

# From St. James' With Love

Corner of Lake and Main  
P.O. Box 249 Hammondsport, New York 14840  
July-August 2020 Newsletter

*St James Vision Statement:* God asks us to make His love visible in our lives and community. . . . let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:18)

## From the Rector's Corner

*The Lord will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure. Listen! the valiant cry in the streets; the envoys of peace weep bitterly. The highways are deserted, travelers have quit the road. The treaty is broken, its oaths are despised, its obligation is disregarded.*

*Isaiah 33:6-8*

Tired of this? Discouraged? Grieving? Ready to bolt, to escape, to wrest control from whoever is making those decisions? Just want to get back to "normal"? Sick of the rhetoric? Division? Protesters? And the list could go on and on and on. You know folks, I am usually upbeat and encouraging in this message to the people of St James. And if you hold on; if you can hang in there; if you are ready to say "uncle" and submit yourself to the One who is actually in control, we *will* see the light.

Throughout the long history of the Bible we witness the people of God struggling, under oppression and violence, exiled, lamenting, witnessing death, mourning. And through it all there always remains the one constant. Trust in the Lord. Turn to the Lord. Here is just a sampling of the many ways God has said to us, "I'm right here."

- Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." Deut 31:6
- For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you." Isaiah 41:13
- For the LORD will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage. Ps 91:14
- Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Jos 1:9
- The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Ps 27:1
- Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." Heb 13:5-6

How do we, feeble and frightened, or powerful and angry, let go and turn to the Lord? How do we listen for His word, His direction, His hope, His guidance, His way? For the last One hundred and five days I have emailed you a prayer every morning. Every Sunday we gather and hear the stories and affirm our faith. Every evening we gather to say our night prayers and remind ourselves to let go of the fear, envy, anger, resentments, greed, pride, lust, gluttony, and sloth and accept God's forgiveness; we say our prayers and remember His desire to watch over us and protect us.

When will *this* end, whatever "this" is in your life? Only God knows. In the meantime I leave you with Jesus' words: "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*" Jn 14:27

Peace,  
Lynne+

### **When will we Regather?**

Provided all goes well, we hope to Regather at St James on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00. We are striving to find a way other than recording the audio and putting it on Facebook for you to participate. The Vestry has submitted a plan to the Diocese, and there are many precautions that will be in place when we gather. You will receive an email/letter outlining the changes and how we will proceed. The reality, for now, is that we will be seated every other pew, only 2 individuals (or one family) per pew, and you will be seated row by row as you come in. There will be hand sanitizer, masks (in case you forget yours), and gloves (only if you wish to use gloves and forget yours) at the door. We will enter through the main doors and exit through the Sacristy, unless you need to use the Tower door. We can seat about thirty in the Sanctuary and twenty-two in the Parish Hall. [Please remember: The CDC cautions anyone over 65 or with a health concern from attending indoor events at this time.] We will continue with Morning Prayer and without Eucharist. You will be invited to bring the worship materials with you and to bring them back home for disposal. We will not be singing, nor sharing the peace, nor having Coffee Hour. For how long you ask? Only God knows for sure. Questions? Contact Rev Lynne.

### **Community Vacation Bible School**

The decision has been made for VBS to take a year of rest. Although we enjoy seeing the children and youth, and appreciate the adult workers, and love sharing the stories of our faith, we have made the decision to resume VBS in the summer of 2021.

### **Mission Committee**

Where do the funds come from? Thirty percent of the profits from dinners goes to Mission. The Sunday School piggy bank donates to the Mission Committee. Some people make direct donations to the Mission Fund. As you can imagine, since January the Mission Committee has not gotten money from the fundraising Smorgasbord Dinner, or the Community Bake / Craft / White Elephant sale, and will not raise money during the Hammondsport events which have been cancelled by the Village. We are living in tough financial times for everyone. If you are so moved, you may make a donation to the Mission Committee by designating "Mission Committee" in the Memo line of your check.

### **Technology now and in the future**

We have been blessed at St James with the means to record the Service and to put the recording on the Facebook page (search for St James 14840). Since mid-March 2020 we have been utilizing Zoom, where parishioners can gather together each Sunday by computer/iPad/tablet/phone or dial in to the Service. The Vestry is exploring ways we can stay connected in the future for the weekly Service, Bible Study, Vestry meetings etc. We hope to find a way for people who are homebound, or out-of-town, or who are more comfortable at a distance to continue to participate in a meaningful way.

### **Compline at 8:00 p.m.**

Every evening a small group of faithful St James parishioners and sometimes visitors across the US join together for this brief (10-12 minute) service of night prayer. Feel free to join us every evening as a way to gather, unwind, and reconnect with God before you sleep. Email Rev Lynne for the Zoom link and worship materials.

## Bible Study

The Monday Bible Study group have been going through the Psalms, typically three per week, will conclude on Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> with Psalms 49 and 50. We will resume in September. You don't need any prior knowledge of Scripture to join in and learn more about these powerful messages of hope, lament, frustration and joy.

### Prayer during suspended animation

Every day Rev Lynne posts a prayer or poem from our rich heritage by email and to the St James Facebook page, usually with a local or regional photo to accompany the prayer. Maybe you have other ways that you stay connected with prayer and Scripture during this time of suspended animation? Feel free to share your prayer practices or favorite prayer with Rev Lynne via email rectorstjames14840@gmail and we will share these resources.

*Upcoming Events: Bishop's Visitation on Sunday, September 13th*

### Prayer List

Darlene and John, Tammy, Peggy and George, Bob, Jackie, Jen, Jim L, Brian, Dan, Ellen, Marietta and Jim, baby Aliza and family, Paige and Michael, Michael S., Tony, Steven, Alicia, Jennifer and family, Doug, Tammy S., Jerry, Phil, Wendell, James, John, Amy, Lindsey, Hollie, Shawn, Curt, Jean F., Muriel, Charlie, Raymond, Rene, Heather, Eva, the Food Pantry, students and teachers, first responders, those suffering from addiction, and those in the military, and those who mourn.

### July Lay Ministers' Schedule - August TBD

| Date    | Chalice       | Acolyte | Readers                       | Ushers | Sunday School |
|---------|---------------|---------|-------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| July 5  | L. Nicliporuk |         | S. Pulver<br>M. White         |        |               |
| July 12 | M. White      |         | K. Derr<br>K. Packard         |        |               |
| July 19 | N. Forenz     |         | A. Edmister<br>B. L. Graulich |        |               |
| July 26 | C. Skinner    |         | M. White<br>S. Pulver         |        |               |

