



eTower



A weekly email publication for the community
of St. James Church in College Hill

Message of the Moment

How Many Times, Lord?

There are some passages in the Bible that are oft-repeated and almost ubiquitously understood in our culture. The one I'm thinking of today is from the 18th chapter of Matthew, "Then Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.' "

When we are pushed to dig into the reserves of our resilience, it may often be for the sake of doing unto others as we would have them do unto us. However, as it is now, we are being pushed to pursue a new depth of resilience in dealing with the coronavirus. As many times as the virus threatens, we have to put on masks and take extra precautions. Doing this only seven times (or sometimes), is not enough. Repeated resilience is asked of us not only for the sake of relationships, but for the sake of lives.

As tired as we are of masking up, we can not stop. We have to do it not only 77 times, but more than that. When Jesus said, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times,' he didn't literally mean that forgiveness of one another can end once we've done it 77 times. He meant that we have to forgive people (and circumstances) more times than we can count. That's fine, because I've lost track of the number of times I've wanted the pandemic to end and it has not. We have to stop counting and be resilient.

So, we are back to mask-wearing whenever there is a gathering at church. We will abbreviate our service, and we won't sing. We will keep our hands to ourselves at the Peace and stick with simple

expressions of love instead. We will say farewell outside after services.

As of now, there will be no more indoor social gatherings with food and drink. In-person classes (of 20 or fewer) are OK as long as participants wear masks. There will not be a nursery provided until children can be better protected and we have volunteers who are willing to work in the nursery in these times.

We will worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. through Labor Day weekend (Sept. 5). Beginning Sept. 12, we will offer two worship services on Sundays — one at 8:30 and one at 10:45 a.m. The lightly attended 5:30 p.m. Saturday service remains. Adding another service facilitates social distancing.

Breakfast and the Ministry Fair (to be held Sunday, Sept. 12 between the 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. services) will be held outside for safer gathering. If the virus metrics continue to get worse, we may begin to have worship outside. Check the eTower each Friday for updates impacting weekend worship. The Wednesday 12:15 p.m. service will not resume at this point.

Lord, we ask you for the patience and the will to go on protecting each other from a germ we can not see. Give us the fortitude to forbear with the difficulties we face. Make us generous with others, showing them the kindness and compassion we wish for ourselves. We ask for resilience as we strive to become more like your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

**Yours in Christ,
Mother Dawn+**

[Click here for current COVID-19 Precautions at St. James Established by Mother Dawn and the Vestry Aug. 19, 2021](#)

- Masks are to be worn whenever there is a gathering at church.
- In-person church services: no singing, no touching at the Peace, and abbreviated services.
- Clergy will say farewell to people outside under the portecochere outside the red front doors.
- There is no nursery.
- Beginning Sept. 12, we will offer two worship services on Sundays — one at 8:30 a.m. and one at 10:45 a.m. The lightly attended 5:30 p.m. Saturday service will remain unchanged. The benefit of offering more services is that it makes social distancing more likely.
- No indoor social gatherings with food and drink.

- September Breakfast and the Ministry Fair (scheduled between the 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services on Sept. 12) will be held outside.
- The Wednesday 12:15 p.m. service will not resume at this point.
- In-person classes at church (up to 20) are still OK. Masks must be worn. We recommend meeting in the Guild Hall or Church because those are large spaces that can accommodate social distancing. Meetings, of course, may be held on Zoom. It is up to the preference of the group.

First Things First

Children's Sunday School teachers will gather for our annual kickoff meeting to plan curriculum for the upcoming program year. If you are interested in volunteering for our Sunday School program and/or Children's Chapel, please join us right after the 9:30 a.m. service this Sunday, Aug. 22, upstairs in the kids' area. If you can't make it but still want to volunteer, please email Chelsea, formation@stjameswichita.org. Our First Sunday School and Children's Chapel will be at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 3.

The 2021 Tocher Lecture will feature Eliza Griswold, Pulitzer Prize-winning author. Her presentation titled "Words for a Divided World" starts at **7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1** at Grace Cathedral in Topeka. Griswold writes frequently for The New Yorker on faith and politics (and also happens to be the daughter of former Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, Frank Griswold). All are welcome to this free, public event. More information is available by [clicking here](#).

This September, St. James will, once again, offer the seminar **Education for Ministry (EfM)**. Laypersons learn the Bible, the history of Christianity and the Church. We follow a curriculum, developed over many years, which is rich in readings, thought and reflection. We meet weekly during the academic year. Classes begin Sept. 16. If you have questions about the 2021-22 year, please contact Paul Rillema by email at paul.rillema@gmail.com or by phone at 316-252-4400, or reach out to Deb Bagby debagby@gmail.com or 316-612-0628.

The St. James Handbell Choir will soon begin rehearsals for the 2021-22 season and would like to invite interested persons to consider joining this group. Adults and high school youth are welcome. The ability to read music is helpful, but those interested will receive training as needed. Please contact Music Director

Marlene Hallstrom at music@stjameswichita.org or talk to her after worship on Sunday for more information if you are interested.

Readings This Week



Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

[Click here to go to the Lectionary Page](#)

[Click here for a free PDF download of the Book of Common Prayer](#)

Lessons appointed for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost:

[1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43](#)

[Psalm 84](#)

[Ephesians 6:10-20](#)

[John 6:56-59](#)

Calendar

Click here to view our
current calendar of events

Calendar



Community Outreach

Please consider joining our **St. James Outreach Committee** by Zoom at **4 p.m. Tuesday, August 24**. Our speaker will be **Deanna Knapp**, the interim Director of Foundation and Grant Development at St. Francis Ministries. We will learn about the state of **foster care in our state** and about the work of St. Francis Ministries. If you would like to join us, send an email to jgoodpasture@cox.net, and you will receive a Zoom invitation the day before the meeting.

Thank you St. James for supporting our Back-to-School Drive for the **Pando Initiative**. We delivered a carload of essential supplies for schoolchildren in need.

Future Events — Save the Date

**Save the Date: One in the Spirit, One in the Lord:
Celebrating 20 Years of Called to Common Mission**

All members of the diocese (lay and ordained) are invited the evening of Friday, October 8, and morning of Saturday, **Oct. 9**. This celebration is jointly organized and hosted by the Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Dioceses of Western Kansas, Kansas, West Missouri, and Missouri.

The event will feature expert speakers on the past, present and future of ELCA/TEC dialogue and communion along with opportunities to connect across denominational lines to work on matters of praxis for our shared mission. Mark your calendar. Registration information will come in the next several weeks.

Prayer

Parish Prayers for the Week of Aug. 22

In the [Anglican Cycle of Prayer](#): Pray for the Anglican Church of South America.

In the [World Council of Churches Cycle of Prayer](#): Pray for the people of the Pacific islands: Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa and the French Overseas Territories of New Caledonia (Kanaky) and French Polynesia (Tahiti).

In the [Kansas Cycle of Prayer](#): Pray for St. Thomas the Apostle, Overland Park.

Pray for those serving in the military: Maureen Tanner, Alexis (Lexi)

Reed, Will Corkins, and J. David Anderson-Lusk.

Pray for those who have died: Nan King, Justin Wittman Bayles, son of the Rev. Joseph Bayles; Orville "Bud" Lytle; Lou Ann McFerson; Gloria Tilford; Donald Yoder; Marsha Bacon; Nancy Rollins; Christopher "Chris" Erickson, son of Jennifer and Mark Erickson; David T. Childs; and The Rev. Wayne Blakely.

Pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity: Pray for Marge; Dal; Joan; Gary; all people with COVID-19; all health care workers; Pam.; Jayne; Betty; Gus; Bob; Joe; Jean; Jerry; Larry S.; Mary; Jean; George; Jan and family; Carly, granddaughter of Delmar and Mary Klocke; Tom Tadtman, brother of Marilyn Taylor; Cindy, the daughter of Judy Thompson; Cathy; and Kam.

Our Parish Prayer List: All members of our parish community are asked to pray for each person on our prayer list. To share your prayers of thanksgiving (births, weddings, new jobs, anniversaries, etc.), to notify us that someone you love is serving in the military, to share that you or someone you love is suffering, or to tell us of a death, please call 316-683-5686 or email office@stjameswichita.org.

**If your prayers have been answered,
we would love to rejoice with you.
Please let us know so your name may be removed
from our list of people most urgently in need. Thank you.**

Let Us Pray

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 18:2-7

My God, my rock in whom I put my trust, *
my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my refuge;
you are worthy of praise.
I will call upon the Lord, *
and so shall I be saved from my enemies.
The breakers of death rolled over me, *

and the torrents of oblivion made me afraid.
The cords of hell entangled me, *
and the snares of death were set for me.
I called upon the Lord in my distress *
and cried out to my God for help.
He heard my voice from his heavenly dwelling; *
my cry of anguish came to his ears.

Psalm 91:9-13

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,
There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
For God shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.
They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent
under your feet.

Helpful Links

[View Last Week's Service](#)

[Contribute to St. James Church](#)

[Parish Leadership](#)



**Whoever you are and
wherever you find yourself
on your journey of faith,
you are welcome here.**



St. James
Episcopal Church
CELEBRATING

YEARS
1920-2020
A COMMUNION
OF SAINTS

Get in Touch with St. James Episcopal Church



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