



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

## Message of the Moment

### Time to Start Up!

You might think I'm nuts, but I've been getting inspiration from a song\* over the last week or so which has lines in it such as: "Thank you terror. Thank you disillusionment. Thank you frailty. Thank you consequence. Thank you silence." It could seem that a person who identifies with these lyrics is seriously sarcastic or massively morbid.

However, the truth is different. This could be a praise song for Christians *à la* Paul. Remember, in his first letter to the Corinthians he wrote about a thorn in his flesh which was causing him a lot of pain. He said, "I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong" *1 Cor. 12:8-11*.

With things going on in the world as they are, it is a helpful way to think. When times get tough, God will make us strong. Note, I did not say that when times get tough you should work even more than you already do, withdraw from the people who love you, feel guilty for it all. In a sense, Paul is talking to the Corinthians (and us) after the fashion of a Zen-master.

This is right in line with our intention that 2021 be a Sabbath Year. Allowing ourselves to take on fewer burdens and asking less of each other allows God to step in and take care of things in the way only God can. Issues resolve, anxieties calm, and mania

mellows if we will stop taking responsibility for bringing an ideal world into being. Peace will come in the door if we stop obsessively monitoring it. I know it probably doesn't feel this way, but everything really is going to be OK.

To me, thinking theologically means looking at a current situation and identifying a time in the Biblical narrative when people might have been in a similar setting or felt the same way. Once I have that figured out, then I reflect on what God was saying through the telling of that story and apply that message to the corresponding current situation.

Without a lifetime of Biblical study or an intentional education, it may not be possible to bring to mind parallel circumstances, but you have resources. We read nearly the entire Bible every three years by way of the assigned readings in our lectionary. Coming to church and hearing the Word of God gives you access to an encyclopedia of life experience. The world does not teach as God teaches. It takes practice to see things with a sacred lens instead of a secular one.

Breathe in deeply some blessed assurance, remember our Sabbath year, and listen to what the divinity in you prompts you toward in life. A new program year is starting. St. James offers countless ways for you to be spiritually fed and connected to your own faith. You don't need more to do, you just need more of what's good for you.

Here's to taking 2021-2022 as it comes, without fear of threat, and in prevailing peace.

**Yours in Christ,  
Mother Dawn+**

\*The song I refer to is "Thank You," by Alanis Morissette. Click here to listen: <https://youtu.be/r5mTJKg26jg>.

## First Things First

**We are adding a Sunday service starting this weekend.** Worship with us this fall at 5:30 p.m. Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. Sundays or 10:45 a.m. Sundays.

**Breakfast Sunday and the 2021 Ministry Fair are this Sunday** between the 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services. Breakfast will be served outside the kitchen door. Please be sure to stop by the fair, which will be outdoors, and see how you can help with the ministries of St. James.

# Readings This Week



O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost:**

**[Proverbs 1:20-33](#)**

**[Psalm 19](#)**

**[James 3:1-12](#)**

**[Mark 8:27-38](#)**

## Calendar

**Click here to view our  
current calendar of events**

**Calendar**

## Community Outreach

The Outreach Committee wanted to share an **informative article**

written by an Afghan refugee. He describes the difficulties his family faced as well as his gratitude for being in the United States. [Click here for the story.](#)

Our **Annual Blanket Drive for the Homeless** Shelters managed by **HumanKind Ministries** in downtown Wichita begins this Sunday, Sept. 12 and continues for three weeks. Please bring new or serviceable blankets to us and put them in the basket inside the red entry doors. We will deliver them to the homeless shelters in October.

**The next American Red Cross (ARC) blood drive will be Sunday, Sept. 26.** Appointments will be available beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 1 p.m.

There are several ways to sign up for an appointment time:

- Login or create an account on the ARC website and pick your time.
- Call Dottie Evans at 785-341-4532.
- Email Dottie at [dottieevans6@gmail.com](mailto:dottieevans6@gmail.com).

Any questions or concerns about the event can be directed to Dottie.

## Parish News and Updates

EfM is moving from Thursdays to Wednesdays beginning Sept. 15.

**OpenStreets ICT** will be taking place along Douglas on Sunday, Sept. 19. St. James will be participating with fun activities for everyone as they enjoy the community. We need volunteers to help with our children's booth activity. The job is easy, and the best part is interacting with kids and their families. We are looking for four volunteers total willing to work a 2.5 hour shift from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. or from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Email Chelsea ASAP if you are interested: [formation@stjameswichita.org](mailto:formation@stjameswichita.org).

## Prayer

### Parish Prayers for the Week of Sept. 12

**In the [Anglican Cycle of Prayer](#):** Pray for the Province of Uganda.

**In the [World Council of Churches Cycle of Prayer](#):** Pray for the people of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia.

**In the [Kansas Cycle of Prayer](#):** Pray for Breakthrough/Episcopal Social Services in Wichita.

**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:** Ann Allen, Jackie Davis, 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](mailto: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](#)



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**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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