

# From St. James' With Love

Corner of Lake and Main  
P.O. Box 249 Hammondsport, New York 14840

**May-June 2021**

*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 himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deut 31:8)*

Well, we're back in Church. Sort of. Sometimes. It has been quite a journey over the last year and I'm guessing a few of us have grown weary. Or frustrated. Or lonely. Or wanted to throw in the towel. Or just make our own path through the desert of uncertainty. I understand that all too well. And yes, we're back, while on Zoom, and that has created some \*interesting\* situations as well. Not so \*interesting\* if you are the one trying to see, or hear, or speak and can't. And yes, wearing the mask is uncomfortable. Not sitting in "my" pew is uncomfortable.

But oh, what joy to put all that aside for a moment and take a look at the bigger picture. You see, that's what I have found in life. I tend to go down a rabbit hole and my vision and perspective get narrower and narrower. My ability to tolerate ambiguity darkens. I forget to take a deep breath, or any breath at all. All I can perceive is the taste of dirt in my mouth, eyes filled with grit blocking my vision, and no end in sight. But to take that breath, look up, and rejoice in the blessings of this Easter season brings me to life. Jesus lives! The stone was rolled away, and the tomb is empty! He is with us, even when we are locked in fear along with the disciples in the Upper Room. Regardless of where we are, Jesus enters in, proclaims "Peace be with you," and then breathes the Holy Spirit upon us. Daylight dawns and joy leaps in.

Every single time in my life when I've started on a journey of the unknown I begin with excitement, and then as the journey continues fear and doubt creep in. I start listening to voices that are not of God. I start believing or trusting in things that seems to bring me a sense of control, but aren't always helpful. And somewhere along the way I want to give in to the temptation to walk away or turn back.

But the grace is in the journey – and God is not behind us, but ahead of us. Jesus the Good Shepherd is leading, guiding, nurturing, feeding, and laying down his life for us. Trusting in Him. Turning to Him. Listening to Him is where I find life; a life full of abundance and joy.

Won't you join me in this Easter journey and step out in faith?

Alleluia! Christ is Risen,  
Lynne +

## **The Congregation of St. James**

On Easter Sunday I read the Gospel for the last time at St. James, This was a difficult decision for me as I have served nearly every Sunday on the Altar since I was ordained in 1997. With rare exceptions due to vacations and now the covid situation I considered this as an offering and an honor to serve. Having developed Parkinson's in 2005 and forced to retire in 2009 I felt that I was finished with serving on the Altar. Thanks to the grace afforded to me by Rev. Sandy, Rev. Lynn and the congregation of St. James my service has continued. Unfortunately my Parkinson's has progressed to the degree that I am no longer stable in my movements and my

speech is difficult to understand. For these reasons I have asked that I be excused from serving on the Altar and reading the Gospel. Again I wish to thank the congregation of St. James for your gifts of love, grace, and understanding.

Your Servant in Christ.

Rev. Gary M. Edmister

### **Ch-ch-ch-changes**

We have all experienced so many changes to our daily schedule and lifestyle over the past year, and we are delighted that St James has also been able to bring about some positive change as well. We are transitioning from Zoom back to blended virtually and live Services, sometimes with grace, and more often with some bumps along the way. The Vestry continues to discuss how best to make the Service accessible to everyone.

While away from the building a new smoke and fire detection system was installed and is being monitored 24-7. We also now have a keyless lock system. If you need a code, you also need to have completed the Safe Church training, and Nick can help you to get in. Our old refrigerator was creaky and squeaky and finally groaned its last this winter. We are delighted to have a new refrigerator.

Our cleaning crew has kept the facility clean and safe for those of us who work in the building, and surprisingly we generate a lot of dust even when the building is empty. There is a silent crew keeping everything in working order, and, in deep cleaning, changing bulbs, maintaining the grounds and the facility. Our deepest thanks and gratitude to all.

Some of our trees and shrubs did not make it through the too hot and dry summer followed by an Arctic winter, so a crew is busy landscaping and planting new growth. Again, thank you to those hard workers.

We couldn't bring Food Pantry items, socks, school supplies, cleaning products, gift baskets, etc to church with us - and yet we have a record number of donations to our community this year. Thank you to the great network of people who came up with creative ways to gather our resources and disburse them to our community.

Now that we are back and blending, the Service is still a bit different, and yet we hope you still feel that same welcome, love, and presence of God when we join together in community and prayer. Some things, gratefully, will never change, and the Spirit of God is strong at St James. Alleluia!

### **Rogation Procession**

formerly known as "Beating the Bounds"

**Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.**

Beating the Bounds is a tradition more than 1500 years old. The word rogation comes from the Latin rogatio which means "asking." Last year we Zoomed around the Village reading Scripture and offering prayers for people, government, schools, agriculture, water, etc. This year we will begin at the School and walk/drive to the Square, down to the Head of the Lake, and end at St James. You are all invited to participate by walking and/or driving along, or you can receive a copy of the Service and pray for the Village in your own time from home. This is an opportunity to pray for the welfare of our community.

## **Thy Kingdom Come**

**Ascension Day through Pentecost (May 13-23)**

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby. Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer initiative started by the Anglican Church and Pete Grieg (Red Moon Rising) in May 2016 and last year had Christians from 172 countries and 65 denominations praying "Thy Kingdom Come."

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbors and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

We are invited to "Light up the World in Prayer." Jesus Christ is the light of the world and we are called to be the light of the world as we bear His image. Please take a look at the website that has videos, resources for families, and worldwide events. Will you play your part, as we pray for the light of Christ to penetrate the darkness across the globe? To see all the resources visit:<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

## **Village Wide Yard Sale**

**St James Bake Craft and White Elephant Sale**

**(potentially Friday, June 4) and Saturday, June 5th times TBD**

The Vestry will decide mid-May if we will host one or two days, inside or outside, and the hours for us to participate in this year's Village Wide Yard Sale at St James. We KNOW we will be asking for individually wrapped baked goods, and craft items, and are thinking of having a table or two of gently used White Elephant (non clothing), items. Joan Rogerson is willing to coordinating this event and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. In the meantime, we invite you to clear your closets and basements of potential treasure, and dust off your crafty skills, and start baking! And please, let us know if you have a tent or canopy we can use on the day as we expect we will be outside. Also let Joan know if you are willing and able to help work at the sale and with set-up and clean up.

## **VBS Trek Back in Time – Wilderness Escape**

**June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:15**

"Join us at Wilderness Escape VBS, where we'll explore what life was like for the ancient Israelites. They've escaped captivity in Egypt . . . but now what? You'll craft cool projects in the Israelite Camp, race through the wilderness as you play games, visit with Moses, and eat some interesting new food. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends." VBS this year will include the usual adventures, stories, activities, music, snacks and lunch for children kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade! Youth are encouraged to volunteer and gain important leadership skills as they also build their faith. More information to

come about volunteer opportunities and training, as well as how to register your children and grandchildren.

### **Baccalaureate Service for Seniors**

**Date TBD (tentatively) Friday June 18th or Monday June 21<sup>st</sup>**

St James will host the Baccalaureate Service this year and the final date and time will be determined after we meet with students and staff. Last year we met in the Fire Hall Parking lot and offered ready-made ice cream to go . . . this year we can hopefully gather in the Sanctuary, and at the least offer ice cream cones/sandwiches, sorbetto (lactose & gluten-free) on the lawn for the youth and families. It is an exciting time to offer the graduating seniors an acknowledgment of their achievements and a sending out into the world with God's blessing.

### **Looking Ahead: Bishop's Visitation**

**St James Day, Sunday, July 25th**

We will have our yearly Visitation on Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup> this year. Let Rev Lynne know if you or someone you know is considering Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation. We will plan a luncheon or get-together to follow the service: hopefully including our yearly (respectful) burning of worn-out flags and Bibles. More information to follow.

### **Prayer List**

Gail, Kimberly J, Don M, Jim L, Ray, Amanda and Billy, Bob R., Bonnie, Carson, Anne, Laura, Ashlyn, Betty, Jerry, Julie and Ben, Cheryl, Gene, Brian, Sheryl, Aliza Jane and family, Douglas, Richard, Kathy, Lindsey, Tammy S., John, Muriel, Heather, Andy, Jim and Marietta, Pam, Colleen, Steve, the Food Pantry, students and teachers, first responders, those suffering from addiction, those in the military, and those who mourn.

### **Upcoming Dates**

~ ~ we continue to pray Compline every night at 8:00 on Zoom ~ ~

**May 3rd-9th** Rector on Vacation – no Bible Study this week

**Mon May 10th** – Bible Study at 4:00 on Zoom

**Wed May 12th** – Women's Bible Study at 10:00 on Zoom

5:30 Rogation Procession starting at the School – all are welcome to attend

7:00 Vestry Meeting

**Thur May 13th** – Ascension Day

**May 13th- 23rd** – Thy Kingdom Come – see story above

**Mon May 17th** – Bible Study at 4:00 on Zoom

**Wed May 19th** – Women's Bible Study at 10:00 on Zoom

**Sun May 23rd**– Pentecost – **wear RED!**

**Mon, May 24th**– Bible Study at 4:00 on Zoom

**Wed, May 26th**– Women's Bible Study at 10:00 on Zoom

**Mon, May 31st** – Memorial Day – the Office is closed and no Bible Study

**Wed, June 2nd** – Women's Bible Study at 10:00 on Zoom

**(Fri June 4th) Sat Jun 5th** – Village Wide Yard Sale and Bake-Craft-White Elephant Sale at St James

**Mon, June 7th** – Bible Study at 4:00 on Zoom

**Wed, June 9th** – Women's Bible Study at 10:00

**Fri June 18th or Mon June 21st** – Baccalaureate Service at St James (date and time TBD)

**June 28th – July 3rd** – VBS Trek Back in Time – Wilderness Escape

**Sun, July 25th** – St James Day and Bishop's Visitation

### May 2021 Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
<b>May 2</b>	<b>L. Nichiporuk</b>		<b>D. Barney</b>	<b>N. Folts M. Dowdle</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>J. Grillo</b>		<b>S. Young</b>	<b>N. Folts M. Dowdle</b>
<b>May 16</b>	<b>M. White</b>		<b>K. Packard</b>	<b>N. Folts M. Dowdle</b>
<b>May 23</b>	<b>N. Forenz</b>		<b>A. Edmister</b>	<b>N. Folts M. Dowdle</b>
<b>May 30</b>	<b>C. Skinner</b>		<b>L. Graulich</b>	<b>N. Folts M. Dowdle</b>

### June 2021 Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
<b>June 6</b>	<b>L. Nichiporuk</b>		<b>R. Little</b>	
<b>June 13</b>	<b>J. Grillo</b>		<b>D. Barney</b>	
<b>June 20</b>	<b>M. White</b>		<b>S. Young</b>	
<b>June 27</b>	<b>N. Forenz</b>		<b>K. Packard</b>	