The Window

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

Called to serve in new and loving ways

April 2021

The Lord of the Dance

A few years ago during the 10:30 service, we baptized a baby. The family and God-parents stood at the front of the church, surrounded by a community of love, and we marked this little baby and Christ's own. Then, as is our practice, we processed around the church, up and down the aisles, flinging holy water on-to the gathered assembly. This joyful, wet reminder of God's love, of our own baptism in Christ, and of the living waters that are offered to all is one of the best liturgical actions in the church.

On this particular Sunday, the joy was magnified as the grandmother of the baby literally danced down the aisle as we flung water. She embodied the joy of God's overflowing love in a way not often seen in the Episcopal Church. I later remarked to her, "you can dance down the aisle any day" to which she responded, "In my church in Nigeria, this is what we do. We dance."

Oh, to dance. What joy.

There is a wonderful, though somewhat hokey, song called "The Lord of the Dance." The song is uplifting and visual - "I danced in the morning when the world was begun, I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth, at Bethlehem, I danced at my birth."
The song calls us to movement, to dance with joy, to remember that we not only follow the Lord of the Cross, but also the Lord of the Dance. This year, our second Easter Sunday and season in lockdown, we may not feel much like dancing. But there are so many reasons to do so! Think about the birds in the sky, the deer in the field, the flowers in the meadow. Think about the regeneration of creation while we've been hibernating. Think about the shots in the arms, more and more and more. Think about the time when we can gather. Think about the dance down the aisle of the church, glorifying the God who sticks with us and demonstrates to us that there is Resurrection, there is Life, there is Joy.

"Dance, then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he."

~Lori+

(Lord of the Dance songwriter: Ronan Hardiman
Lord of the Dance lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group.)

Morning Prayer

We have reached the six-month point in our Morning Prayer group which meets at 8am every weekday on Zoom. Briefly, there are two items I wish to share with the parish regarding our group's work.

First, while adhering to the BCP's format, we take seriously the whole structure of the worship service, are very intentional in this being a time of morning PRAYER. BCP p. 101 says that, after various cycles of prayer explicitly presented, "authorized intercessions may follow." For us, that involves various prayers for the good of our community, the nation, and the world, including all those on the parish prayer list and any other requests which have come to our attention. So, if any have asked someone to pray for you, we engage that request actively and diligently.

Second, I have heard a number of parishioners say that they would like to read more of the Bible and become familiar with it, but their attempts to plow through it have met with frustration. Because the structure of Morning (and Evening) Prayer is like that of our Sunday service, we read at least one Psalm daily, along with selections from the Old and New Testaments and from the Gospels. Without boasting, our reading has ranged widely; the numbers represent how many chapters we have covered from each book over the past 6 months: Genesis (2), Deuteronomy (5), Job (6), Isaiah (36), Jeremiah (9), Hosea (7), Joel (2), Micah (4), Habakkuk (3), Zechariah (5), Malachi (3), Ecclesiasticus (15), Matthew (1), Mark (10), Luke (20), John (10), Acts (15), Romans (4), 1 Corinthians (1), Galatians (6), 1 Thessalonians (5), 2 Thessalonians (2), 1 Timothy (3), Titus (3), Hebrews (3), James (5), 1 Peter (1), 2 Peter (1), Revelation (13). The entire Psalter is covered about once every six weeks. So, if you are still interested in a painless way to read more Scripture, consider joining us for Morning Prayer—I will gladly make available the service, complete with readings, upon request. Email me at bhale@saintj.com.

~Bill+

Holy Week and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday - join us on **April 1st at 6:30 PM** for a Zoom dinner, discussion, prayer and ritual. Zoom link can be found **HERE** or on the website calendar.

Good Friday - enter the day, **April 2nd**, with holy reverence by meditating on the virtual Stations of the Cross, available all day and found on our website.

Easter Vigil - live-streamed at **8:00 PM on April 3rd** and available thereafter, help us celebrate the Risen Christ. This year, the sacred stories will be told by the different deanery churches. Watch on your own through our website or join our watch party **HERE**.

Easter Sunday - live-streamed at **8:30 AM on April 4th** and available thereafter. Join us through the website, or join a watch party, **8:30 AM HERE** and/or **11:00 AM HERE**.

Holy Week and Easter

The most sacred week of our liturgical year is Holy Week leading the Easter Sunday. Come, walk with us as we enter into Jerusalem, sit at table with Jesus, walk the Way of the Cross, remember God's saving works, and Proclaim the Risen Christ.

Palm Sunday

March 28th 8:30am

Get your palms out for our live-streamed service, beginning with prayer, followed by procession, a service of the pre-sanctified, and a reading of the Passion.

Maundy Thursday

April 1st 6:30

A (bring your own) zoom meal, fellowship, reflection, and the ritual stripping of the altar.
(zoom link to be announced)

Good Friday

April 2nd

available all day on our website
Reflections on the Stations of the Cross, Jesus' Way, accompanied by music.

Easter Vigil

April 3rd 8:00pm

A live-streamed service with the lighting of the Great Fire, stories and song by the deanery churches, the Proclamation of Easter with pre-sanctified communion.

Easter Principal

April 4th 8:30am

Join our live-streamed service with the Proclamation of Easter and pre-sanctified communion.

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/.

Coming Soon! Fundraiser For a Parish AED

Come with us as we climb into the "Way Back Machine" and head for Saint James' in the 1950's. ….. And here we are. Wow! We all look so young! Many of us who were around then are still members of St. James'. What's different? Their hair! Back then, it's black, blond, brown... but today it is shall we say, lighter in color and perhaps a bit thinner. What happened? Time happened! We are, what should I say, more mature. That's not bad; it sure beats the alternative. They say that age brings wisdom. It also brings one more thing: doctor's appointments. Our bodies just need more attention than in the past and one of the most important parts is our heart. Until Covid came along, heart problems were the number one cause of death in the USA.

While we've never had a medical crisis such as a heart attack at church, we do have several elders in our congregation, and it is important to be prepared and to be safe.

Soon the Disaster Preparedness Team will start a fundraiser to purchase an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for our campus. This fundraiser will be in the form of requesting direct donations for the purpose of purchasing an AED. We pray that it will never be used, but in the event of a medical emergency, we need to be ready!

~Bud Pearson & Elaine Vallecillo-Miller

John & Meg Amouroux distributing Lenten communion hosts. Photo by Bruce Roberts.

Vestry Voices: Growing Faith in a Changing World

by Janet Fischer

One of my favorite protest signs was held up many years ago in response to a televangelist claiming that Florida had hurricanes because God was mad at the "acceptance of homosexuality." The sign read: "GOD DOESN'T HATE ANYONE. SOMETIMES THE WEATHER JUST SUCKS."

We've had a whole year of strain, loss, and disappointment. Besides the stress of the global pandemic and economic losses, as of this writing our own parish has lost three dear members within the past nine days, not from COVID, but from natural causes. I don't believe that God has purposefully caused any of these things, or that God is punishing us for anything. Sometimes, life just sucks.

How do I, as a person of faith, deal with this stressful age in which we live?

I often rely on ancient, or at least very old, practices that have stood the test of time. If I believe that God is eternal, then wisdom from prior ages is still valid for me. Although the language and examples may change with the times, the underlying faith remains the same.

A couple of months ago, Rev. Bill recommended this little book: *God Be In My Head: The Sarum Prayer*, by Ken Wilson (Church Publishing Inc. 2019). The Sarum prayer dates back at least 500 years (some sources say 1000 years), and it goes like this:

God be in my head, and in my understanding.
God be in my eyes, and in my looking.
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking.
God be in my heart, and in my thinking.
God be at my end, and at my departing.

Such simple words, and yet so profound. This prayer gives me an anchor for my troubled soul and keeps me focused on what is important.

God be in my head, and in my understanding: humility to realize that my own understanding is limited.

God be in my eyes, and in my looking: Do I see what God sees? Do I see Christ in every person? Even the ones I don't like very much?

God be in my mouth, and in my speaking: Am I speaking kind words? Wise words? Necessary words?

God be in my heart, and in my thinking: The desires—and dislikes—of my heart can often override what I know to be the right thing to do or say. Can I let God influence the thinking of my heart?

God be at my end, and at my departing: "Do God's will, and let the chips fall where they may." (God Be In My Head, p.78) The older we get, the more loss we experience, and someday, it will be my turn, and your turn. This is the life of the mortal body. But we are not alone. God is always with us.

This prayer is my anchor for tough times, a 500-year old prayer still valid in the 21st century and this changing world.

Old Sarum Cathedral on the Salisbury Plain

Sacred Ground: The Conversation Continues as the Social Justice Task Force

While it may seem a broad generalization, the last year has felt like the longest year of our collective lives. Our mental focus has narrowed due to quarantine and forced isolation; our world has shrunk to our neighborhoods or just our homes. But time did not really stop or even slow down.

Before Covid came to town and we were all forced to hide our faces behind the safety of masks, some of our society were already living in daily fear of a different nature. Many of us could do little more than watch the nightly news in disbelief as our society became more fragmented over the rights of immigrants, the killings of unarmed people by police, and the constant drumbeat of us versus them. St. James' responded last year to the growing racial injustices by offering the Episcopal Church's Sacred Ground series to parishioners as a structured way of examining racial prejudice and white privilege. This course was a call to change our hearts, our words, and our actions.

Some of that Sacred Ground group have formed the **Social Justice Task Force** to look for ways to bring these necessary changes to St. James' congregation and our local community. The task force has already identified four possible ways to help bring about change on parish level: first by approved donation of money and time to specific causes that will help BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color), second by offering further educational opportunities to the congregation such as monthly watch parties for documentaries or book series, third by organized prayer services focusing on social justice, and fourth by organizing church social activities that bring different groups together once quarantine is over.

In light of recent hate crimes directed at Asians in the Bay Area, the task force suggests that concerned parishioners look at http://compassioninoakland.org/. This newly formed nonprofit coordinates over 700 volunteers to patrol Oakland's Chinatown assisting Asian seniors. These community activists are making the neighborhood safer for everyone. The organization asks for donations of time or money to help defray costs.

The task force is currently meeting twice a month on the first and third Sunday of the month at 6pm. If you are interested in joining, please contact Rev. Bill Hale to get on the zoom meeting list. If you want to know more, just ask during Sunday Coffee Hours or the Thursday Social Hour. "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).

~Mary Frances Leopold

Spring Magnolias blooming by the Little Church. Photo by Bruce Roberts.

Vestry Highlights

Submitted by Jim McConnell, Jr. Warden

The Vestry met March 18th. Meg Amouroux opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes for the February 18th Vestry meeting were approved. The March financial report was approved. The Heritage Bank has submitted our PPP loan forgiveness application. The approved Parochial Report has been sent to the diocese.

Jim McConnell guided a discussion on campus security. The Vestry has approved $400 to acquire and install four additional motion sensor lights around the campus.

The Vestry discussed our neighboring condominium association using our parking lot. The condominium HOA folks are interested in meeting with someone from St James' to answers questions we have of their parking proposal. We discussed potential conflicts and issues around managing who and where they might park. Will meet with the HOA later to discuss options.

Lori solicited opinions for developing the front park area of our campus. No resolution at this time.

Meg Amouroux closed the meeting with Compline.

A YEAR OF PRAYERS TO END RACISM: THE DIOCESAN COMMISSION TO END RACISM

The Commission has developed a series of special collects calling attention to specific issues still prevalent in our society today that we as a church must be ever mindful of as we work toward making the world a better place for all of God's people.

Collect for April:

APRIL-- For the heroes and heroines of the struggle for civil rights (thanks and future encouragement) (April, death of Martin Luther King, Jr)

"O bountiful and merciful God: you have blessed your people with great prophets and leaders to advance the cause of equality under law in this nation and in the world. By their teaching and preaching; by their action and example; by their marching, demonstrating, and sitting in; by their organizing, praying and singing, they have made themselves and the dream of non-discrimination impossible for opponents to ignore and possible for those marginalized to dream. Give us such leaders always, Lord. Let the cry for justice always be heard in our land until, by your gracious will, your children live together in freedom, justice, and equality. Amen."

Financial Summary February 2021

Fund Balances	2/29/2020	2/28/2021
Operating Fund	$91,101.65	$114,351.18
Building Fund	$70,266.05	$29,369.92
Pledges Budgeted	$57,177.32	$59,215.00
Pledges Paid	$86,696.60	$69,599.59
Unpledged Contributions	$3,610.00	$1,208.46
Other Op Income	$3,578.99	$106.28
Total Operating Income	$93,885.59	$70,914.33
Total Operating Expenses	$52,285.46	$61,038.37
Income less Expenses	**$41,600.13**	**$9,875.96**

Irish Soda Bread

Recipe from Bob Doherty

The following recipe is from Bob Doherty's grandmother, Molly Sullivan, who learned to make soda bread on the family farm in Ireland. She made sure to bake some soda bread to celebrate St. Patrick's Day every March 17th and her recipe has been handed down and shared with others through the years.

Preparations for baking, before mixing the ingredients:

Lightly oil a baking pan, and lightly dust with flour.

Molly used a medium size cast iron skillet, but any pan will do.

A 9-inch round cake pan will work, or

You can split the batter between two 9x4 loaf pans.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Ingredients:

- 4 Cups of flour
- 2 pinches of Baking Soda
- 4 teaspoons of Baking Powder
- 1 pinch of salt
- ½ cup of sugar
- 2 cups of buttermilk (recommend Hungarian Cultured Buttermilk)
- 2 eggs
- The following are optional:
  - ½ cup of raisins (highly recommended)
  - ½ cup of walnuts (chopped or whole – your preference)
  - 1 Teaspoon of Caraway Seeds (gives it a unique flavor)

Directions for mixing:

You will need a large bowl, a large spoon, measuring spoons, and a measuring cup.

Put all the dry ingredients into the bowl.

Stir all the dry ingredients together so they are well mixed.

Add the optional items of your choice and stir them into the dry ingredients.

Add the buttermilk and eggs and **fold** it all together with your spoon.

This will form a big lump of dough.

You do not want a smooth batter – lumpy is good.

Keep **folding** the lump just until everything is combined.

Plop the lump of dough into the pan – don't try to spread it out. It will spread as it cooks.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

Stick it with a wood toothpick to check if done. If toothpick comes out clean, it is done. Otherwise give it a few more minutes.

Always @ St. James'

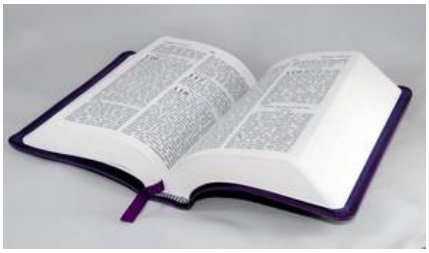
Children and Youth

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

Episcopal Youth Fremont will meet next via Zoom **Sunday, April 11th from 7 - 8 PM**. All young people 6th - 12th grade are welcome to join us. Contact Jan Scrutton for the zoom link.

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 **May**. We welcome your **comments, essays, poems, photos, book reviews, newsworthy items, and any group activity information**.

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

Calendar

You can access the church calendar for April here.

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 April

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:

Kristen & Eric, Bailey & Steven, Marlene & Felipe, Alex & Phoebe

For Those Who Need Comfort and Strength:

Anne, Ivy, The Norman family, John, the Sankar family

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction:

Marcos, Michele

For Those Who Need Healing:

Ron, Julie, Gail, Craig, Linda, Diane, Barry, Jim, Rose, Debbie, Ethan, Amy, Warren, Pat, Ed, Mike, Rob, Fatima, Alan, Don, Rich, Kenny, Adrienne

For Those Who Have Passed Away:

Vicky, Frances, Margaret, Peter, Joan, Dwarka

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.

04/07	Ian Fuller
04/08	Kaitlin Evans-Bodenrader
04/10	EJ Hilliard
04/14	Tim Feeney
04/15	Elyse Lovellette
04/16	John Michael Butterfield
04/17	Tom Scrutton
04/20	Ruth Poole
04/21	Elvin Maina
04/22	Elaine Maina
04/23	Karl Drescher
04/24/??	Bill Hale
04/26	Elizabeth Hart
04/26	Michael Hart
04/28	Al Casas

04/09	Alice & Mel Johnson
	Amy & Mark Reynolds
04/19	Bud & Jan Pearson

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace
MAIL TO: PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94537-0457
http://saintj.com
Tel: (510) 797-1492

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

STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector ..... lori@saintj.com
The Rev. Dr. Bill Hale, Associate Priest
……..…..bhale@saintj.com
Jan Scrutton, Children and Youth Minister
..... jan@saintj.com
Ron Cook, Office Administrator .. .admin@saintj.com
Jennifer Ravera, Music Director.....music@saintj.com
Bruce Roberts, Treasurer..... treasurer@saintj.com

VESTRY

Senior Warden .....srwarden@saintj.com
Sylvia Ma

Junior Warden.....jrwarden@saintj.com
Jim McConnell

Meg Amouroux
John Butterfield
Bob Bynum
Bob Doherty
Janet Fischer
Tim Fortescue
Samir Kalitta
Mary Francis Leopold
Greg Miller
Beverly Mosier

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:
George Siegmann
Eucharistic Visitors: The Rev. Lori Walton
Altar Guild: Katie Cunningham
Ushers: Burtin Hart
Facilities: facilities@saintj.com

Convention Delegates

Email our delegates at:
stjdeanery@saintj.com
Greg Miller
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller
Jim McConnell
Ken Trant
Scott Whitaker

Alternate to Convention

Sally Morgan

***The Window* Staff**

Janet Fischer | Laura Winter

Article submission:
newsletter@saintj.com