THE WINDOW

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, FREMONT CALIFORNIA

MARCH 2024

Go Tell it On the Mountain

Written by Ann Saponara

During 2024 the vestry has selected two themes: How do we "go tell it on the mountain?" and "who are our neighbors?" This is the first article in the series.

How does an introvert who does not want to harm anyone with her personal belief in God and the Holy Spirit, go tell it on the mountain to others? I am shy to broadcast my religious beliefs outside of church for two main reasons: either for fear of sounding nutty and being judged as such, or out of sensitivity to those harmed by the weaponizing of religion in shaming the very disenfranchised people Jesus most sought to protect. I silence myself even with the thought of mistaken alignment with those who Tim Alberta, author of *The Kingdom, The Power and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism*, says "wrap [their] greed, [their] corruption, [their] violence, [their] abuse, … in a holy veneer, [making those sins] … easier to get away with." (The Lincoln Project, February 2024).

But there is such good news "that Jesus Christ is born" as the lyrics of "Go Tell It On the Mountain" go, I do introverted things like sometimes wearing a cross necklace and mailing my favorite spiritual books in the mail to Godsons, daughters and friends. (Only one has acknowledged reading part of Inspired by Rachel Held Evans, which I read last year in a St. James book group led by Rev. Lori and found, truly, inspiring but they are out there in the world!) I've bought multiple copies of Howard Thurman's Jesus and the Disinherited and put them in the Little Library in front of my house. I celebrate others' ability to sing Jesus' praise by taking my kids and niece to a gospel brunch at the SF Jazz Center years ago and loving every minute of it. I wear my cross marked forehead to the grocery store on Ash Wednesday. I am grateful every day for the gifts of God, but all of these are safe, quiet and reserved expressions of faith. Can I leave telling it on the mountain to the extroverts?

I know that I am called to do more.

Let me start by recommending the tv series "The Chosen," which is a tv show in seven seasons with four currently out, and the fourth season now playing at the movie theater. It depicts the life and teachings of Jesus and the disciples. I was afraid to watch this tv series, fearing both a corrupt interpretation of amazingly good news and also that I would never be able to not see the actors in my head when I read the bible. But I loved watching Season Four in the movie theater and I have to say it was an easier starting point for me that Season 1, which I am now returning to on Netflix, and then I'm looking forward to Seasons 2 & 3 on the Angel network. The filming is beautifully cinematic and humanizes Jesus and the disciples, movingly conveying Jesus' teachings not only with the danger and tumult of Jesus' life but also with playfulness and contagious joy. I have Bev Mosier to thank for teaching me so much about the Sadducees and the Pharisees and the Sanhedrin and the disciples and Jesus' healing in our Acts bible study, which helped me understand what I was watching more fully. I hope this recommendation of the movie & Bev's class counts as go telling it on the mountain!

I resolve to try to voice my love of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit more this year because, as the lyrics go, "when I was a seeker, I sought both night and day, I asked the Lord to help me, And he showed me the way." It is meant for sharing, for sure.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Registration for Ordination & Consecration Service

The Rev. Austin Keith Rios will be ordained and consecrated Bishop Coadjutor of the Episcopal Diocese of California at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 4 at Grace Cathedral.

Please share this invitation **(English, Español)** with anyone who may want to attend in person or via live stream. And please remind in-person attendees to register **HERE**.

We look forward to joining the diocese and wider Bay Area as we celebrate the beginning of Bishop-elect Austin's ministry among us as our next diocesan bishop.

Parish-Wide Emails | parish@saintj.com

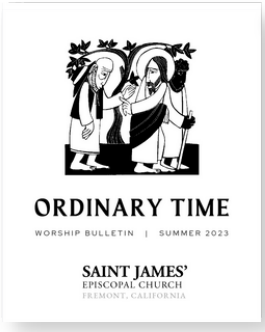
This email address is a way for parishioners to share messages with the whole parish – if you are a member of the group you can send an email that will be released by a moderator. When you send a message you don't see it in your inbox but there is no need to send it again. If you wish to respond to a message please only reply (not reply all) to the original sender.

Some people have said they don't receive parish@saintj.com emails. This may be for one of two reasons – firstly those messages may be going into your spam folder. Please check your spam folder before inquiring about missing emails. Secondly you may not be signed up to receive them. **If you'd like to add your email address to the list, please message our administrator Ron, admin@saintj.com**

Maisha Bora Update

Keep watch for a Maisha Bora update in next month's newsletter issue, with letters from Hope and Miriam alongside an update from Bev Mosier.

Lenten Bulletin | Now Available



Pick up a worship bulletin if you would like a guide to help you pray with us.

Available on Sundays on the table near the front door of the church, or ask an usher for one.

Join in with us at worship as you are, and bear with us as we are, and we will all be changed as we go.

Holy Week & Easter

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, March 24 | **8:00am & 10:30am**

Palm Blessing, Grand Procession, Holy Communion, and Reading of the Passion.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28 | **6:30pm Gather, Service Afterward**

Simple meal followed by liturgy with foot washing, cross exchange, and the Stripping of the Altar.

GOOD FRIDAY, March 29 | **12:00-2:00pm (Worship), 2:00-3:00pm (Stations of the Cross), 7:00pm (Worship)**

Reading of the Passion & the Veneration of the Cross; Stations of the Cross held in the Big Church; Evening service of Lessons & Spirituals

EASTER VIGIL, March 30 | **5:00pm-6:30pm (approx.) on the Patio & in the Big Church**

Lighting the Easter Fire, Stories Around the Campfire, Easter Proclamation & Holy Communion

EASTER SUNDAY, March 31 | **10:30am (in the Big Church)**

Festive Service in the Big Church with music & Holy Communion, followed by the annual Easter Egg Hunt for Children and Vestry-hosted reception.

Corazón Home-Build Trip June 2024

Submitted by Meg Amouroux & Barbara Vacchieri

Embark on a transformative journey with Corazón, joining friends from the Southern Alameda Deanery on a weekend trip to Mexico from June 28-30, 2024. The construction projects ensure safe and secure homes for families. Volunteer groups, led by experienced builders, construct 16x20 homes in one day. No experience is necessary—just bring your enthusiasm!

Visit corazon.org for more information. If you are interested in participating, please let us (Meg and Barbara) know and we'll connect you with others from St. James' who are interested.

Key Details for the 2024 Southern Alameda Deanery Trip

Build Date: June 28-30, 2024

Departure: Friday, June 28th

Return: Sunday, June 30th

Registration Link: Corazón.org/3433_alameda

What is Corazón? Corazón, Inc. is a 99% volunteer-run nonprofit formed in 1978, following the "comunidad Corazón" approach.

Is it Safe? More than 20 U.S. nonprofits operate in Baja California yearly, with no reported incidents since 2007. All participants will be required to show that they are fully vaccinated. In addition, a mask must be worn while working inside the house once the walls go up and the roof goes on.

What Do I Need to Bring? Basic supplies like a hammer, safety glasses, and other items are helpful. A complete list of tools you could bring can be provided.

Do I Need a Passport? Yes, U.S. citizens need valid travel documents.

How Will We Get to Chula Vista? Either with other St. James' attendees or on your own, drive down or fly to San Diego. The deanery will arrange transportation into Mexico. Most get to San Diego in personal vehicles.

How Will We Get Into Mexico? Professional bus service ensures a safe journey.

Cost and Dates: The deanery takes care of food on Friday & Saturday nights, and Saturday & Sunday mornings (you will be responsible for food while on the road). You are welcome to help pay for gas in the vehicle you are riding in. St. James' financial contribution to the deanery's 2024 home-build has been approved by the vestry, with funds coming from our Corazon special interest account.

Where Will We Stay? A church in San Diego hosts us for Friday and Saturday nights. We will worship with our host parish before heading home at the end of the weekend. You may also stay at a local motel if you like.

Who Can Participate? Entering 6th grade through adults are welcome.

Construction Skills Needed? None! A willing heart and readiness to work and serve are all you need.

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Charisma Pangilianan, Jr Warden

Vestry Discussions:

- During oral communications, explained to the new members the voting process during a Vestry meeting. Basically, we follow Robert's Rules of Order.
- Voted and accepted the January Vestry meeting minutes, the January annual meeting minutes, January Vestry retreat minutes, and the January Staff and Ministry Reports.
- The treasurer reviewed the January Financial Reports. We are currently over the pledge budget by 8.6% ($2,573).

New and Continuing Business:

- Active discuss of how to allocate the surplus from the 2023 Operating Account of $23,774.
  - Voted and approved for part to go to Future Staff fund and part to the Rector Sabbatical fund.
  - Vestry agreed to make preparations and a concerted effort to find a part time priest for the parish.
  - This person will cover our needs for when Rev. Lori goes on sabbatical, to help her overall workload, and to help grow the church.
- Voted and approved the ability for Jan Scrutton to write checks for the self-funded 2024 Youth Mission Trip without Vestry approval for each check.
- Voted and approved Meg Amouroux for the Endowment Board.
- Voted and approved the disbursement of the John McCutchen concert proceeds to the three organizations decided by last year's Vestry: Abode, Covenant House, and SAVE - $1000 each.
- An updated was provided for the City of Fremont's SAFE Parking Program which St. James will participate. Rev. Lori and Charisma Pangilinan are in the midst of the permit process.
  - The City is currently looking for a host site for April, July and December.
- Rev. Lori reminded all new Vestry member of the requirement to take the online training.

The meeting adjourned at 845pm and Vivenne closed the meeting with Compline. The next Vestry meeting will be held on Thursday/March 21, 2024 via Zoom

The vestry meets via Zoom in the odd months (January, March, etc.) and meets in-person in the parish hall during the even months (February, April, etc).

WAYS WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER

WORSHIP

WORSHIP AT CHURCH

We offer two services on Sunday morning at 8:00am and 10:30am. Coffee and light snacks following each service. Join us for worship and fellowship!

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

If you cannot attend church in person, you can join our 10:30am service live-streamed on Sundays at **saintj.com**. The service can be joined at any time on Sunday from 10:30am or watched during the week on our **YouTube channel**.

WEDNESDAY 10:00AM SERVICE

Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with prayers and sermon discussion in real time on Zoom. Join us! The link can be found under "Upcoming Events" on the right side of our **website**.

Online Worship Resources | Link

This page on our parish website contains additional information and resources for online worship including links to our Sunday service recordings, a PDF version of the Book of Common Prayer (1979), daily scriptural readings, helpful websites, & more.

Follow us on Social Media!

FACEBOOK INSTAGRAM

Find Links to service & sermon audio/video here:

YOUTUBE APPLE SPOTIFY TUNEIN

LEARNING

BIBLE STUDIES

Monday | 11:00am on Zoom

Join with others to catch up and wrestle with some of the sacred texts of the Bible. We meet every Monday on Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Email lori@saintj.com or find the zoom link on the home page of our **website**.

Monday | 7:00pm on Zoom

Learn about the Acts of the Apostles. For more information, contact Bev Mosier at bevjcan@gmail.com or 971-218-2462 (voice/text)

Wednesday | 11:00am on Zoom

Bible Study at 11:00am, also via Zoom. Rev. Lori will send out a link to a short video and discussion questions. Email lori@saintj.com to be added to this list.

FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour is held after each service on Sunday mornings. Come over to the Parish Hall after worship and join us for a cup of coffee, light refreshments, and good conversation. Everyone is welcome!

*Zoom links for all of our offerings can be found on our parish website, **saintj.com**. Look for the calendar of events on the right side of our home page. If something is not listed, email the leader and they will make sure you have what you need.*

Sunday's service and sermons are also online on iTunes, Spotify, TuneIn, and Youtube. Go to our website for online worship resources. Like us on Facebook and Instagram! We also have a YouTube page & Twitter feed.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Saint James' Children & Youth Ministry | ***Current Events***

Sunday School, for children in TK- 6th grade, meets weekly during the 10:30AM service. The children gather outside and head to the Sunday School classroom when the service begins and return to church during the Peace to participate in the Eucharist with their families.

A registration form for all under 18's which includes a media release and opportunity to share any relevant information can be found ***HERE***. This is for the 2022-23 school year and all families are encouraged to complete it as the new school year begins.

Episcopal Youth Fremont

Episcopal Youth Fremont is a youth group for 6th – 12th graders based at St. James' which meets during the school year. Any questions about our programs for children or youth? **Email our Children & Youth Minister Jan Scrutton at jan@saintj.com.**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY | MARCH 2024

Fund Balances	1/31/2023	1/31/2024
Operating Fund	63,355.87	87,440.24
Building Fund	95,197.97	95,653.60
Special Interest funds	215,756.55	247,128.72
Pledges Budgeted	28,727.83	33,144.25
Pledges Paid	35,035.00	36,006.00
Unpledged Contributions	1,080.00	230.00
Other Operating Income	1,363.94	1,274.24
Total Operating Income	37,478.94	37,510.24
Total Operating Expenses	35,215.96	34,937.04
Income less Expenses	2,262.98	2,573.20

Prayers We Pray: Prayers of the People

Written by Brian Cochran

"First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity" (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

As I've said before, the Sunday service is bursting with prayer, and now we come to the most obvious example of that, The Prayers of the People. After introductory prayers and praises, hearing the Word read and preached, a time of silence, and declaring our trust in and commitment to the Trinity in the Nicene Creed, we are ready to respond. It is now our turn to talk to God, to ask for help for ourselves and others.

The Book of Common Prayer has a general template for what to include in these prayers and six Forms with more explicate guidelines and prayers (p. 383-93). The general template also encourages great freedom in adapting the forms or inserting suitable prayers for the occasion.

In this section of the service, as really throughout worship, care needs to be taken to pay attention and respond personally. Worship is a ritual, but it is not to become rote. The goal is to be present, responsive, and engaged in our relationship with God. In these prayers we are asking for God's help for the church and its mission, for political leaders, and for the needs of the world. I am struck when we sometimes pray for our president by first name, whether Joseph, Donald, or Barack. Doing so personalizes them and brings them down to human size. As the passages quoted above both conclude, the aspiration and result of our intercessory prayers is peace, quiet, and dignity. And while these are results for us as we pray, we are calling on God to bring peace, equanimity, and love to the others we are praying for too.

Both passages above also emphasize thanksgiving as part of our prayers, which highlights the need to be alert and attentive to how God is answering our prayers. God might be calling us to do something to bring peace and equity to the world, or we might recognize the abundant provision of God through nature, people, or the Spirit. Several psalms mention offering God a "sacrifice of thanksgiving" which to me says that prayer is an offering of ourselves, our energy, our focus on God and the world (Psalms 50:14, 23; 116:17, 118:1, 29; 136:1-26).

Image by Bro. Martin Erspamer

As with the rest of the service, the Prayers of the People are sacramental in nature, which means they are outward and physical signs of an inward and spiritual grace. We see and hear the words of the prayers and say the responses out loud, while inwardly we direct our hearts to God in faith, hope, and love, pouring out our needs and those ofothers, crying out for mercy that God will hear us. This takes great concentration and allows us the freedom of memory and imagination to recall names or places we know that need God's grace. These prayers are also examples for us and encouragement to pray throughout the week, indeed to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17), the highest goal of the Christian, something that is only achieved through faith and by God's grace.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer!

This is the sixth in a series on the prayers of our church.

Meet the 2024 St. James' Vestry

Photo by Bruce Roberts

Here is our 2024 Vestry, seen here by our garden & Little Church. We are grateful to all of them for stepping up and serving as vestry members, and pray for them and their work in the coming year.

Back Row (Left to Right): Gregg Feeney, Burtin Hart, Peter Maina, Marcus Pun, Matt Hurley, Kaethe Langs

Front Row (Left to Right): John Amouroux, Ann Saponara, Vivienne Paratore, Barbara Vacchieri, Nancy Castaneda, Charisma Panginilian

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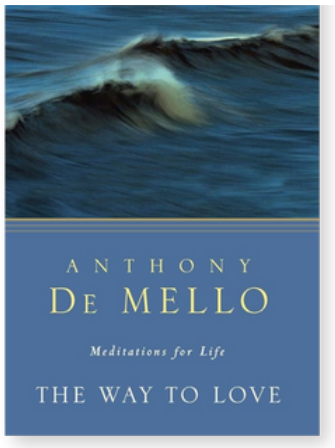

The Way to Love: Meditations for Life | Anthony De Mello

Recommendation Submitted by John Wagas

In this compendium of reflections delivered by the Indian Jesuit priest, spiritual writer, and psychotherapist Anthony De Mello in his final years, the reader is taken into a dynamic journey of introspection and prayer as they traverse the contours of contemporary life and the necessity of embodied love.

Drawing on his psychological background, De Mello emphasizes the gift of the mind and senses in being attuned to God's creation through word and deed. He is a spiritual writer and guide that transcends time and cultures while nonetheless drawing on his experience as a Southeastern Asian at a time of social reform and cultural shifts.

ALWAYS AT SAINT JAMES'

PARISH CALENDAR

Access the online parish calendar **here.**

COVID, COLD & FLU PRECAUTIONS

- Please keep yourself and others safe by staying home if feeling unwell, getting your vaccinations, and wearing a mask if you want to be extra cautious.
- A reminder that we are sharing a common cup during communion.
- If you are concerned about drinking from the chalice, receiving only the bread is a full and complete communion.

BLESSING BAGS FOR DISTRUBITION

Let us remember those who have no shelter. Our Blessing Bags are available for you to give away. Each bag contains toiletries, water, food, socks, and a mask. We're using reusable cloth bags that can also serve as a backpack. **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 during office hours, Wednesdays & Thursdays between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM in the office hallway.

Occasionally we have people visit church to ask for assistance. It is helpful to have gift cards we can give out with blessing bags when appropriate. If you'd like to donate a card, we ask for $25 cards for gas, Safeway, Target, Walmart, or Lucky. They can be given to the wardens, clergy, or put in the office.

SIGN UP | DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

DioCal, the Diocese of California, publishes a weekly newsletter via email which you can receive by signing up **HERE**. The web site for the diocese is **www.diocal.org**.

CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS | ZOOM

Tuesday mornings from 10:00AM – 11:00 AM.

Please join Sylvia Ma for a weekly Zoom class on chair exercises on Breathing/Qi Gong and Tai Chi/ Hsing I movements. No experience is necessary. If you are interested, email Sylvia at **hsiehtinghsueh@yahoo.com**. The link will also be found on the parish website's calendar.

NEWS FOR MARCH

SAINT JAMES' PRAYER LIST

Most Holy God, we pray:

For Those in the Military
Jarrod, Megan, Theresa, Mark, Tim, Caitlin, Emily, Robin, Dave, Shawn, Ethan, Paul, Matthew, Johnny, Johnathan, Darren, Robert

For Healthcare Workers and Chaplains
Evelyn, Jeff, Brian, Josephine, Mary, Polly, Alice, Bozena, Angela, Darcia, Mary, Tammy, Mana, Natalie, Dr. Johnathan, Megan, Gerald, Amber

For Teachers, Principals, School Staff
Jennifer, Monique, Toni, Jill, Sherea, Esther, Peter, Vivienne, Margaret, Stephanie, Tim, Jason, Jeannie, Lucia, Travis, Jasmine, and those in our families and communities named in our hearts

For Those Expecting Children

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength, & Guidance
David, the Johnson family, Crystal

For Safe Travels

For Those Who Need Healing & Comfort
Ron, Julie, Gail, Craig, Linda, Barry, David, Pat, Elaine, Betty, Kit, Sheila, Becky, Wally, Michael, Lisa, Joe, Dennis, Ellison, Paul, David, Jose, Margaret, Ronnie, Cherie

For Those Who Have Passed Away
Mary-Paule, Judy, Melvin, Nancy, Terry

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.

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

Email your submissions to newsletter@saintj.com by March 20.

BIRTHDAYS
MARCH

1	Kimberly Patton
6	Anna Davis
7	Paul Davis
8	Robert Lacy
	Jan Scrutton
9	Bethany Vacchieri
11	Barbara Vacchieri
13	Karen Ekren
	Barry Hedgpeth
14	Jennifer Ravera
20	Laura Castaneda
22	Brandon Bregg
24	Alice Johnson
26	Pat Spalding

ANNIVERSARIES
MARCH

25 Paul & Nancy Svenson

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MAILING *PO Box 457 Fremont, CA 94537-0457*

WEBSITE *www.saintj.com* **TELEPHONE** *(510) 797-1492*

OFFICE HOURS *Wednesdays & Thursdays* | *10:00am – 1:00pm*

Called to serve, in new and loving ways.

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton | *Rector*.....**lori@saintj.com**
Karla Koon | *Seminarian*.....**karla@saintj.com**
Jan Scrutton | *Children and Youth Minister*.....**jan@saintj.com**
Jennifer Ravera | *Music Director*.....**music@saintj.com**
Ron Cook | *Office Administrator*.....**admin@saintj.com**
Bruce Roberts | *Treasurer*.....**treasurer@saintj.com**

VESTRY MEMBERS

Senior Warden
Vivienne Paratore | srwarden@saintj.com

Junior Warden
Charisma Panginilian | jrwarden@saintj.com

John Amouroux
Nancy Castaneda
Gregg Feeney
Burtin Hart
Matt Hurley
Kaethe Langs
Peter Maina
Marcus Pun
Ann Saponara
Barbara Vacchieri

Vestry Clerk **Elizabeth Hart**

CONVENTION DELEGATES

Mary Frances Leopold
Mike Scrutton
Ken Trant
John Wagas

Alternate to Convention **Jim McConnell**

Contact Us: **stjdeanery@saintj.com**

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday Services:
In-Person | 8:00am and 10:30am
Live-streamed | 10:30am with recording

Wednesday Service:
Online/Zoom | 10:00am

IMPORTANT COORDINATORS

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors
George Siegmann

Eucharistic Visitors
The Rev. Lori Walton

Ushers
Burtin Hart

Facilities ***facilities@saintj.com***

The Window Newsletter Staff
Laura Winter
John Wagas
Brian Cochran
Marilyn Rose
Gregg Feeney