

From St. James' with Love

Corner of Lake and Main
P.O. Box 249
Hammondsport, New York
607-569-2647
March-April 2016

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

*Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free.
Psalm 118:5*

As I ponder this mid-Lenten season, and consider what is happening in our country as we gear up for the Presidential election, and contemplate the many troubled areas of the world, the word that keeps coming to me is "freedom." Freedom is on the news, we dream of being free, we teach, advocate and hope for freedom in our daily lives, and for our children.

So what does freedom mean, and how do we achieve and sustain freedom? Well, that depends on who you ask. We can view freedom politically, and look at some of our Rights. We have the freedom to vote, and freedom of speech. Some of us think of financial freedom, or the dream to have financial freedom. We want freedom in our lifestyles and freedom with our leisure time. Children want the freedom to run and play, to make independent choices, and to grow up in a safe and loving environment.

I think of freedom in two ways: freedom *to*, and freedom *from*. We have the freedom to live our lives in the abundance of God's love, and we have freedom from oppression, hatred, and greed. During this season of Lent I believe that all freedom begins in our hearts, and in following Jesus Christ. Over and over again in the Scriptures we are given examples of how God sets the people free. Freedom from the oppression of Pharaoh, freedom to live in safety in the Promised Land, and the freedom in following the Law. In Christ we are promised even more, "But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:22-23)

But some of us are not free: imprisoned, enslaved, trapped by our own thoughts and behaviors. We give up our freedom to sin, greed, envy, jealousy, pride, and the many other ways we live for ourselves. We might lose our freedom to pain, suffering, debt, and other situations that may seem beyond our control. This loss of freedom, this bondage of our lives and our will, lead to a dullness of spirit and deadness in our hearts. We lose the ability to see a way out of our situation. Yet in all of this we are reminded, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31b-32)

How do we do that? By turning to Jesus Christ: dwelling in the Word and Scripture, reaching out in prayer, admitting that we have fallen short and are in need of help to stand. In other words, it means acknowledging where we have strayed off the path and the desire to reconnect to God's love and forgiveness. When we make room in our hearts and our lives to see the wonder of God's saving acts and deeds, we also receive God's love, mercy, and grace. Easter becomes so much sweeter when we arrive free from all that has enslaved us.

May you observe a Holy Lent,
Lynne +

We observe Lent in a variety of ways at St James and we invite you to give one or two of these weekday practices a try as you live into this holy season.

Monday Bible Study

Bible Study at 4:00 in the Parish Hall, where we are reading through the Minor Prophets. All are welcome to join as we read through the text and then have a time of thoughts, questions, and discussions around the Scripture.

Wednesday Noonday service with Lunch

Mar 2nd at St James –Deacon Dave LaFortune of St Gabriel's speaking

Mar 9th at St Gabriel's – Paul Rowley Hammondsport UMC speaking

Mar 16th at Hammondsport UMC – Nate Cooper North Urbana Chapel speaking

Wednesdays at 6:00 Lenten Study

Lent for Everyone: Luke, Year C by N. T. Wright contains daily readings from Ash Wednesday through Easter Saturday. Throughout Lent we will read through the Gospel of Luke, and on Wednesday evenings engage in lively discussions. All are welcome to attend the discussions.

Each day I invite you to take notes as you read and reflect and bring them to our discussions.

- How did you make time to read and reflect this week?
- What was your favorite story this week?
- What story or reflection challenged you to stretch or grow in your faith?
- Where did you want to linger just a bit longer?

Thursdays

Thursdays at 12:00 we celebrate the Holy Eucharist with an opportunity for Anointing. During the church year we learn about the Holy Women and Holy Men of faith. During Lent we focus on the Scripture and how it informs our Lenten practices and our daily lives.

Holy Week and Beyond

Sunday, March 20th at 9:00 The Sunday of Passion: Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday, March 24th at 7:00 we will observe the solemn service of Maundy Thursday with reading of Scripture, foot washing, Communion, and the Stripping of the Altar, ending the service in silence and darkness.

Good Friday, March 25th at 11:00 Reading of the Passion Gospel, The Solemn Collects, and the administration of the Reserved Sacrament.

EASTER MORNING Sunday, March 27th - at 6:30 Sunrise Service at the Head of the Lake
EASTER MORNING Sunday, March 27th-St. James Festal Eucharist

Prayer List

Tom	Patsy	Bill	Ruth
Rae	Bill	Kristin	Tom D.
Teresa	Stephanie	Nancy	Tom & Betty
Douglas	Tom N.	Tom M.	Joe
Chip	Monica & Tony	Ted & Sue	Adrienne
Eva Marie	Susan M.	Robert G.	Daniel E.
James R.	Sandra B.	Brayer Family	Schoeffler Family
Howard Family	Bob S.	Bonnie S.	Muriel C.

Those serving in the military, especially Tony, Zach, Vance, Merle, Scott, and Jeffrey. Those suffering from addiction.

Come to Game Night on March 12th 5:30-8:00

Are you sick of watching TV? Have you watched as many DVDs and Netflix Movies as you can stomach for a while? Are you looking for something different and fun? How long has it been since you played a game that did not come on a computer or Play Station??? Game Night at St. James is something the whole family can participate in. We have board games and other non computer games for a whole range of ages—from CandyLand to Clue to Uno and many more too numerous to list. We will provide the pizza, soda, and cookies plus the games! You only have to bring yourselves and any other people you know who would enjoy this type of old fashioned fun. The first one we held was on January 30th and was well attended and fun. Thank you to all who arranged that one and thank you in advance to the people who are arranging this one. Come, bring your family, bring your friends, bring your neighbors—a good time will be had by all!

St James Smorgasbord Dinner Saturday, May 7th from 4:00 to 6:00

Mark your calendars now and keep your eyes open for more information and the opportunity to volunteer, or to have one of the best dinners you have ever had with family and friends!

Facebook Page

In case you haven't noticed St James has a Facebook page known as St James Hammondsport. "Like" us to see the latest pictures and reminders of upcoming events. We continue to maintain the webpage that also has photos as well as newsletters, history, calendar, etc.

Brookdale

Several of us go to Brookdale (formerly Emeritus House) to visit Ruth Clarke and other friends, and to hold a monthly Service with music and reserved Sacrament. The residents are delighted to listen or sing along with favorite hymns, and help by reading the readings. Please join us if you can on Thursday, March 24th, and Thursday, April 28th at 2:30.

Publicity Volunteer or Evangelism?

We are looking for someone to help us get the word out, and keep the word out about the great things we are doing at St James. Tom's great at keeping the webpage up to date, when he is informed of the many happenings. Rev Lynne tries to keep the Facebook page up to date. Nancy is great about advertising the Suppers and Bazaar. What we have noticed is that we sometimes forget to advertise events through the radio Community Calendar and by putting out the signboard: such as the Apple Pie Sale, the Christmas Sing-a-Long, and the Christmas Eve service. Are you someone who might enjoy helping us getting the word out? Contact Rev Lynne if you would like more information.

Holy Land Pilgrimage April 30 - May 12th 2017

Rev. Lynne Sharp and the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester present an exceptional opportunity to join in a pilgrimage to the Land of the Holy One, visiting the places of the birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, as well as Jewish and Muslim holy sites, and a fascinating and informative encounter with the present-day cultures and challenges of Israel-Palestine. Pray the scriptures where key biblical events are commemorated: Nazareth, Bethlehem, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Jericho, the Dead Sea, and Jerusalem. Contact Rev Lynne for more information, or join us for an Informational Gathering on Saturday, March 12th at 10:00 at St Michael's in Geneseo.

Funeral Planning

Funeral planning is a topic that most people avoid at all costs, understandably. If you have already made plans, and have a copy available, could you make sure to send it to the church office so we can have it on file in case the need arises. If you would like more information on how to plan your service, or the service for someone you love, contact Rev Lynne and we can get you more information. If you would like to meet to talk through what this means, and if you might want to plan at some point in the future, contact Rev Lynne at 607.569.2647 or email at rectorstjames14840@gmail.com.

Children

Hear the Scriptures, say some prayers, sing or song or join in an activity, then join your family for Communion. Join us downstairs every Sunday morning, week in and week out, for Sunday School.

The Hammondsport Youth Group meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday from 3:30-5:00

All youth in 7th through 12th grade are welcome to join us at the Methodist Church for the Hammondsport youth group. Each time we meet we enjoy some good snacks, play a few games, learn a few new names, sing some songs, and hear an inspirational message. See Karen if you would like to help with snacks, or come by to give some of your time to the youth of St James and the Hammondsport Community.

Upcoming Dates

- *Lenten Series* – Wednesday, March 2nd Noonday Service at St James (lunch to follow)
 - *Lenten Study* – 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall (see above for more info)
- *Hammondsport Youth Group* – March 6th at the Methodist Church 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- *South East District Meeting* – Monday, March 7th at St Mark's Penn Yan
- *Lenten Series* – Wednesday, March 9th Noonday Service at St Gabriel's (lunch to follow)
 - *Lenten Study* – 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall (see above for more info)

- *Vestry Meeting* – Wednesday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m.
- *Holy Land Informational Meeting* – Saturday, March 12th at 10:00 St Michael’s Geneseo
- *Book Group* – Monday, March 14th at 6:00 reading the 5th Chapter of Anam Cara
- *Lenten Series* – Wednesday, March 16th Noonday Service at Methodist Church
 - *Lenten Study* – 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall (see above for more info)
- *Women’s Breakfast* – March 17th at Chat-a-Whyle in Bath
- *Hammondsport Youth Group* – March 20th at the Methodist Church 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- *Brookdale* – Thursday, March 24th at 2:30
- *Maundy Thursday* – Thursday, March 24th at 7:00 p.m.
- *Good Friday* – Friday, March 25th – Eucharist with Reserved Sacrament at 11:00
 - *Ecumenical Stations of the Cross* at 12:00
- *Rector on Vacation* – Tuesday, March 29th through Thursday, March 31st
- *Hammondsport Youth Group* – Sunday, April 3rd at the Methodist Church 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- *Vestry Meeting* – Wednesday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m.
- *Hammondsport Youth Group* – 17th at the Methodist Church 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- *Women’s Breakfast* – April 21st at Kosy Korner in Bradford
- *Brookdale* – April 28th at 2:30
- *Hammondsport Youth Group* – May 1st at the Methodist Church 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

LAY MINISTER’S SCHEDULE

DATE	CHALICE	ACOLYTE	READERS	USHERS	SUNDAY SCHOOL
March 6	C. Skinner	J. Grillo	A. Edmister S. Pulver	N. Forenz P. Forenz	D. Noteware
March 13	J. Grillo	C. VanHouten	W. Torp C. VanHouten	R. Battaglia C. Battaglia	M. White
March 20 Palm Sunday	C. VanHouten	M. White	C. Ahern G. Palmer	J. Grillo L. Grillo	E. Kowulich-Covel
March 24 Maundy Thursday	M. White				
March 25 Good Friday	N. Forenz				
March 27 EASTER	J. Grillo	C. Skinner	L. Graulich M. Piersons	J. Piersons M. Piersons	K. Derr
April 3	C. Skinner	J. Grillo	M. White S. Pulver	N. Forenz P. Forenz	D. Barney
April 10	C. VanHouten	L. Nichiporuk	W. Torp K. Packard	R. Battaglia C. Battaglia	J. Rogerson
April 17	L. Nichiporuk	C. VanHouten	C. Ahern G. Palmer	J. Grillo L. Grillo	L. Nichiporuk
April 24	J. Grillo	M. White	M. Pierson C. VanHouten	J. Piersons M. Piersons	J. Derr

