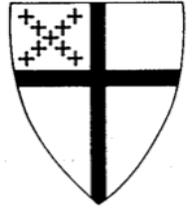




Give me my scallop-shell of quiet
My staff of faith to walk upon,....
and thus I'll take my pilgrimage.
— Sir Walter Raleigh

The Staff

Jesus said, “I say to you who hear: Love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you,
and pray for those who spitefully use you.”



May 2019

Luke 6:27-28 (English Standard Version)

Anglican worship of Jesus Christ and Biblical preaching of the Good News.

DIOCESE OF THE RIO GRANDE

Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Hunn, *Bishop*

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Vono, *Retired Bishop*

The Rt. Rev. Jerry Lamb (ret), *Assisting Bishop*

The Rev. Dr. Jeanne Lutz, *Priest-in-Charge*

The Rev. Dr. Frank Williams, *Assisting Priest*

“ **P** rayer unites the soul to God . . . Prayer is a witness that the soul wills as God wills, and it eases the conscience and fits man for grace. And so [God] teaches us to pray and to have firm trust . . . ; for he beholds us in love, and wants to make us partners in his good will and work. And so he moves us to pray for what it pleases him to do . . . The whole reason why we pray is to be united into the vision and contemplation of him to whom we pray. . . ”

—Dame Juían of Norwich

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From the Priest-in-Charge, Christ is Risen—and Ascended!

Many Episcopalians are tempted to view these next few weeks in the Church calendar as comparable to Christmas/Epiphany, which can be a long season if Easter is late, as it was this year. The same is certainly true in the summer and fall season called Ordinary Time, where we often feel that everything slows down to a crawl. Yet, if we take a hard look at the seven weeks between the celebration of our Lord's resurrection and the Day of Pentecost, we see a lot of activity in our Sunday readings and weekday observances.

The gospel passages on the Sundays after the Day of Resurrection begin with a number of moving "recognition scenes," starting with that of Thomas the Apostle in the upper room where Jesus deals gently with his friend's doubts (John 20:19-31). On May 5th we read about the fishing expedition of the disciples back home in Galilee with the "stranger" who invites them to breakfast on the beach and who turns out to be their Lord (John 21:1-19). After this the gospels concentrate on some of Jesus' teachings about himself. The Fourth Sunday of Easter is always from the 10th chapter of John's Gospel and identifies Jesus as the Good Shepherd of his Sheep. On May 19th we revisit our Maundy Thursday reading in which Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment, that they love one another as he has loved them (John 13:31-35). On the Sixth Sunday of Easter in Year C, Jesus promises to send his disciples the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, and the peace the Spirit brings (John 14:23-29).



On Thursday, May 30th, we celebrate perhaps the most neglected feast in the Church calendar—Ascension Day. Part of the reason for our ignorance of this feast is that it is always on the Thursday that occurs 40 days after Easter. To be sure, the Sunday after Ascension Day has a special collect, but only in Year A (not this year!) do any of the Sunday readings allude to the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. For the Church, the Ascension appears to be almost an afterthought, although there has been plenty of stunning artwork on this theme throughout the centuries in churches and elsewhere.

Part of the reason for its curious neglect might be the anticlimactic nature of the Ascension. The Resurrection is rightly considered the pivotal event in the Christian faith. So while the Ascension of our Lord was also full of power, the Apostles considered this event, at the time, to be merely a prelude to Jesus' glorious return. What the Ascension turned out to be, however, was a precursor to the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples on the Feast of Pentecost, the Sunday we celebrate on the 50th day after Easter as the Birthday of the Church (this year on June 9th). The first disciples had no idea that 2,000 years later, the Church would still be waiting for the return of Christ. That may be another reason why the Ascension is often overlooked.

Ascension Day is not the only important feast to take place during the Easter Season. On April 25th (transferred to the 29th this year), the Church remembers St. Mark the Evangelist, the writer of the first Gospel. And on May 31st we celebrate the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth, which she made after the Annunciation.

Meanwhile, what are we to do with this awkward event known as the Ascension of Christ? You might recall that the angel who spoke to the disciples (Acts 1:11) asked why they were still "gazing into the heaven" and reminded them that Jesus would come again. But after the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in the upper room, there was no more standing around. Filled with the power of Christ, they set

about seeking their Master in the faces of those around them and adding daily to the number of his followers.

This is our commission, as well. Until Christ returns we are told where we can find him. We find him at the altar as we hold out our empty hands waiting to be filled with his Body. We find him in the company of those with whom we worship. We find him in the faces of others and everywhere else we search for him on this earth. All we have to do is to look around us.

Blessings in this Easter Season

Padrecita Jeanne+

Letter of Resignation from Padrecita Jeanne

On April 5th I sent my Letter of Resignation to Bishop Hunn, Canon Raney, and the Vestry of St. James', which the Vestry accepted (with loving words of regret) at the April Vestry meeting. My last Sunday will be June 9th and my last day as Priest-in-Charge will be June 14th, the day Bill and I leave for a month-long cruise to England, Ireland, Canada, New Year City, and Bermuda, ending in Miami. Poor us! It seemed a propitious time to leave, as I fully expect your Vestry to have called a rector by then, or be very close to it. Your new priest will probably not begin until early July, but if it happens in June, I am happy to rearrange my plans. Meanwhile, the congregation will have the pleasure of welcoming Canon Tom Lowe as your preacher and celebrant for the last three weeks in June, if he is needed. The Executive Committee of the Vestry has had the opportunity to talk with Bishop Hunn about the period between my departure and the arrival of your new rector, so I believe the transition will be a smooth one.

I will take the opportunity to write a longer good-bye in the June issue of The Staff, but for now, may I say that it has been a joy to serve as your Priest-in-Charge for the last year. I know that God has exciting plans for this wonderful congregation, and I am grateful to have been a part of your journey. The Bishop has asked me to give your new rector the space he or she needs to settle in, so you will probably not see me in attendance at a regular service for a year after the rector arrives. But Bill and I are not going anywhere (as far as we know), so this is not really good-bye, more like a "Go with God." I will be around for clergy gatherings and other events which will, undoubtedly, bring me back to St. James' from time to time, including the service of installation for your rector.

Meanwhile, St. James' will always be in my prayers and in my heart.

Padrecita Jeanne+

Deanery Event: Chihuahua's Baseball Game, Monday evening, May 6th

Episcopal Night at the Chihuahua's Baseball Game on May 6th has a limited number of seats available in the Fiesta Patio of the downtown stadium. Tickets are \$34 apiece and include drinks and dinner. Bishop Hunn will throw out the first pitch! For information and tickets, please contact The Reverend Justin Gibson at jgibson0283@gmail.com.

Musical Events at St. James' in May

The merry month of May includes some beautiful music at St. James' in the nave of the church. On Thursday night, May 2nd, the Chamber Singers of NMSU will present two performances of Haydn's Little Organ Mass at 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. as part of the area Holocaust Remembrance.

On Sunday afternoon, May 19th, at 3:00 p.m., Celestial Sounds, directed by our own Carol Nike, will bring us their ever-popular program of Celtic music.

Parishioner wins IPPY Award for Best Regional Fiction

Dr. Kent Jacobs, retired dermatologist and parishioner of St James', has recently been honored with the Silver Award in the West-Mountain: Best Regional Fiction category from the Independent Publisher's Book Awards for his murder mystery, "Hopi Tea" (Sunstone Press). Congratulations to Kent!

Calling All Polyglots!

If anyone would like to read the Gospel in a language other than English on Sunday, June 9th, please contact Padrecita Jeanne. The office can supply texts from Bible Gateway. As the passage is lengthy, translations of the English will include the first portion, John 14: 8-17.

Guest Preacher on May 5th

On Easter III, May 5th, the Reverend Fred Davis will preach at both services. Pastor Fred is not exactly a guest. He and Judy have been worshipping at St. James' since returning to Las Cruces in July of 2018, after having served a number of different Presbyterian churches, including Northminster Presbyterian in Las Cruces (1984-1997). Fred is an ordained Presbyterian minister. He received his BA from Wheaton College and his Master of Divinity from Denver Seminary. Judy is a retired early childhood educator. From 1995 -1997 she served as the Las Cruces District Administrator for Head Start and Kindergarten. Today they enjoy visiting their grandsons, traveling, exploring the beauty of New Mexico and the Southwest, and being renewed by the majesty of the San Juan Mountains in Colorado from their condominium near Durango. Fred and Judy met in high school and dated for 4 years before marrying in 1972. They have two adult daughters and three grandsons.

Prior to sensing God's call to pastoral ministry, Fred was pursuing a degree in Trumpet Performance. In addition to following his call and passion for preaching the Gospel, Fred has continued to pursue his interest in music. He has played in community bands and pit orchestras for community theater productions, as well as performing solos and accompanying choirs in church. However, his greatest musical interest lies in listening to and performing jazz. Whether at an open mic night or with his septet, *By Committee*, Fred feels that the freedom and joy of improvisation and collaboration mirror in many ways the freedom and joy of the Christian life—always growing and listening for the rich harmonies of the body of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

In 2013 Fred and Judy wrote and published a book, "Through Stormy Waters: God's Peace in Life's Storms." It chronicles the path of growth and peace they experienced after Fred was run over by a church bus and nearly killed. As Fred slowly learned to walk again, the experience taught them both many lessons about the walk of faith.



From The Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King have been meeting as usual two Tuesdays a month at 10 am in Chickie Lerdal's home. We have come to so enjoy our coffee time together, getting to know one another in the Lord, talking, laughing and praying together. We have all come to depend upon our "companions on the Way"; I

thank God for my sisters in Christ every day.

I had the great pleasure to attend the Province VII Assembly in Little Rock, Arkansas at the beginning of the month. There were women there from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana, Kansas, and New Mexico. It is wonderful indeed to meet with 150 women who love the Lord, and radiate the Lord's joy and love to all. I received my graduation certificate for the "Daughters Going Deeper" program of study, a proud moment for me, capping two years of intensive reading and study, meeting with a trained mentor every two weeks over the phone.

During the two days of joy and learning, joining with other Daughters in worship and healing prayer, I couldn't help but reflect on the Daughters at St. James', and their journeys, and what joy we share. I also couldn't help thinking about the other chapters in this southern part of New Mexico and their shrinking numbers. Our Diocesan President has asked me (as Vice President) to find out what's happening, and see if some remedies can be worked out. To this end, I will be traveling a good bit to other churches during the coming months. I ask your prayers for this.

Our chapter served as hosts of the funeral reception for Jackie and Mark Dodds' family on April 20. Another service project was purchasing and donating \$100.00 worth of personal hygiene items to the Gospel Rescue mission, in answer to their plea for supplies for all the immigrants that they are hosting.

Next month, we shall begin sewing cloth bags, to be filled with personal hygiene products for residents of Tent City. We will be requesting donations of regular-size shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. to fill the bags. More on this later.

Our Daughters of the King Motto helps us keep our perspective in the midst of all the ministry we are called into:

For His Sake...

I am but one, but I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do, I ought to do.

What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.

Lord, what would you have me do?

Saint of the Month

Our First (Reluctant) Archbishop of Canterbury:
Augustine of Canterbury,
Feast Day of Saint Augustine, May 26

The Archbishop of Canterbury has lots of prestige, but not all that much authority. When I went to England, I had to send him a copy of my Ordination Certificate and thirty shillings before I could officiate, but that was because I was in southern England. If I'd intended to work up north, I'd have had to apply to the Archbishop of York.

There have been Archbishops of Canterbury since 597, and the present one is the eightieth, or close to. The first, Augustine, is not to be confused with the great Augustine, who lived two centuries earlier. Augustine of Canterbury was sent to England by the famous Pope, Gregory I, who would be worth writing up some time. The story is that Gregory saw some handsome blonde boys at the...excuse me...slave market, asked who they were, was that they were Angles, and said, "Angles! They look like angels! We must make them Christians."

Gregory didn't send missions on impulse but Ethelbert, the king of Kent—in southwestern England—had married Bertha, the daughter of the Christian king of the Franks across the Channel, and she had brought a bishop with her. Thinking people including, we may guess, Ethelbert himself, would have felt it was time for England to enter European civilization, and conversion to Christianity was the obvious way to do it.

Augustine was prior to St. Andrew's Monastery in Rome and was by no means enthusiastic about moving to far off, barbarous Britain. He and 40 people, many of them monks, set off in 594. They got to what is now France, and Augustine halted and wrote to Gregory, begging him to let him come back. Gregory replied, "Shut up and do what you're told!" so Augustine had no choice.

Anyway, he knew how to make an entrance. He made quite an impression the first time Ethelbert received him. He was six feet three—an unusual height any time—especially then—and marched in at the end of a long line of monks, led by a silver cross (it makes me think of the choir processions, so dear to modern Anglicans). We don't know what he said but he presumably preached Christ, and it was well received.

In fact, there were already a good many Christians in England. The faith had come with the Romans but had been mostly driven out of southern England by the pagan Anglo-Saxon invaders, who arrived after the Roman legions left in 440. Christianity survived in Wales, and missionaries from Ireland and the north were active. Yorkshire (Northumberland it was called then) was becoming a Christian kingdom by the time Augustine landed. In fact, there were still some Christians in the South. When Ethelbert's bride arrived, he let her have a ruined church repaired for her bishop to officiate in.

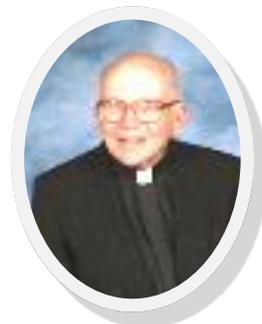


It's St. Martin's, a couple blocks down the street from Canterbury Cathedral, and includes the font in which tradition say Ethelbert was baptized; it's certainly big enough for a man to stand in.

Ethelbert's baptism took place in 597. Shortly afterwards there was a mass baptism of 1000 people or more. Of course, once your king had become a Christian, becoming a Christian was the thing to do, and most of Kent went over. Then they had to be taught what Christianity was about. Gregory made every effort to see that this was done and sent other missionaries to do the work. We don't know when Augustine was consecrated, but Gregory sent him the "pallium"—that's a sort of stole of white wool which Roman Catholic archbishops wear. Augustine consecrated bishops for London and Rochester, sent Paulinus north to York, and founded a school to train Anglo-Saxon priests. But really, he didn't do much missionary work outside of Kent; that came a little later.

Gregory of course claimed jurisdiction over all the Christians in the British Isles. He told Augustine to listen to them carefully, make use of their customs as far as he could, and in general act like a father to them. Augustin agreed with Gregory's ideas about jurisdiction but lacked his common sense. When the English bishops came to meet with him he didn't bother rising. He wouldn't compromise with them, and they decided to have nothing to do with him or his church. Reconciliation took place eventually, but that was under Theodore, several archbishops later.

I hear St. James' people speak of the Reformation as the beginning of our church. The Reformation is important, but it's hardly our beginning. In fact, Gregory and Augustine aren't our beginning either; the first mention of Christianity in England comes about in 200AD, and of course we're older than that. Be proud of your church; it has a long, long history.



–Fr. Frank



May 2019 Birthdays

22 Kerrie Vergeer
25 Susan Smith

30 Sean Fountain

If your name is not listed and should be, please call the office (526-2389) and let us know.

We'd love to wish you a Happy Birthday!

St. James' Episcopal Church
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Wanted: Books

for St. James Book Exchange

Books maybe left in Book Exchange box
in Parish Hall storeroom.

Next Book Exchange: Sunday, May 19



St. James' Holy Eucharist Service Schedule

Sundays at 8:00 am Rite I
Adult Sunday School 9:30 am
Children's Sunday School & Nursery 10:15 am
Sundays at 10:30 am Rite II
Wednesdays at 10:00 am Rite I