson immediately sobered up and decided to enter the ministry. Three years later, at the age of 23, he was serving a Methodist congregation in Norfolk, England. Subsequently, he wrote “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” to accompany one of his sermons for the Sunday of Pentecost. The hymn has become much beloved across all denominations. As we sing it to open our worship this Sunday, immerse yourselves in its wonderful and powerful message. *“Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering to thee. Take my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.”*

Robert Robinson passed away at the young age of 54 in 1790.

I hope to see you and hear you singing boldly Sunday morning!

Blessings,

Dr. Michael Larkin
Director of Music Ministry



THIS SUNDAY
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 10, 2024

SUNDAY'S LITURGIES – *Old Testament*: Numbers 21:4-9; *Psalm*: 107:1-3, 17-22;
Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10; *Gospel*: John 3:14-21.

LAY MINISTERS –

Director of Music Ministry:	Dr. Michael Larkin	Greeter:	Penny Geist
Worship Leader:	Skip Bentley	Usher:	Carol Hall
Old Testament Reader:	Lisa Bowe	Altar Guild:	Janice Fischbach
New Testament Reader:	John Grim	Counters:	Tom Reilly, Dawn Martinez
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 *Linda White, Jessica Absher, Butch & Betty VanHekle, Penny Wilhelme, Sandy Grim, George Fischbach, Jim Bender, Patti, Penny, & David Edwards, Ann, Carmen Scott, Diane Geist, Lindsey, Kira, Preston, Cindy, Dave.*

– Pray for those who have died.

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Richard Scott.

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for the DeMaio family. Please remember to pray for Alex during the service on Sunday and keep him 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 Episcopal Church.

DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for St. Nicholas Church, Newark – The Very Rev. William B. Lane, Pastor.

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.



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: 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>

'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 (April 7th), you will receive all your ornaments that others have recognized your gifts!

LENTEN SERIES AT SAINT JAMES



Join us this Sunday, March 10th, to view the last of our scheduled episodes (7 and 8) after services. Light snacks will be provided; however, all are welcome to bring their own snacks/sandwiches if preferred.

BIRTHDAYS CALENDAR

<p><u>MARCH BIRTHDAYS</u></p> 	<p>5 – Autumn Bender 5 – Samantha Bender 8 – Brian Pennock 9 – Michael Dunnigan 10 – Richard Scott 18 – Janice Fischbach 22 – Aaron Brase-Davis 24 – Maren Nelson 27 – Ron Pierce</p>
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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.**

Altar Easter Flowers – If you would like to place a lily on the altar for Easter, please fill out the inserted form in Sunday’s bulletin OR you may contact the office (302-994-2029). Please return the form **no later than next Sunday, March 17th**. The cost for each plant will be \$14.00. Make your check payable to: **St. James Church, Newport** and include the wording “Easter Lilies” in the memo line of your check.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE LADIES!

Are there any St. James women who would be interested in starting or joining a new Group or Ministry? There have been two activities that have been recently mentioned and want some feedback, please! Look for sheets in the foyer to sign up if you’re interested in either or both! Email Marti LaRue (martilarue828@gmail.com) or Carol Hall (teegunner@aol.com) if you have any questions.

- **Knitting, Crocheting, Quilting Group** – The idea of getting together (perhaps weekly) at church to make hand-made shawls and, upon completion, deliver them to parishioners in the hospital, rehab, or home; other ideas, to make: hats, scarves, etc. Perhaps start soon to knit some hats for Margy’s Tree that we fill up at Christmas time!
- **Ladies Luncheons** – Anyone interested in meeting for lunch once a month? We could pick different restaurants to go to, or just choose one.

Look for sign-up sheets in the foyer. If there is any interest in either, they will start up after Easter.



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.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK :

There is no elevation to success; you have to take the stairs.

CALENDAR – MARCH 10 – MARCH 24, 2024

Sunday, March 10

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS! SPRING AHEAD!

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Viewing of “The Chosen” (Last Scheduled 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

Wednesday, March 20

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. – Lounge

PALM SUNDAY, March 24

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.



Wednesday, March 27

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. – Lounge

Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday

Seder Meal – 5:00 P.M. – Parish Hall, followed by

Service with Stripping of the Altar – 7:00 p.m. (exit in silence)

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). **(Those newly added BOLDED)**

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

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. 03/02/24