



St. James' Notes



April 2021



Empowered by the Holy Spirit to be faithful disciples of Jesus, St. James' serves as a beacon of God's love and as a caring Christian family for the community, the nation and the world by seeking to restore all to unity with God and one another and by proclaiming the Good News through worship, witness, education, fellowship and service.

St. James' Episcopal Church at Mount Vernon
A parish church in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia and member of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Dear People of St. James',

Easter season is upon us, with its joyous message of resurrection and life. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

After more than a year of coronavirus separation, St. James' is ready for some Easter hope. And as we have seen the coronavirus daily cases decline, and more and more of us have received the vaccine, we begin to see a path for bringing St. James' back together for in-person worship.

St. James' will begin to offer Holy Eucharist on Sunday afternoons at 5pm in the St. James' parking lot, starting on the Sunday after Easter (April 11). This service will be in addition to our regular Sunday morning 10am Zoom service, which will continue as our primary weekly worship service until we are all able to be together in our church building.

As the local rate of virus infections continues to decrease, we can look forward to beginning to use our building again and welcoming our Ghanaian friends back to their worship as well.

Our outdoor in-person worship will be different from what we are familiar with. We will be doing all we can to continue to keep one another safe. But it will be a joy to be able to celebrate and share Holy Communion together, and to witness the presence of Christ, in one another and in person!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Charles+



Weekly In-Person Holy Eucharist Begins

Beginning Sunday April 11, St. James' will hold a weekly service of Holy Eucharist at 5:00pm, outdoors in the St. James' parking lot. We are excited to have this opportunity to gather in-person, and to share Holy Communion together.

Advance registration is required. You may register by calling the church office 703-780-3081, or by online through a link that will be included in the weekly email message. We will be limiting the number of households able to attend as we learn how many we can safely accommodate.

In order to gather safely, we will practice social distancing and require all attendees to wear masks. We will not be singing, and we discourage mingling after the service.

Outdoor services will be held weather-permitting. Please bring your own chairs.



St. James' Episcopal Church at Mount Vernon

The Diocese of Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff
Bishop Suffragan &
Ecclesiastical Authority

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer
Brooke-Davidson
Assistant Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor
Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Charles F. Brock
Rector

Staff

Jenny Kennedy
Parish Administrator

Alan Moser
Director of Music

Vestry

Chris Marbaker (2022)
Sr. Warden, Admin & Finance

Andy Wormser (2023)
Jr. Warden, Plant & Property

Mckayla Braden (2022)
Mission & Outreach

Mary Bramley (2023)
Evangelism & Publicity

Chad Duffield (2024)
Fundraising

James Eustis (2023)
Parish Activities

Mary Lowe (2024)
Christian Education

Mike Morgan
Treasurer

Susan Clark
Register

Trustees

Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

Grocery Cards

The Rev. Pedro Cuevas has been delivering Prepaid Grocery Cards to families in need in the Latino community. If you would like to support his ministry, please mail Grocery Cards or a donation to the St. James' office. If you send a check, please write "grocery cards" in the memo line. Thanks.



Support Rising Hope Church

Please remember the homeless and hungry in our community and consider making an online donation to Rising Hope Mission Church, who supports so many in our community. <https://risinghopemc.org>

About Rising Hope Church

About Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church Rising Hope Mission Church serves the poorest in our neighborhood. In an average year it reaches nearly 8,000 individuals, supplies 2,000 families with food, and serves 18,000 hot lunches to the hungry. In addition to worship, Rising Hope offers Bible study, mentoring, and substance abuse counseling. Rising Hope connects the spiritual with the practical through job fairs, interview preparation, budgeting and financial classes, HIV testing, jail visitation, emergency housing referrals, summer Bible camp and more. Nearly 2/3 of Rising Hope's members are, or have been, homeless; many of its successful "graduates" return to volunteer. Rising Hope depends upon fits and grants from volunteers and non-profit organizations for its funding — it does not receive any Federal financial support.



From the Junior Warden

The season of Lent is coming to a close as we look forward to the resurrection of Jesus during Easter. It's a time of renewal – of the spirit, of the season with the coming of spring, and of presence with the increasing availability of the COVID vaccine and the decrease in case numbers in our area. Working closely with Fr. Charles and our Bishop, the Vestry has been trying to find ways to bring us back together. Judging by the traffic on the roads, more and more of us are venturing out these days, but when is the right time to venture back to church?



The Vestry is excited to support Fr. Charles' idea to begin outdoor Eucharists on the afternoon of April 11 – the second Sunday of Easter. It will be good to see one another in-person – from a safe distance. We all want to get back together as an in-person congregation but pray that we do not do so too soon and endanger anyone's health. For that reason, we will be taking it slow as we try to get back to full in-person worship – one step forward, check our progress, try to take another step. We don't know how many steps – or how many days/weeks/months – it will take to resume worship and fellowship the way it was before March of last year, but we want to get there. We are grateful for the strength of our congregation and look forward to the day when our doors are fully open. Until then, we look forward to saying hi from a socially-safe distance.

Andy Wormser



Look for Zoom links on the church website
www.stjamesmv.org and in emails.

Sunday Worship

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 10:00am | Online Morning Prayer with St. James' followed by Zoom fellowship time. |
| 5:00pm | Outdoor In-Person Holy Eucharist, weather permitting (begins on April 11). |

Wednesdays

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 11:30am | Join us online for 30 minutes of Bible-centered study and conversation. |
| Noon | Online Noonday Prayer and fellowship. |

Mission & Outreach

I want to begin by thanking everyone for your support of the St James' Martin Luthier King Day food drive for United Community (UC). I know I have reported this before during Zoom coffee hour, but I want to express my appreciation once again for a job well done. We collected over 1200 pounds of food, paper products and other non-perishable items for the families in need served by UC.



Your contributions were especially appreciated by me and UC; I received a very nice thank you note from UC addressed to St James'. I efforts were greatly appreciated.

In February we were asked by Olivet Church to support their mission for Rising Hope. We were able to provide a lot of product for their hygiene bags: items such as toothpaste and toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, disposable washcloths, socks, deodorants, soap, shampoo and conditioner, and many other necessities. Thanks so very much for your help. I believe I read that they were able to put together close to 1,000 bags. That was quite an accomplishment!

During the first quarter, contributions for Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) have been received. Please remember their good work goes on all year and the need is great. With our contributions, ERD can purchase goats for families to provide milk and cheese; and purchase water purification systems for families who otherwise would not have clean water, among many other things.

This coming quarter we will support Rising Hope Mission Church. Please remember our neighbors in your heart, your prayers, and send donations for the mission as often as you are able.

I look forward to seeing you in person very soon.

McKayla Braden



Parish Activities

Greetings St. James' family,

I hope this Easter finds you and your loved ones well and you are looking forward to spring. The lenten roses in our yard bloomed on queue, which are always a great reminder of the season; daffodils made an early appearance this year, and the forsythia are beginning to form a bright yellow hedge around our yard.



With this change in the season I'm looking forward to a year which I hope will see us physically together once more. As we look ahead to the year and consider ways to engage as a parish family, celebrating and traditions we've long enjoyed or creating new ones – for activities both in-person and distanced – I encourage you to reach-out with your ideas, suggestions, and assistance. Thank you in advance!

Best regards,

James Eusits

Choir Notes

Dear St. James' friends,

Can you keep a secret? I've been singing "Alleluia!" despite its still being Lent. Perhaps I could claim that I am practicing for a joyous celebration soon to come – but in reality, I've been praising God for all the miracles I see around me. I've seen recently frozen azaleas pop back to their bright spring raiment of pink, white, and red. The orange tree in the back yard is laden with sweet white flowers. All along the route homeward from Texas, trees are in bud, birds are singing, and children are out laughing and playing. As we see each year, the Resurrection story of new and renewed life is playing out around us. Alleluia!



If you know me at all, then you know I don't just hear the word, "Alleluia!" I've been singing it – the music is from Sir Arthur Sullivan, and the poem text was written by Bishop Christopher Wordsworth (poetry seems to run in his family).

We will all join together soon with these words:

Alleluia, Alleluia!
Hearts and voices heavenward raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise.
He, who on the cross a victim,
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
now is risen from the dead.

By the way – you really don't have to keep that secret – in fact, I hope you won't. I hope you are or will soon be singing your own Alleluias! Happy Easter!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Alan Moser



Prayers

Happy
Birthday



- 1 Eliot Tucker
- 11 Ellen Cleary
- 13 Muriel Sue Kerr
- 16 Mary Bramley
- 16 Pat Rowell
- 22 Henry Eustis
- 23 Justin Iber
- 25 Phil Trott
- 27 Isabel Spann
- 27 Lucas Thompson
- 28 Brady doCarmo

HAPPY
Anniversary!

April 6, 1980
Bob & Mary Blair

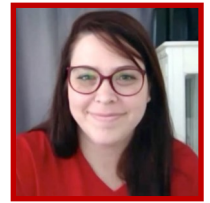


Prayers are offered when we worship. Please let the church office know if you would like to add a name to the list.

We pray for strength, guidance and healing for: Esther, Muriel Sue, Paula, Fred, Karla, Pat, Mike Dick and Dee.

Growth & Evangelism

Growth and Evangelism is definitely different in the time of COVID. Inviting people to join you at church or an event is not something we are able to do right now. So, how do we bring someone to church? You could tell someone that your church collects cans of food weekly and to grab some extra cans at the grocery store and leave them on your doorstep. You can share our posts on Facebook. Or, send in pictures of how you zoom church that we can share. There are so many different ways to invite people to church without inviting them to a building!



The Potomac Episcopal Racial Justice Ministry meets every Sunday for organizational planning. On Monday night, RJM hosts a discussion group on various topics. To find out more or how to get involved, visit: <https://www.potomacepiscopal.org/rjm>

Mary Bramley

Online Yard Sale

The Virtual Yard Sale is going strong! Items are being sold on eBay and Craigslist. Just a few ideas of fast and popular items: Anything collectible: Pro-sports items, Pokemon, Nintendo, White House Ornaments, Old Star Wars or GI Joe figures. Antique or vintage items. Old video games are also good sellers. Email or text Marghe with photos and a short description, Marghe will answer you. You could also look up your item yourself on eBay. Contact Marghe Bowker (703) 799-1567 marghebowker@gmail.com or the church office if you have questions.



St. James' Book Club

Book Club is still reading. Members will be contacted before each meeting to determine the best place to meet either outside or at a member's house and takes steps to insure social distance. Please call Lib Mueller (703) 360-0561 or Marghe Bowker (703) 799-1567 if you want to know more. All are welcome!

Here is this season's reads:

- January **Summer's Lease** by John Mortimer.
- February 11 **The Return of Eva Peron** Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul
- March 11 **Wrapped in Rain** by Charles Martin
- April 8 **A Woman of No Importance** by Sonia Purnell
- May 13 **Jones Point** by John Wasowicz
- Summer **This Tender Land** by William Kent Krueger



Happy Easter from The Vine Preschool



Spring Cleanup Day is April 17



Spring
Clean Up

If you've been by St. James' lately, you've surely seen the daffodils poking their heads up out of the ground — a sure sign of spring. That also means it's time to spruce up the grounds for the season. Please join us for our spring cleanup day on Saturday, April 17, from 9am to noon. We'll spread mulch, trim trees and plants, and find places to add new life to our church grounds. We had a good turnout from St. James' in the fall. Please try to join us – to work or to provide moral support – on April 17. Bring your own gloves and favorite garden tools.

Online Giving is Convenient!

We welcome your on-line donations through a button on the church's web home page: www.stjamesmv.org. You may use this for your regular pledges or for making one-time gifts. You may also mail your pledges to the church office (5614 Old Mill Road, Alexandria VA 22309). Thank you all for all the ways in which you support St. James'.





St. James' Episcopal Church
Mount Vernon, VA
5614 Old Mill Road
Alexandria, VA 22309-3332
703-780-3081 www.stjamesmv.org

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Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 28

10am—Zoom Worship with St. James'.

Maundy Thursday, April 1

7pm—Watch the service at the Washington National Cathedral.

Good Friday, April 2

The St. James' website home page links to a 30 minute walk-through of the St. James' Stations of the Cross.

7pm—The Liturgy of Good Friday on Zoom with St. James'.

Easter Sunday, April 4

10am—Celebrate the resurrection on Zoom with St. James'.

