The Window

The Newsletter of St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont, CA

Called to serve in new and loving ways

February 2021

When Sacred Ground is Tainted

In my imagination, the Kingdom of God is a reality where all beings are provided for, where suffering is but a memory and where the human conditions of hunger, oppression, homelessness, and other maladies are no more. This world is what the great souls of Martin Luther King, Jr, Gandhi, Mandela, and many others gave their lives over to. However, the Kingdom of God and the manifestation of such here on earth will not happen overnight. It will not happen in measurable years. It will likely not happen in our lifetimes. We must take a long look into the future to imagine it as so.

But we can see measurable steps and these steps take many forms. We see glimpses of the Kingdom in the evolving rights for the historically marginalized, for LGBTQ+ people, for people of color, for women, for transgendered folks, and others. As a society, we have been able to witness some progress, and in recent history, we have fought to not slip too far back into what was, but we still have a long way to go. Abuses in various forms are still happening and too many people are not given the space, opportunity, and support to live their full human lives. And so we must continue to work towards this Kingdom that Jesus came to bring about.

As an American Christian, I believe that the Kingdom of God cannot come to be without a governmental structure, a way of organizing society, that cares for the needs of the common good, lifting up the lowly and empowering the oppressed. It is for this reason that I believe the floors and hallways of our civic buildings, the rooms in which laws that lift the disenfranchised are passed, these spaces are sacred ground.

On January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany, our sacred ground was not honored. Instead, it was desecrated. It was sullied by violence, by a disregard for our laws, by a throng of criminals intent on disruption and destruction.

This should be a call to all people of faith to reclaim and sanctify the spaces we consider holy. We cannot travel to Washington DC to light candles and burn incense, cleansing what has been dirtied, but we can light a candle in our own space and claim God in the here and now. We can walk amongst nature's great beauty and identify God in the flowers, the streams, the birds. We can call forth the name of God and God's powerful presence in all facets of our civic life.

The blessing that keeps coming to mind is the one that our bishop, Marc Andrus, uses. It speaks volumes in its brevity. I offer it to you today:

(cont. on pg. 2)

(cont. from pg. 1)

Go forth into the world in peace.
Be of good courage.
Hold fast to that which is good.
Render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the faint hearted.
Support the weak.
Comfort the afflicted.
Be patient with everyone,
But make no peace with oppression.
Love and serve all that is holy.
And may the blessing of the divine,
The source of all that is,
The reconciler of all that is divided,
And the sustainer of all life,
Be with you evermore. Amen.

~Lori+

Ruts

As we enter February, whatever resolutions we may have made to start the New Year probably have faded. So often, this month is one of routine, seemingly reliving the same day over and over again. Perhaps you also feel as though you are in a rut. So am I, but let me share my perspective on ruts with you.

Living in a climate which included genuine winters, I learned about ruts. Each significant snowfall would disrupt our street. First, there was the beautiful layer of white enveloping everything. Then each household would be out shoveling to free their car. Then the slip and slide as one car after another tried to make it down the street without sideswiping another parked vehicle. As the day wore on, if there were no more accumulations, a set of parallel depressions would emerge tracing the route travelled by previous cars--thus were ruts born.

As each of us tried to drive away, we all soon discovered that the rut was our friend. Once you slipped over the edge—and they did have a slippery edge to overcome—you could stay in the rut lanes and navigate your way out of the street to the corner, then to the next street and its ruts, and so on until you came to a road which was large enough and widely travelled enough that it was only slush and not ice and frozen snow. We learned that ruts had their benefits.

Routines may become ruts in our lives. The question I suggest you ask is this: if I am in a rut, do its walls confine and restrict me negatively, or could it become the channel through which I pass each day to get myself to my destination. Is this rut an obstruction which needs to be left behind? Or is it an aspect of my comfort zone which serves some larger purpose in my life?

Aristotle noted that habit is one of the strongest factors in character, and that both virtue and vices were maintained (we would probably say, "reinforced") by the habits we follow. Habits, of course, are merely behaviors which we do over and over. They are the ruts we travel, whether we move toward our goal or merely run another lap around the circle. We learn to procrastinate in the same way we learn to be timely—both are habits which wear ruts into our behaviors, for good or ill. Remember that habits can be formed deliberately—I can learn the spiritual discipline of daily prayer, set aside a time for it, then allow the regular repetition of this to become the way I routinely start my day. What could have become a "rut" in the negative sense now becomes a personal discipline, complete with benefits. Perhaps there is no better time than now, in February of a pandemic and little chance to do much else, for us to see our potential ruts as opportunities for spiritual journeys. With time and practice, using the tools of prayer and the resources of Scripture (among others), who knows where we can go?

Don't underestimate the good things which a rut can offer.

~Bill+

WORSHIP, FORMATION, FELLOWSHIP
The Ways We Are Church Together

WORSHIP

Sunday Morning Service Live Stream!
Join our service live-stream at 8:25am on Sunday at saintj.com, or join our Zoom "watch party" (see below). The service can be joined at any time on Sunday from 8:25am, or watched during the week.

Watch Parties at 8:30am and 11:00am
Watch the Sunday Morning service with others! Log into Zoom at 8:30am or 11:00am to watch with others, and then stick around for coffee hours. Email Jennifer at music@saintj.com for the Watch Party/Coffee Hour link.

Wednesday 10:00am Service
Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with prayers and sermon discussion in real-time on Zoom. Join us! Email Rev. Lori at lori@saintj.com (odd Wednesdays) or Rev. Bill at bhale@saintj.com (even Wednesdays).

Wednesday 1:00pm Connecting with Others Bible Study
Watch a short video and have a rich conversation with other parishioners. Email Rev. Lori at lori@saintj.com if you'd like to join us.

Morning Prayer 8-8:30am. Monday-Friday
Join Rev. Bill for Morning Prayer via Zoom. Contact bhale@saintj.com for the link.

FELLOWSHIP

Coffee Hours at 9:00am and 11:30am
Our coffee hours follow our Watch Parties, and are a great way to check in and say hello to others. Email Jennifer Ravera at music@saintj.com to get the information.

Thursday 12:00pm Home Alone Group
For those who are living alone, meet us on Thursdays during lunchtime to say hello. Email Rev. Bill at bhale@saintj.com for information.

Thursday Night 7:00pm Social Hour
Grab a drink and link in to Zoom to socialize with others and see how everyone is doing. Email Jennifer Ravera at music@saintj.com for details.

Audio Sermons and Online Resources
While we have suspended in-person worship services, you can still experience Sunday's Morning Prayer and sermons. Go to our website for online worship resources, or search in iTunes for "Saint James' Fremont" and subscribe to our weekly sermon podcast. We are also building a library of links to curated resources there to enrich our life in community while apart. Go to: https://saintj.com/wp/worship/online-worship/.

Ash Wednesday and the Imposition of Ashes

Ash Wednesday will be upon us on **February 17**. This is one of the most sacred days of our church calendar, marking the beginning of Lent and offering us an opportunity for self-reflection, confession, and the physical reminder of our mortality through the marking of ashes on our foreheads. This year, the Ash Wednesday service will be available throughout the day and evening for your use. Ashes will be available and can be picked up along with your February pre-consecrated hosts for Holy Communion (registration for ashes required). To reserve your Ashes for Ash Wednesday along with your Holy Communion, visit saintj.com/communion.

~Lori+

Save the Dates for our Lenten Programs

Join us during the Tuesdays of Lent for a virtual Lenten Study (topic and leader to be announced). As is our custom, we will meet on **Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:30** during Lent. We will also offer a **Tuesday daytime gathering from 12:00-1:30** for those who would rather gather before the sun sets. So, mark your calendars for **February 23, March 2, 9, 16 and 23**.

Lent Madness Continues!

Lent Madness is ready to go for 2021! Beginning Wednesday, February 18, you can vote for your favorite saint, and tune in on March 31 to see who wins the Golden Halo! Sign up for email alerts at https://www.lentmadness.org/; you can also purchase your own Saintly Scorecard. ***Who will win the Golden Halo???***

End of Year Report: Hope and Miriam

Many of you know, we support Hope and Miriam in obtaining an education in Kenya through an organization called Maisha Bora. Follows is the end of year report submitted by Anne Mwaura, Maisha Bora's coordinator.

As you know 2020 was a very difficult year for everyone and especially on learning programmes. Students have been home for the best part of the year and this has come with its own challenges but we still hope for a better future.

Schools in Kenya resume this week and Hope and Miriam too reported today. Everyone is excited to be able to get back and it was good to talk to them just before they left and they sounded optimistic.

Miriam Nangila

She has been coaching her siblings sometimes in the day while not engaged elsewhere. She has also been accompanying her mother to a salon and she has acquired some beauty skills. She says she misses school and the extra-curriculum activities and she is already prepared for 4th January 2021. She was not able to access any learning on tv or radio because they don't have and also no electricity in their house which made it difficult to carry out personal studies in the night.

Hope Nanyole

She has been at home with her parents and other siblings since the closure of the school in March 2020. During the pandemic, Maisha Bora connected her to a beading firm where she has been beading. She was earning 200ksh per day and this helped feed her family because the parents didn't have a job. In October 2020 her mother got burns from gas burner and was hospitalized but has recovered. She eagerly waits for 4th January 2021 when the schools are expected to open as doing personal studies at home is one of the most challenging activity among many students and therefore, she thanks God that finally schools will be opened.

Vestry Highlights

Submitted by Monique Manjarrez, Jr. Warden

The Vestry met on January 14th via online conferencing. During open communications, Lori shared that Lynn Locher has submitted her resignation as our Treasurer, effective in March. She thanked her for her service to St. James' and all her years working in that capacity. She asked the Vestry to think about how we might fill this position going forward. Gratitude was also expressed to Janet Fischer and Laura Winter for beautifully recognizing the life of all those that have passed away this past year in the January Window.

We approved the December Vestry minutes, the December financial reports (pending modification, due to the Paycheck Protection Program Loan that we are still waiting to be forgiven), and accepted the December staff and ministry reports. The Vestry reviewed the excess funds in Operating for 2020 and decided to move those funds into the Covid Reserve Fund. We reviewed the 2021 budget and approved it for this year. Lori shared an update on five new Vestry members for this upcoming year. Most of the new members have Vestry experience, so this is a plus. We reviewed final plans for the annual meeting to take place on January 24th. Sylvia gave an update on how many pledging units we have so far and has organized the thank you notes that need to be written. Lori provided reminders about upcoming services.

The meeting adjourned with Compline led by Janet Fischer.

Annual Meeting Update

Our Annual Meeting was held via Zoom on January 24.

New vestry members are: Meg Amouroux, John Butterfield, Samir Kalitta, Greg Miller, and Beverly Mosier.

Deanery representatives are: Ken Trant, Scott Whitaker, Jim McConnell, Greg Miller, and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller. Our alternate is Sally Morgan.

Financial Summary December 2020

Fund Balances	12/31/2019	12/31/2020
Operating Fund	**49,591.52**	**108,344.89**
Building Fund	**70,259.27**	**29,369.35**
Pledges Budgeted	335,401.00	343,064.00
Pledges Paid	324,429.24	362,167.19
Unpledged Contributions	17,656.10	16,360.54
Other Op Income	20,084.90	60,932.15
Total Operating Income	362,170.24	439,459.88
Total Operating Expenses	362,170.24	380,695.21
Income less Expenses	**-**	**58,764.67**

** 2020 Includes $54,895 from Paycheck Protection Program Loan

McCutcheon Concert Review

One wonders how he does it, play to an audience of one without audience applause. He couldn't hear my applause, but it was there. We watched and listened to John McCutcheon's 2021 Left Coast Tour Part 2 last night [January 16] …up close and personal. We were right in his studio, or so it seemed. One perspective we witnessed was a new one as we watched John play the hammered dulcimer almost from his perspective as opposed to our audience position, below and to the side. And play it he did! And he played an instrument we haven't seen him play before, the resophonic guitar.

We didn't get to hear "Soup," but John sang "Tommy Don't Lick That Pipe" for us. His "Pastures of Plenty" rendition got our blood moving. I didn't remember hearing "Burley Coulter at the Bank" before, but there it was on his 2018 album Ghost Light. Such a song of caring for others.

Do you remember playing "Peekaboo" as a child, or with a child? It brought back fond memories. Then there was the kid's song for adults, "It's Different," a lesson for us all. And "This Old Coat" and "In This Time of Troubles" were both songs to make us think about our condition vs. the conditions of others.

Alas, we didn't get the chance to request our favorite song as we have during live concerts, but John played a selection of songs that, together, satisfied me with their variety and thoughtfulness.

By very popular demand John played "Christmas in the Trenches" for us, followed by the sing-along "The Great Storm Is Over" to end a concert that I thought was way too short, even though he played over eighteen songs in an hour and a half with no break. I'm sure all enjoyed their hot chocolate and cookies… before dinner.

~ Bruce Roberts

MEET A MINISTRY:

Abode Services Rapid Re-Housing Program

St. James', along with 18 other faith-based churches and organizations, meet throughout the year to pool resources and ideas on getting families and veterans re-housed. The member churches partner up and pool our monies and donations of gently used household items or new items to help a family get settled into their new home. We have our own storage unit which is used to store items donated by our church members or other folks within the faith-based community. St James' has fundraisers and part of the proceeds go to Abode Services.

In the year 2020, our program was minimized due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the stay at home orders. The residents at Abode's Sunrise Village were moved to hotels through 01/31/2021. The need for our program did not go away. Our meetings were cancelled and the requests to re-house families converted to email and text messages. We still met our commitment of helping a minimum of 2 families per year and provided additional support to other churches needing items we have stored in our storage unit on campus.

Abode Services started a program to help college students find housing and it was just getting off the ground when the pandemic hit. We expect to re-start that program once the pandemic is under control and schools reopen.

The members of St. James' and their network of friends continually provide us with a lot of useful items. A close friend of Rev. Bill Hale and his wife Arlene was so moved by what St. James' does to support Abode's Rapid Re-Housing program that she donated 4 sets of dishes, pots and pans, towels, and glassware to help get families started on their new home.

Our program will continue on throughout the pandemic. As the stay at home orders are lifted, and we are allowed to meet in person, then we'll continue our quest to rehouse families.

Abode Services recognizes the need for affordable housing is purchasing real estate and developing it. The goal is focusing on families and our veterans. City Center Apartments and Laguna Commons are the latest example of Abode's commitment to affordable housing. City Center Apartments, a 60-unit veteran-focused development in Fremont, will start construction in 2020 and open in 2021. Laguna Commons, a Fremont supportive housing community that rehouses veterans and others who have experienced homelessness, was co-developed by Abode and opened in 2016. Thank you, St. James', for your continued support year after year.

ABODE
SERVICES
Because everyone should have a home.

News From the Organic Garden Corner
The Monarch Butterfly

By Jim Cunningham (text) & Bruce Roberts (photos)

The Monarch butterfly is threatened with extinction. We can help to preserve the species by planting milkweed. The adult butterfly will eat nectar from many different flowers but the *caterpillar* will *only eat* milkweed leaves. The Monarch remains a caterpillar for about 2 weeks in its life cycle, during which time it molts, shedding its skin 5 times as it grows. The fifth molt produces a pupa. When the pupa splits an adult Monarch emerges, begins eating nectar and looking for a mate.

The migration is unique in that it involves many generations to complete. Some of them overwinter in Florida and in California, in places like Ardenwood Farm. Most go to the mountains of southern Mexico where weather changes trigger the return migration.

There are many varieties of milkweed and some grow better in the bay area than others. I have purchased the seeds of 2 varieties, one beautiful and one not so pretty. If you would like to plant some milkweed seed, let me know and I will mail you some to get you started. They can be planted after the last frost and will bloom from May to October. The seeds produced are fly away type and can be gathered from their pods when they open.

The Milkweed plant:

Always @ St. James'

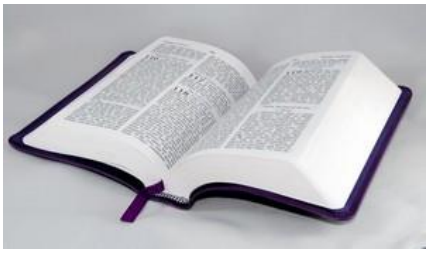
Children and Youth

Check current events at:
https://saintj.com/wp/ministries/childrens-programs/
or email Jan Scrutton, jan@saintj.com

Bible Studies

Monday morning Bible Study continues via zoom meetings, 11:00-12:00 each Monday. Our guide is *Our Journey With Luke: The 50 Day Bible Challenge,* by The Rev. Marek Zabriskie. Contact Rev. Lori by emailing lori@saintj.com to get the link to the Zoom meeting**.**

We have a **Wednesday afternoon** Bible Study at 1:00pm, also via Zoom. Lori will send out a link to a short video and discussion questions. Email Lori to be added to this list as well.



The next issue of ***The Window*** is in **March**. We welcome your **comments, essays, poems, photos, book reviews, newsworthy items, and any group activity information**.

Email your submission to newsletter@saintj.com
by: **February 15th**

Blessing Bags for Distribution

In this time of need, let us remember those who have no shelter. Our Blessing Bags are available for you to give away. Each bag contains toiletries, food, socks, and a mask. We're using reusable cloth bags that can also serve as a backpack.

If you would like to contribute to the cost of the bags or the contents, please give a donation to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Please note we are not taking donations other than monetary donations. This allows us to purchase what we need and to be consistent with what we are offering.

Blessing Bags are available for you to pick up most Wednesdays between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM on the patio. Make sure you wear your mask and practice social distancing when picking up and distributing the bags.

News For February

St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God we pray:

For Those in the Military:

Jarrod, Megan, Erica, Theresa, Mark, Tim, Louis, Caitlin, Emily, Robin, Adam, Dave, Shawn, Ethan, Paul, Matthew, Johnny, Johnathan, Darren

For Essential Workers:

Evelyn, Jeff, Brian, Samir, Mary Frances, Josephine, Mary, Polly, Alice, Bozena, Angela, Darcia, Melissa, Mary, Tammy, Heidi, Mana, Tessa, Alex, Natalie, Gwen, Dr. Johnathan, Evan, Guy

For Those Expecting Children:

Melissa & Evan, Rachel & Justin, Kristen & Eric, Bailey & Steven, Marlene & Felipe

For Those Who Need Comfort and Strength:

Connie, Judy, Ralph, Cherie, Ronnie, Theresa, Renee, Barbara

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction:

For Those Who Need Healing:

Ron, Julie, Gail, Craig, Linda, Diane, Barry, Matteo, Jane, Stephanie, Eliseo, Orietta, Peter, David, Ellison & Ingrid, Maynard, Michael, Wally, Amanda, Peter, Vickie, Carolyn, Paul, Jose, Joaquin, Luciano, Hortensia, Brian, Frank, Ethan, Bud, Linda, JT, Bob, Jim, Felipe Sr.

For Those Who Have Passed Away:

Janice, Jim, Marcel, Betty, Brett, Ann, Sajam, Ruby, Pete

And for all of us impacted by the current pandemic.

To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please call or email the Church Office. After six weeks, names are removed from the list. Please renew your request as needed. Thank you.

02/01	Crystal Jones
	Isaiah Nance
02/03	Mike Scrutton
02/04	Bruce Roberts
02/05	Kem David
02/07	Paxton Zarovy
	Linda Zetterholm-Nelsen
02/08	Linda Gentner
02/11	Darcia Feeney
02/14	Barbara Duncan
02/18	Margaret Broun
02/20	Rebecca Dunn
02/24	Julia Evans-Bodenrader
02/25	Maresa Decena
02/26	Lauren Doherty
	Charles Peeler
	Francis Singh
	Scott Whitaker III
02/27	Christopher Ma
02/28	Amy Davis
	Luke Scheuffele
02/29	Adrienne Farrell

2/15 Bob & Lauren Doherty
2/24 Vivienne & Charles Paratore

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY SERVICE: LIVE-STREAM AT 8:30AM WITH RECORDED SERVICE AVAILABLE TO VIEW THEREAFTER.
HTTP://SAINTJ.COM

MORNING PRAYER 8-8:30AM
MONDAY-FRIDAY VIA ZOOM.
CONTACT bhale@saintj.com FOR THE LINK

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00AM
VIA ZOOM. CONTACT lori@saintj.com FOR THE LINK

OFFICE HOURS

WEDNESDAYS 10:00AM TO 1:00PM

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Samir Kalitta
Mary Francis Leopold
Jim McConnell
Greg Miller
Beverly Mosier

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Altar Guild: Katie Cunningham
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Facilities: facilities@saintj.com

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

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Ken Trant
Scott Whitaker

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Sally Morgan