



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

Message of the Moment

Wretched Week

If you had a happy occasion in the last week: birthday, anniversary, engagement, wedding, birth, reunion, recovery, raise, retirement, or you hit the jackpot, then you are a blessed person. If any of these happy things happened to you and you don't know that you are a blessed person, then you have led a very blessed life. There is a beautiful collect on page 134 in the Book of Common Prayer which says, "Shield the joyous." May God wrap protection around you like the wings of a mother dove and keep you safe.

If you don't number yourself among the joyous, then I have three things to say to you: 1. Pray; 2. Be grateful; 3. Rest assured.

1. Pray. If you are in pain of any kind (physical, emotional, spiritual ...) then I gently and firmly urge you to pray. When you are in a dark place, you might feel that you are far – and getting further – from God. In fact, you should be reminded that there is no isolation from God. The vital force of life will not abandon you, even if it seems hard to reach. God is changeless. God does not move. If you feel far away from God, something is getting in your way of drawing closer. Sit down in the quiet, or curl up in some time alone, and turn to God in prayer. The more you pray to live in the love of God, the more you desire to draw closer to God, the more you will let go of the burdens weighing you down and the more you will be in union with the grace that has sustained you all of your life. Pray.

2. Be grateful. This weekend at church we are observing the legacy many previous members of St. James Church have left for us. While you and I have done nothing to deserve generosity from

those who have come before us, we have inherited a healthy community of Christians to be in Communion with. We worship in a sacred, holy, and beautiful space that is well-maintained. We did not know enough to ask for these blessings, but they have been given to us anyway. That's the character of grace. It just comes. When you eat at a Chinese restaurant, you don't order the fortune cookies that arrive at your table (or in your doggie bag) later. They just come. Bidden or not, God's grace has been (and, by faith, will continue to be) freely given. How many blessings are there in your life? Be grateful for every one of them. I count being in Communion with you a blessing every week while I write this word. God has done great things for us.

3. Rest assured. No matter what else is happening in your life, there is always Holy Scripture to turn to. Whatever your situation is, there is no better Holy Scripture to read than **Romans, Chapter 8**, to remind you how deeply and irrevocably you are loved. As Paul puts it, "What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us." To read more, click on the **Romans, Chapter 8**, link here or above. You don't have to worry, struggle, strive, or entertain any cause for anxiety. As believers in God, there is nothing which is "able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Let yourself let go and rest assured.

It may feel as if there are many forces of evil alive and at work in the world. Evil and its aftermath are loud, but it is nowhere near as secure, prevalent, or steadfast than the love of God that we have been given. In this present time, pray, be grateful, and rest assured that you are sustained by the love of God made known to us by the Communion of Saints.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen (*BCP, Compline*).

**Yours in Christ,
Mother Dawn+**

First Things First

Legacy Weekend - Celebrating Generosity

The Legacy Society is the group of people who have notified the Endowment Funds Board that they intend to make a contribution to St. James from their estate when they die. Each year on this

special weekend, we thank those who have planned to be generous to St. James ahead of time. A brief induction service for new members of the Legacy Society will be held immediately following the 10:45 a.m. service this Sunday.

Youth Activities are in "Fall" Swing

Sunday School for high school and middle school youth is being held from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on the first and third Sundays of the month. Mark your calendar and join your friends in a loving and supportive environment. Sunday School is led by Deacon Jeff and Curate Dillon. Youth Group on Wednesday evenings has also started. The high school group meets at 6 p.m., and the middle school group meets at 7 p.m. All of these activities are held in the youth rooms downstairs.

Creation Care and Native Plants

Join the new committee concerned with the Care of Creation at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 2. The group will be receiving donations of native plants and planting them in beds along Yale Street. For more information, contact Pat Butin, PatandWalk@aol.com.

Readings This Week



O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

[Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22](#)

[Psalm 124](#)

[James 5:13-20](#)

[Mark 9:38-50](#)

Calendar

Click here to view our
current calendar of events

Calendar

Community Outreach

To learn more about the **Homeless in Wichita**, visit our **Outreach Committee zoom meeting** at 4 p.m. **Tuesday, Sept. 28**. **HumanKind's CEO LaTasha St. Laurent** and **Associate Development Director Greer Horning** will both speak with us. To receive a zoom invitation, just email jgoodpasture@cox.net.

Please remember our **Blanket Drive for the Homeless**. With the new shelter opening, HumanKind needs our blankets more than ever. Bring new or serviceable blankets to church and put them in the basket beside the red doors.

Pocket Change Ministry is now saving to send our next check for \$500 to **Episcopal Migration Ministries**. The organization is working hard to assist migrant families from Afghanistan.

Support our Afghan neighbors in need

Visit <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/> text: EMMALLIES to 41444, or call 1-800-334-7626. This is the most immediate, effective help you can give to refugees right now. To that end, you may write a check to St. James Church, write EMM in the memo, place it in the offering plate, and we will send your contribution on. When we begin our local ministry to Afghans in Wichita, additional contributions will be needed at that time.

Parish News and Updates

100th Anniversary apparel can be purchased using the order form found on the display table in the lobby near the red front doors. The

order deadline is Oct. 15 with merchandise arriving approximately Nov. 1.

St. James Episcopal Church: the First 100 Years (our history book) can be purchased anytime in the bookkeeper office. Books will be available in the lobby on Sundays between services. Books are \$25 each.

Sacred Ground Circles start on Oct. 14. Find out more at: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/> or read the most recent edition of Seasons! Please register early at <https://stjameswichita.org/sacred-ground-registration/>.

Parish Profile

Cradle Episcopalian Anne Clark has been attending St. James for about 11 years. She and her husband, Bert, were looking for a new church, and Anne's grandparents had been married in the chapel here. Bert and Anne married in 2010. A vestry member, Anne is a youth group leader, plays in the bell choir and has helped out with Guild Hall Players costumes over the years. She also has served as an acolyte and helps maintain St. James' gardens.



Anne oversaw the history book for St. James 100th anniversary. Bert and Anne have one child, Beckett, who will be 1 in October. Anne grew up in Prairie Village and earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Kansas State University. After college, she worked for YMCA camps, including as a retreat and conference director. She later earned a doctorate in physical therapy from Wichita State University.

She works as an outpatient physical therapist at NovaCare Rehabilitation.

"People come to see me for injuries or post-surgery. I specialize in women's health," she said.

She enjoys being outside, hiking, kayaking, spending time with family and costuming.

What do you do to rest and return to God?

"I enjoy quiet time on my own.

I always pray right before I fall asleep."

What do you like about St. James?

"I like how open everyone is.

We can have varying opinions on a topic, and be OK with that."

Prayer

Parish Prayers for the Week of Sept. 26

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Church in Wales.

In the World Council of Churches Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the people of Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.

In the Kansas Cycle of Prayer: Pray for St. Luke's, Shawnee.

Pray for those serving in the military: Will Corkins, J. David Anderson-Lusk and Maureen Tanner.

Pray for those who have died: Colin Carroll, Jackie Davis, Anne Allen (former St. James organist), Jan Siefkes (mother of Joan Moore and grandmother of Grace and Eve Moore), Nan King, and Justin Wittman Bayles, son of the Rev. Joseph Bayles.

Pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity: Helen, Laura, Jean, Marge, Dal, Gary, Pam, Jayne, Betty, Gus, Bob, Joe, Jerry, Larry, Mary, Jean, George, Carly, Tom, Cindy, Cathy, Kam, Donna McCain and family, all people with COVID-19, and all health care workers.

In thanksgiving for: The birth of Natalie Belle Newlin on Sept. 8. The parents are Chris and Emily Newlin, and the grandparents are Terry and Janet Newlin.

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

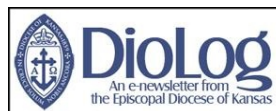
Because you have made the Lord your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,
There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
For God shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.
They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your 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



3750 E Douglas Ave
Wichita, KS 67208



office@stjameswichita.org
stjameswichita.org



316.683.5686

Follow Us

