

From St. James' With Love

April 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 a beautiful vessel designed to be filled. When I think about it, a cup's very nature is to be open and receptive to the world. The same holds true for us. We are created to be full of wonder, surprise and joy. Our very nature is to love.

Christine Lore Weber writes: "All life is a beginning. I need an open, spontaneous, joyful attitude that knows it does not know. I need an emptiness in me... I need to find the part of my soul still empty, still able to be surprised, still open to wonder." (*The Finding Stone*). Oftentimes openness and joy walk together in our hearts which eventually leads to an inner freedom and growth.

This freedom is costly, it requires us to trust God more than we have ever previously done. It requires us to become vulnerable, and we all know that vulnerability is risky.

I invite you this Easter season to open your heart, listen more fully and focus on the resurrected Christ so you may be filled with the radiance of God.

Let us Pray: Come Holy Spirit come, fill me with your presence so I may be a vessel of your love. Open me so I may experience your grandeur in small things like a budding flower, a simple smile or through gently holding a loved one's hand. Let me be like Rowen's cup, open and receptive and ready to be filled. Amen.

Prayer List

Jillian, the Hall family, the Hunn family, Linda G, Jim G, Laverne & Patsy, Patty F, Evleyn A, Rebecca H, Betty K, Ashlyn, Kimberly J, Rev. Gary, Audrey, the French family, the Spencer family, Floyd F, Marge D, Janetmarie S, Charlie S, Raymond S, Linda C, Chris C, Gail O, John R, Lilly W, Nancy F, John P, Ray K, those who mourn, students and teachers, 1 st responders, the Food Pantry, those suffering from addiction, those in the military, and St. James Vestry.

First Friday Fellowship



Our next monthly singalong will be on Friday evening, **April 5, 2024, starting at 7pm at St. James Episcopal Church in the undercroft.** Locations and details for upcoming meetings can be found on our website at www.FFFship.com. Bring your musical instruments to participate in the 'joyful noise'. Currently there are guitars, keyboards, drums, flutes, bass, piano and maracas. A list of songs, choruses and hymns can also be found on our website. Hope you can join us for an hour (or two).

From the Mission Committee



Shampoo, Conditioner, toothbrushes, deodorant and pillows were delivered to the Safe House in March. They are appreciative of our donations.

Currently there are 6 people in the facility, and spring needs are: hair conditioner, baby wipes, baby soap and clothing in adult sizes XS, Sm, Med.

Additionally, we are supporting the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry with donations of hygiene items, laundry detergent, cake and brownie mixes and frosting.



April Lay Schedule

Date	Chalice	Acolyte	Reader	Ushers
4/7	Leah Nichiporuk	Karen Derr	Richard Little	Cindy Zielinski Marilyn Dowdle
4/14	Nick Forenz	Leah Nichiporuk	Linda Hacker	Luanne Graulich Terry Channing
4/21	Karen Derr	Jim Grillo	Stella Pulver	Linda Hacker Jim Derr
4/28	Jim Grillo	Nick Forenz	Sandy Young	Marilyn Dowdle Linda Grillo

April Readings



Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading
04/7	Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133	1 John 1:1-2:2
04/14	Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1-7
04/21	Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23	John: 11-18
04/28	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:24-30	1 John 4:7-21

Vestry Highlights (March 13th)

- **Treasurer reported** that the increase in mission money is due to contributions to the pharmacy program.
- **South East District** will elect a clergy member to serve on the Diocesan Council. Fr. Craig has been asked to submit his name for consideration.
- **Aging in Place** has asked to use the Church for a creative art class on Saturday April 13th. Their request was approved.
- **Aging in Place** would like to team with St. James and other organizations for a program titled “Let’s stay in touch. This is a community outreach program to seniors by writing notes, making greeting cards, or phone calls to local senior residents. Fr. Craig and Virginia will meet with Carol Israel to learn more about the request.
- **Youth baseball/ softball update:** The vestry established that money in the Evangelism Fund could be used to purchase the baseballs and softballs.
- **Draft 2024 Parish Goals.** Goals should be evaluated four times a year. Possible projects: relocate the Organ, new carpet in the Sacristy and local community outreach.
- **Dinner for Fine Art Students** is being explored by Nick and Karen.
- **An investment committee** of Nick Forenz, Gregg Learned and Virginia Kasser was established.
- **Updating the prayer list.** Parishioners will put the names in the collection plates. Wayne will have the name on the list for 5 weeks. If prayers need to continue let Wayne know.

New Workshop in April

Back Story: Racial Healing Over a Lifetime

Thursday, April 4th, 3:00pm EDT

Join recently retired executive director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing Catherine Meeks and Dean Kate Moorehead Carroll of St. John's Cathedral for a conversation about Catherine's life and her work for racial healing and reconciliation. In partnership with Episcopal Parish Network, Catherine and Kate will participate in a Back Story discussion. Back Story is a regular program under the umbrella of St. John's Cathedral Bookstore & Gift Shop. Back Story gives the reader a chance to answer some of their questions and hear first hand how a book was developed.

Catherine will share the wisdom she has garnered over the journey of her life, from her father's sharecropping fields to the academy and beyond. A racial justice advocate, she will offer meaningful discussion for what's happened in the past and how to progress forward. Anyone interested in race, Christianity, and American religion, and understanding the lived reality of being a Christian African-American woman in the late 20th and early 21st century, will find the discussion enlightening and worthwhile.

A sought-after teacher and workshop leader, Catherine is the author of *A Quilted Life: Reflections of a Sharecropper's Daughter*, published in February 2024. As Booklist described in a review: "This engaging memoir comes from anti-racism activist, media commentator, and retired sociocultural studies professor Meeks, who's spent her life breaking down barriers and standing up for people who've had no voice. ... Meeks comes across as an eminently relatable elder who has quilted together a truly amazing life."

Panelists include:

- Catherine Meeks, Ph.D. - Executive Director (retired), Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing; Atlanta, Georgia
 - Kate Moorehead Carroll - Dean, St. John's Cathedral; Jacksonville, Florida
- Please register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/866980220177>

From the Book Hazelden Daily Meditations for counselors



It is a great privilege to dialog with another human being in “listening love.” How do we “listen” with our eyes, our hearts, and our guts as well as with our ears? Do we listen for what is unsaid, as well as what is spoken? Do we listen with compassion? Without judgment?

A dialog done in listening love is intimate. What a wonderful adventure to participate in the journey of a fellow soul. Do we sometimes feel the awe of God’s presence? Do we sometimes pause internally and “bless the moment”? Will we ask Christ to help us hear with listening love?

Hymn Stories



Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Author – Charles Wesley, 1707 - 1788

Music--from *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

He is not here: He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.
Matthew 28:6

The first Wesleyan Chapel in London, England, was a deserted iron foundry. It became known as the Foundry Meeting House. This hymn was written by Charles Wesley for the first service in this chapel in 1739.

The popularity of this hymn is due in part to the fine tune with which it has been wedded for many years. The composer of the music has never been identified. The tune first appeared anonymously in the *Lyra Davidica* hymnal, published in London in 1708. The joyous “alleluia” at the end of each line was not written by Wesley but was added by some editor to make the text fit the tune. “Hallelujah” or “alleluia” is from the ancient Hebrew worship service and was a common expression of praise in the early Christian Church.

From Lesser Feasts and Fasts

On April 9th we honor
Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906 to 1945)



Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born February 4, 1906. He studied at the universities of Berlin and Tuebingen.

From the first days of the Nazi accession to power Bonhoeffer was involved in protests against the regime. From 1933 to 1935 he was the pastor of two small congregations in London, but nonetheless was a leading spokesman for the Confessing Church, the center of the Protestant resistance to the Nazis.

Bonhoeffer became increasingly involved in the political struggle after 1939, when he was introduced to the group seeking Hitler's overthrow.

On April 5, 1943, Bonhoeffer was arrested and imprisoned in Berlin. After an attempt on Hitler's life failed April 9 1944, documents were discovered linking him to the conspiracy. He

was taken to Buchenwald concentration camp, then to Schoenberg Prison. On Sunday April 8, 1945, just as he concluded a service two men came in with a chilling summons, "Prisoner Bonhoeffer...come with us. Bonhoeffer was hanged the next day, April 9, at Flossenbug Prison.

Let Us Pray:

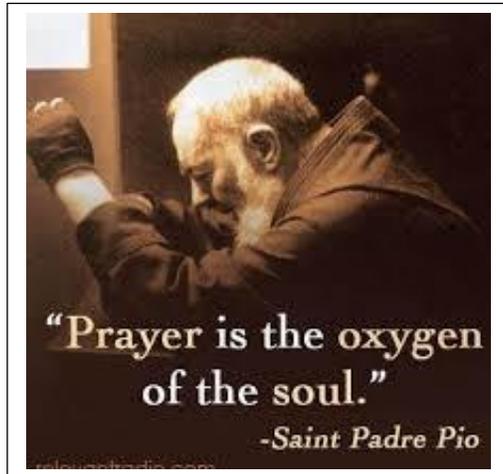
Gracious God, the Beyond in the midst of our life, you gave grace to your servant Dietrich Bonhoeffer to know and to teach the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, and to bear the cost of following him: Grant that we, strengthened by his teaching and example, may receive your word and embrace its call with an undivided heart; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN

Lessons:

Proverbs 3: 1-7

Psalm 119:89-96

Matthew: 13:47-52



Compline Service every Monday evening at 8:30 PM

We have 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>

From the spiritual diary of Father Craig

Meditation: Every moment in life is an invitation to consciously and intentionally live with God. When I think about this, no activity is so mundane that it cannot reveal Christ's presence. This is at the heart of the sacrament of the present moment. It reminds us every moment of our life is an opportunity to be deeply grateful. It also reminds us that every moment is an opportunity to demonstrate the depth of our love of God. At times this is difficult spiritual and necessary work. That is why it is so important to cherish moments when we are filled with Christ's love. Being filled with Gods' love offers us courage, kindness and forgiveness to others and ourselves.

I Bow My Head.

Dwell within me light of Christ, and create loving images.

Be the gentle moonlight that jumps and skips across the still waters of my soul.

Be the beauty I see today.

Be the joy that unlocks the cell protecting my penitent heart.

Dwell within me light of Christ, for you are like a radiant white candle in a holy place.

Shining forth abundant hope, heavenly beauty and humble grace.

Spill forth into my soul your warm loving light that dispels coldness and dark despair.

Spill forth within me the gentle and guiding moonlight of Christ's love.

Dwell within me light of Christ, and shine your shimmering light into my soul.

Warm and nourish my cold and empty heart.

Warm and fill me with your compassion, your loving kindness, and your eternal peace.

Warm my frosty heart so others know your hopeful and loving light.

Dwell within me light of Christ, gift me with an open and contrite heart

Be present to me in simple things.

Be the ray of golden moonlight guiding me safely home into your loving arms.

Be within me a light showing forth so others dance on the shoreline of your love.

Dwell within me light of Christ.

I Bow My Head.