



From St. James' With Love

February 2024



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)

Rowan's Cup

Rowan's Cup is more than a simple container. In the solitude of my meditations, it becomes my teacher and facilitator of wisdom. Whispering truths of an indwelling God.

A God who is always searching the hollow caverns of my soul, drawing my true self into his loving arms, revealing my hidden abilities and pouring out my abundant life before me.

As I look deep within Rowan's beautiful ceramic cup, I see a reflection of myself and feel God's presence magnifying the sacred space within me. He is inviting me to taste his love and quench my spiritual thirst and to know that all is well. This morning my meditation has moved my restless soul from anxiety to peace. Prayer is a wonderful Gift.

Love,

Craig+

Prayer List

Gail O, Charlie D, Linda G, Jim G, Luke A, Evelyn A, Kimberly J, Nancy S, Midge, Ray K, Tony, Kathy, Jan L, Laverne and Patsy, Patty F, Betty K, Ashlyn, Rachael D, Rebecca H, Alicia, Lindsey, Jon L, Ami C, Raymond S, Winnie, Brian, Elizabeth, Randy, Rick, Cooper, Edda, Michelle R, John R, John P, David R, Jen, Heidi B, Doug, Brianna, Tim, Carol B, Karen, Dan, Carter W, Rev. Gary, Charlie D, those who mourn, students and teachers, 1st responders, the Food Pantry, those suffering from addiction, those in the military, St. James Vestry



**12:00 Ecumenical Services
followed by fellowship and luncheon.**

| <u>Service Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Preacher</u> |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| February 21st | St. James Episcopal Church Hammondsport NY | Fr. Craig |
| February 28 th | Methodist Church Hammondsport NY | Rev. Barre |
| March 6 th | Methodist Church Mitchellville NY | Fr. Craig |
| March 13 th | Methodist Church Hammondsport NY | Rev. Grace |
| March 20 th | St. James Episcopal Church Hammondsport NY | Rev. Barre |



February Lay Schedule

| Date | Chalice | Acolyte | Reader | Ushers |
|---|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 02/4 | Nick Forenz | Jim Grillo | Rich Little | Donella Barney Nancy Folts |
| 02/11 | Jim Grillo | Leah Nichiporuk | Linda Hacker | Marietta Piersons Jim Piersons |
| 02/14 Ash Wed. 6:00 p.m. | Karen Derr | Jim Grillo | Stella Pulver | Linda Grillo Marilyn Dowdle |
| 2/18 | Nick Forenz | Karen Derr | Audrey Edmister | Linda Hacker Jim Derr |
| 2/21 NOON 1st Lenton Svc | | Jim Grillo | Linda Hacker | |
| 2/25 | Jim Grillo | Nick Forenz | Luanne Graulich | Charlie & Janetmarie Skinner |



February Readings

| Date | First Reading | Psalm | Second Reading |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 02/04 | Isaiah 40:21-31 | Ps. 147: 1-12, 21c | I Cor. 9:16-23 |
| 02/11 | 2 Kings 2:1-12 | Ps. 50: 1-6 | 2 Cor. 4:3-6 |
| 02/14 Ash Weds 6pm. | Isaiah 58: 1-12 | Ps 103: 8-14 | 2 Cor: 5:20b-6-10 |
| 02/18 | Genesis 9:8-17 | Ps. 25:1-9 | 1 Peter 3:18-22 |
| 02/25 | Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16 | Ps. 22:22-30 | Mark 8:31-38 |

materialism (noun)

tendency to think material objects are more important than people; desire for money over ethics

From the Book Hazelden Daily Meditations for counselors

We live in a materialistic society. Every day we are bombarded by the hype of commercial advertising which drives our economy. The message that we get is this: unless we can have what's being advertised, as soon as possible, we won't be happy.

It takes discipline to quiet ourselves amidst the frenzied din of the marketplace and listen to the still, small voice within us.

The message we hear then is that the most precious commodities are patience, love, and hope. None of these can be bought. They are free gifts, available to everyone who takes the time to humble themselves and ask for them.

Today I choose to find a quiet place and listen to the voice of God.

January 25th

**Picture from the athlete's dinner
sponsored by St. James Church**

We served 80 teens!



**Thank You to Everyone
Who made the athletes, dinner possible**

Mission Committee

- \$500 to a family who lost their home in a Christmas night fire
- \$500 to World Central Kitchen for food in Ukraine
- \$500 to Samaritan's Purse for Israel/Gaza

- Safe house needs: Sweat suits and hygiene needs

- New Ideas presented:
 - Donate money to Park Pharmacy to help with co-pays for those needing financial assistance. (Pilot program in progress)
 - Consider buying a persons hospital debt (cost is a small percentage of the total debt)
 - St. James collaborate with Community Services to assist with local needs.



Thank You St. James for all Your Support!!

You Make a difference



End of Year Report

Easter: 45 Ham and food bags
4th of July: 44 Picnic meals
Thanksgiving: 54 Thanksgiving meals
Christmas: 65 Food Boxes & 120 Hport Market certif.
55 School families

- ❖ 120 Christmas boxes were packed this year with the help of Hammondsport students
- ❖ In January we instituted a home delivery system to residents in the senior housing in Hammondsport.

From Lesser Feasts and Fasts

On February 13th we honor Rev. Absalom Jones



Absalom Jones was born a house slave in 1746 in Delaware. He taught himself to read out of the New Testament, among other books. When sixteen, he was sold into slavery to an owner in Philadelphia. There he attended a night school for Blacks, operated by Quakers. At twenty he married another slave and purchased her freedom with his earnings.

Jones bought his own freedom in 1784. At St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, he served as lay minister for its Black membership. Jones and Richard Allen greatly increased Black membership at St. George's. The alarmed vestry decided to segregate Blacks into an upstairs gallery, without notifying them. During the Sunday service when the ushers attempted to remove them, the Blacks indignantly walked out in a body.

He was an earnest preacher who denounced slavery. To him, God was the Father who always acted on "behalf of the oppressed and distressed." It was his mild manner that made him beloved by everyone.

Let us Pray:

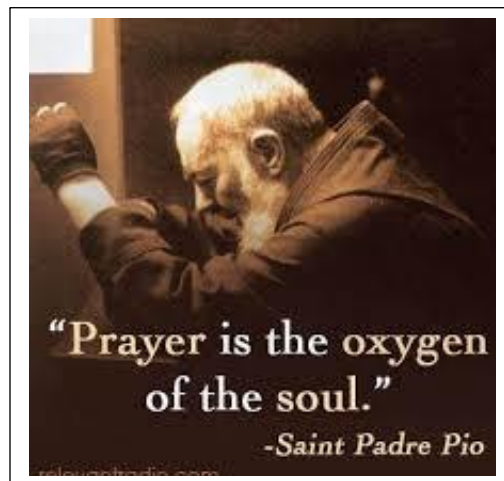
Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Reading for the Day:

Isaiah 61: 1-4

Psalms 137: 1-6

John 15: 12-15



Compline Service every Monday evening at 8:30 PM

We have a compline every Monday night at 8:30PM. A 10–12-minute service of prayer, Scripture, music, and much more. Zoom address is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83857418968>



First Friday Fellowship - Our next monthly singalong will be on Friday evening, **February 2, 2024**, starting at **7pm** at the **First Presbyterian Church, Bath, NY**.

(Location and details for upcoming and future meetings can be found on our website at FFFship.com). Currently there are several folks bringing guitars, keyboards, drums, flutes, stand-up bass, electric bass, piano and maracas. Also bring your hands to clap, feet to stomp and voices to make a 'joyful noise' that the Bible says God loves to hear from His people (Ps100:1).

From the spiritual diary of Father Craig

Rejoicing in God's Love:

Come to me Oh God and fill me with Joy, and compassion.
Let your kindness and mercies comfort me.

Incline my heart to your steadfast love and give me the assurance
of your Holy presence.

Fill my heart with your treasures.

Shine your face upon me.
Your steadfast love is wonderful!

Amen

Meditation: Living a Christian life is an art form that sets into work the Love of Christ. Our faith only has meaning when in difficult times we choose to be supportive, caring, loving healing agents of Christ. This is the radical nature of our Christian faith. Without faith, love, hope and trust we have nothing left but fear, suspicion, and anxiety. These are the explosive ingredients of self-destruction. In these challenging times, the cracks in my faith will certainly show forth. Heal me Oh Lord so I can be your loving and supportive agent.

Suggested Spiritual Exercise: What cracks are showing up within me during this time of social pressures? How am I using the tools of our faith, such as prayer to maintain a balanced life? In what tension filled situations do I consciously and intentionally demonstrate deep compassion and understanding towards others? How can I support others and be a healing agent?