
The Weekly Parish Light

March 22, 2024

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

**SEE OUR HOLY WEEK
WORSHIP SCHEDULE
ON PAGE 5**

From the Rector – The Rev. Sarah Nelson



Years ago, my youngest son and I were visiting Mount Vernon, the historic home of our first President, George Washington. My son Maren was fascinated by the Presidents and could and would share all sorts of information and trivia about these men. When our rescue cat unexpectedly had kittens, they were all named for these icons of history: of course, George, but Abe, Franklin, and his favorite, Millard. So on a trip to northern Virginia, Mount Vernon seemed a good place for a visit. As we were touring the house, Maren was just taking it all in ... George Washington sat here. George Washington walked here. George Washington slept here. The docent continued the tour and, in pointing out guest rooms, added, “The Marquis de Lafayette slept in one of these rooms.” Another guest inquired which room was the Marquis’? When the docent was ambiguous, my son piped up offering his wise 9-year-old thoughts: “When the Marquis stayed here, they didn’t know how famous George Washington would be so they didn’t keep track of all those things!”

That is kind of where we are in the life of the church. We know the big picture but we are living the drama out day by day. On Sunday, we know that Jesus entered Jerusalem to meet his destiny. This liturgical year, we read from Mark’s Gospel which gives us his bare-bones account of the happenings. It is tempting to try to figure in our own interpretations of the details. The challenge is to live day to day as the disciples might have, not interpreting the events through the eyes of the resurrection of Easter. Just as the docent didn’t have a recording of the Marquis’ room because at that time they didn’t know of his place in history, Mark’s Gospel is written not knowing the Easter outcome.

On Thursday, we will gather as the disciples did to celebrate the traditional Seder. In the participation in this ancient meal celebrating Israel’s freedom from slavery, it is Jesus who transforms this ordinary meal into the mystery of the Eucharist. Good Friday as well is revered, not as a precursor to God’s magnificent raising Jesus from the dead but, instead, as the darkest of days: the day when the worst that humanity is capable of comes to fruition. Saturday is not a filler but instead a day of darkness and stillness as the disciples and followers take in the reality of a world without the presence of their Lord. It is kindling the new light of Easter that the light of Christ comes into the world. The triumph of God and our very salvation are seen and the darkness is finally lifted.

I hope that you will be able to participate in this most Holy of Weeks – this most holy time where we are invited to walk with Jesus to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, and finally to an empty tomb.

Faithfully,
Sarah



THIS SUNDAY

**THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY
March 24, 2024**


SUNDAY’S LITURGIES – Service begins with the Gospel of Mark 11:1-11
Old Testament: Isaiah 50:4-9a; *Psalm:* 31:9-16;
Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

LAY MINISTERS –

Director of Music Ministry:	Dr. Michael Larkin	Greeter:	
Worship Leader:	George McDowell	Usher:	Andi Bender
Old Testament Reader:	Tom Hutt	Altar Guild:	Carol Hall
New Testament Reader:	Tom Hutt	Counters:	Tom Reilly, Tom Hall
Acolyte:	Denise Jarrell		

Sunday, March 24

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service/Passion of Christ – 10:00 a.m.

 **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, Nazim Washington, Joyce Beattie, Bob LaRue.*

– Pray for those who have died, especially *Ronald Boyce.*

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Maren Nelson, Ron Pierce.

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for the Edwards family. Please pray for Carol and Heather and remember Rick 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.



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.

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 Province of West Africa.

DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and Christian Council.

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 (**NOTE:** No Bible Study meeting on March 27 during Holy Week.)

(MEETINGS cont'd)

MEETINGS (continued)



VESTRY MEETINGS: Vestry meetings are scheduled on the following dates:
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
williams-syndrome.org






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>

BIRTHDAYS CALENDAR

<p><u>MARCH BIRTHDAYS</u></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

HOLY WEEK 2024 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

	<p style="text-align: center;">PALM / PASSION SUNDAY - March 24</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Worship Service</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">MAUNDY THURSDAY - March 28</p> <p>5:00 p.m. - Seder Meal * - Gather in Parish Hall (*See NOTE at bottom of page)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service; Stripping of Altar</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">GOOD FRIDAY - March 29</p> <p>12:00 Noon - Service will be at: St. James Church--Mill Creek 2106 St. James Church Road Wilmington, DE 19808</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">HOLY SATURDAY - March 30</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Worship Service</p> <p>7:00 p.m. - The Great Vigil of Easter</p> <p>8:15 p.m. - Agape Meal** in Parish Hall after The Great Vigil service (**See NOTE at bottom of page)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">EASTER SUNDAY - March 31 ALLELUIA! THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED!</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Easter Service</p>

* **Seder Meal – Sign-Up!** Please look for the sign-up sheet in the lobby for items to bring. We are specifically looking for casseroles, pasta dishes (without pork), tea sandwiches, salads, or other dishes you’d like to bring in to share the meal and help “feed the masses”!

** **Agape Meal – Sign-Up!** Please look for the sign-up sheet in the lobby for items to bring. We are specifically looking for fruits, nuts, sweet breads, wine, water, grapes, soup, etc.

'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.



We need everyone’s help to share OUR special gifts with EACH OTHER a success! It’s giving us the opportunity to let our fellow parishioners (men, women, and children!) know that we recognize and appreciate their gifts!

So ... 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! So please pick up some ornaments over the next few weeks, write a few words, and hang them on the Circle of Gifts!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK :

Focus on the step in front of you....not the whole staircase.

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.

MISCELLANEOUS



Altar Flowers: After Easter, 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.

Altar Easter Flowers – If you haven't paid for the Easter Lilies yet that you ordered, please do so as soon as possible. The cost for each plant is \$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? (Bring your friends & family, too!) 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! Questions? Contact Marti LaRue (martilarue828@gmail.com) or Carol Hall (302-530-8520).

- **Knitting, Crocheting, Quilting Group** – The idea has been mentioned 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 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 and alternate, or just choose one.

Look for sheets in the foyer after Easter. If you're interested in either or both, please sign up!

CONTACT INFORMATION

St. James Episcopal Church
2 S. Augustine Street, Newport
Wilmington, DE 19804 • 302-994-2029

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Know – God *Love – People*
Nurture – One Another Serve – The Community

Rector: **The Rev. Sarah Nelson**
Services: **Sunday – 10:00 a.m.**
E-mail: stjamesnew@verizon.net

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). **(Recently added are BOLDED)**

Abigail	Frank Dean	Joshua John	Reese
Jessica Absher	Diana and Pecan	Sister Julian	Neil Reilly
Alan	Rose Delineation	Carolyn Karney & Family	Aaron Richers
Alethia	Henry Dias	Juanita Kavanaugh	The Roche Family
Alex	John Dior	Kathy	The Family of
Allays	Ross Donovan	Melvin Kessler	Fr. Ruben Rodriguez
Amy	Deborah Earle	Kiara	Roy
Adrienne	Vern Earle	Ritchie Kinlaw	Emily Ruggieri
Anna	Patti Edwards & Family	Kira	Henry Saffer
Anne	Penny Edwards	Sara Kirk	Sally
Christina AWOL	Carol Edwards & Family	Susan Kriznuski	Daniel Sanchez
Tony Andres	Ellie Rose	Bob LaRue	Gabriela Santiago
Sage Andrews	Eli	Marti & Ron LaRue	Mike Scarpetti
Barbara	Eric	Laura	Scott
Scott Battalion	Janice Fischbach	John Lewis	Carmen Scott
Seth Bay less	George Fischbach	Liam	Richard Scott
Joyce Bettie	Mary Ellen	Lilly	The Francis Scott Family
Jim Bender	Kari Fix	Lois	Maria Perdikis
Trisha Bender Bay less	John & Harriet Flynn	Allen Luckey	Mike Pierce
Jeff Nabisco	John	Cindy & Dave Mahoney	Seth
Bobbie Blevins	Joan Frat	Mallory	Linda Sheesley
Eileen Borders	Ginny	Marie Marcinkowski	The Slocomb Family
Barry Boulder	Diane Geist	The Martinez Family	Earlene Smith
Paula Boulder	Fred Geist	Mary Helen	Dan Sommers
Myrtle Owe	Keri Family: Adam,	Jude Matejkovic	Kenny Stafford
Doris Brown	Lindsey, & Oliver	Melvin	Dorothy Stephens
Charles Brown	Glenn	Missy	Steve
Eleanor Buchanan	The Gracie Family	Carmen Moore	Gavin Stiteler
Crystal Bush	Brittney Griffin	Shirley Moore	The Family of
Douglas Bush	Sandy Grim	Ann Moses	Paula Szczuka
David Butters	Scott Gunn	Jay Muckle	The Sotkiewicz Family:
Fran Perelman-Butters	Carolyn Halfen	Randy Murray	Joanna, Michael,
Cameron	Tom & Carol Hall	Sara Musselman	Hannah, Charles
Carole en	Ike Hammond	Natalie	In Thanksgiving for the
Carolyn	Lindsey Hammond	Maren Nelson	Birth of Maxwell
Haymaker Castro	Amy & Rick Harra	The Rev. Sarah Nelson	Thomas
Cathy	Major Scott M. Harra	Sue Nelson	Lorayne Titter
Wayne Chapman, Jr.	Rick Harvey	Nicholas	Jack Tucker
Chris	Nancy Hoffman	Noah	Shon Tucker
Cindy	Travis Hoffman	Cassandra Norsworthy	Tyler
The Cl app Family	Holly	Paula Orty	Jack
Linda Clark	Eileen Hughes	Mark Parton	Butch & Betty VanHekle
Clint	Peter Huiner and Family	Terri Parton	Preston VanHekle III
Bill Cole	Kaylee Jackson	Debbie Papa	Mary Wade
Brittany Collins	Jennifer	Madeline Pepe & Children	Family of Nancy Walls
Christina Conway	Jenna & John	Pat	Valerie Warrington
Presiding Bishop	Jeremy	The Pease Family	Nazim Washington
Michael Curry	Jim	Maria Perdikis	Linda White
Daisy	Joan	Mike Pierce	Missy Wieland
Dave Cullen	Joe	John Pumphrey & Family	Penny Wilhelme
Kate Deal		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. 03/22/24