Dear friends,

Today, we hear Jesus’ famous parable from Luke 18 about our need to pray always. You may remember the persistent, tireless widow knocking on the door of an unjust judge, demanding justice. He refuses at first, but finally relents, not because he is good or is convinced by her pleas, but because he is tired and wants her to go away. Jesus ends the parable by contrasting the unjust judge with a God who is just and never tires of hearing from us. The takeaway seems pretty clear: be persistent in prayer, never give up.

But I wonder if there’s another equally faithful reading. After all, parables aren’t neat and tidy allegories with one correct meaning; they are stories told to provoke reflection, to open imaginative space to let the Spirit work. What if we’ve got the characters flipped around? What if we’ve made this a story about us when it’s really a story about God? What if God is the tireless, persistent widow knocking on our hearts, trying to get us to pay attention, and to let him in, and to experience his peace, his justice, his joy?

Prayer isn’t about us convincing God to give us what we want like a cosmic pez dispenser. It’s a conversation that keeps us in relationship with the God who loves us fiercely and forever. Jesus is, as always, right. We need to pray. We need to be persistent in prayer. But we must also remember that God is more persistent. More ready to hear than we are to pray. More ready to speak a word of hope than we are to listen. So friends, let us pray expectantly and with hearts open to receive the One who comes always for love of us.

In Christ,
The Rev. Ryan Fleenor, Vicar
**This Week**

* Special this week  
Learn more at stjames.org/calendar

**Monday, October 21**  
Matthew 11:16-24

- Morning Prayer  
  8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
- Caregivers Playgroup (0-36 months)  
  10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Evening Prayer  
  5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- Lectio Divina  
  6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- 20s & 30s Weekly Small Group  
  7:00 p.m.
- Overnight Shelter (Mon. - Thu.)

**Tuesday, October 22**  
Matthew 11:25-30

- Morning Prayer  
  8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
- Moms Small Group  
  8:45 - 9:45 a.m.
- Tuesday Lunch Program  
  9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 3-5 year old Playgroup  
  3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- Cherub Choir rehearsal  
  3:45 - 4:15 p.m.
- Junior Choir rehearsal  
  4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Prayer  
  5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- Centering Prayer  
  6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Canterbury Choir rehearsal  
  6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- Gay Men’s Small Group (offsite)  
  8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 23**  
Matthew 10:16-22

- * The Feast of St. James of Jerusalem
- Holy Eucharist  
  8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
- Wednesday Bible Study  
  8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
- 0-12 month Playgroup  
  10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Centering Prayer  
  12:00 - 12:30 p.m.
- Evening Prayer  
  5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday, October 24**  
Matthew 12:15-21

- Morning Prayer  
  8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
- 12-24 month Playgroup  
  10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Bible Stories & Legos  
  4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
- We Love to Sing  
  4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
- Primary Choir rehearsal  
  4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
- Thursdays for Families  
  4:45 - 6:00 p.m.
- Evening Prayer  
  5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- Small Group Supper  
  6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Education for Ministry  
  6:30 - 8:45 p.m.
- Revive group  
  6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Friday, October 25**  
Matthew 12:22-32

- Men’s Group  
  7:00 - 8:00 a.m.
- Morning Prayer  
  8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
- 24-36 month Playgroup  
  10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Centering Prayer  
  12:00 - 12:30 p.m.
- Friday Dinner Program  
  5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Evening Prayer  
  5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, October 26**  
Matthew 12:33-42

- * All-Parish Pancake Breakfast  
  8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

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**Next Sunday: Oct. 27**

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Sirach 35:12-17; Psalm 84:1-6; 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18; Luke 18:9-14

**8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Homily by the Rev. Brenda Husson, Rector.

**9:10 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Sermon by the Rev. Ryan Fleenor, Vicar. The Canterbury, Junior and Youth Choirs offer music by Giovanni Pierluigi de Palestrina and Antony Baldwin.

**11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist**

Sermon by the Rev. Brenda Husson, Rector. The Compostela Choir offers the music of Charles V. Stanford, Bruce Saylor, Heinrich Schutz, and Olivier Messiaen.

**6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion**

Homily by the Rev. Eva Suarez, Associate Rector. Music for piano and flute.

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Celebrating Davis Wortman

St. James’ celebrates Davis Wortman’s 20th Anniversary as Director of Music & Organist, with special music composed by Dean Meyers and Bruce Saylor. Please join us in worship and at an anniversary party on October 28 (more information at right). To help refurbish St. James’ hymnals for the occasion, please make a gift to the Hymnal Drive at stjames.org/hymnals.

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**This Week’s Bible Memorization Verse**

*I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.* — Jeremiah 31:33
All-Parish Pancake Breakfast  Saturday, 8:30 a.m.
In the spirit of the Parish Weekend Away (Oct. 9 - 11, 2020!), everyone is invited for good food and great fellowship, with friends across congregations and ministries. The men of the parish are invited to help out in the kitchen! Please contact Grace Beacham to learn more, volunteer, or RSVP.

Anniversary Party & Hymnal Drive  Mon. Oct. 28, 6:30 p.m.
Please join us to celebrate Davis Wortman’s 20th Anniversary, with music by the Ike Sturm Trio. Visit stjames.org/hymnals to make a gift in honor of Davis. Please RSVP to Grace Beacham.

Evensong for All Saints Day  Fri. Nov. 1, 6:00 p.m.
The Compostela Choir will offer the music of Henry Purcell, Edgar Bainton, Bernard Rose, and Bruce Saylor for the Feast of All Saints. Remember your loved ones who have passed in the last year by submitting their names to Rosa Gentile by Monday, October 28.

Paint and Chat Event  Saturday, November 2
Volunteer with the Osborne Association for their Paint and Chat event, being present for children who have an incarcerated parent. Contact Windsor Jones for details.

Children’s Eucharist Food Drive  Sunday, November 3
For our next Children’s Eucharist, please bring quart sized, shelf stable, boxed milk for St James, Fordham’s Food Pantry. Place your donations in the basket in the nave of the church, and they will be blessed during the service.

Second Time Around thrift sale — donate!  Friday, November 8
Designer and/or gently-used clothing, shoes, jewelry, housewares, linens, art, and collectibles are needed for our thrift sale! Please contact Grace for more details or to volunteer.

Food Pantry Day at St James, Fordham  Saturday, November 9
As part of our new partnership with St James Fordham, we will volunteer at their Food Pantry Day. All ages are welcome for different tasks! Contact Windsor Jones for details.

Youth Group is going to Puerto Rico in 2020!  sign up by Nov. 10
8-12th Graders are invited to partner with our Episcopalian brothers and sisters in much-needed work over Presidents’ Day weekend. To learn more, please contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis.

20 & 30s host the Dinner Program  Fri. Nov. 15, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Join the St. Jamesians in serving a seated, three-course meal for our homeless and low-income neighbors. Contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more or get involved.

20s & 30s Movie Night  Fri. Nov. 22, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
All are invited to a screening of “Mary Magdalene,” starring Rooney Mara and Joaquin Phoenix. Experience the life of Mary the disciple through her own eyes. Refreshments provided; contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more.

Civil Rights Pilgrimage—sign up!  January 26-29, 2020
The Rev. Ryan Fleenor will lead a pilgrimage to Atlanta, Birmingham, Selma, and Montgomery as part of our year-long Beloved Community focus. Contact Ryan to learn more.

Act now! Pilgrimage on Canterbury Trail  June 26 - July 6, 2020
The Rev. Ryan Fleenor will lead a pilgrimage in England, walking the medieval route to Canterbury. Contact Ryan to learn more and sign up while spots remain!

Thanks be to God
• for the worship life we share at St. James’, and for the leadership of parishioners who have volunteered to officiate at daily Morning and Evening Prayer in the Chapel.
• for the generosity of parishioners who have made commitments for 2019; and for all who share in the financial support of the parish.

Your prayers are requested
• for St. James’ in this season after Pentecost, that the Holy Spirit would move powerfully in our lives and through our ministries.
• for those preparing for baptism on All Saints’ Sunday, including the Call, Nedelkoff, and Sanchez families.
• for members and friends of the parish who are sick, sorrowful, or in any kind of trouble; Donald, Henry, David, Terry & Mary Jane, Elona, Cynthia, Pam, Caroline & Michael, Walterene, James Edward, Joan, Lois, Brian, Michael, Eula Mae, Carol, Lilly, Laura, Ann & Ben, Bob, Chris, Amanda, Victor, Valli, Jeanette, Iris, Sophie, Maria & her parents, Frank, Lisa, Milton, Alice Mary, Isabel, Rick, Peter & Dianne, Ben, Bill, John, the Kirkpatrick family, Tom, Douglas, Pelham, Anthony, Nancy, Zoey, Nadine, Isabelle & Viviane, Tracey, Jeannette, Dorothy, Elnora, Harriett, Alex, Christopher, Margot, James, Peggy, Katharine, Casey, John & Catherine, Ruth, Sandy, Dick, John, George, Peter, Joe, Laura, Pam, Barb, Craig, Megan, Grace, Matthew, Isabel, Margaret, Barbara, MaryAnn, Bill, Dale, Carol Sue, Robert, Jonathan, Ben, Bryce, James, Elena, Kelly, Mackenzie, Jason, Carter, Angelo, Kathryn, Teresa, Ben & Juergen, Liam, Ann, Emily, Andrew, Charlie, John, Monique, Cilla, Rich, Janet, Julie, Behida, Ray, John, Frank, Karen & Craig, Gary, Aaron & family, Anita, Dwayne, Caris & Blake, Charlotte, Peter, Anne, Jason, Vicky, Bill, Dorothy, Peg, Chase, Alice, Claude, Matthew, John, Blake & Pamela, Gabrielle, Pamela, Paula, Elena, Allison, Jane & Peter, Emily, Pat, Robert, Jorge, Brad, Ryan and the Malosh family, Karen, Olivia, Grace, Kim, Kenneth, Philip, Drew, Taylor, and Layla, Justin & Jennifer, Joseph (JP), Florence, Phyllis, Ivan, Suzanne, Elizabeth, Thomas, Lorraine, Francis, Mary Beth, Annette, Terence, Caroline, Dan, Tony, Ward, Sophia, Sharon, Nate, Jim, Richard, Joseph, Anne, Darby, Susan, Mary, Armen, Vicki, Jimmy, Tom, Beth, Elizabeth, Christine, Rafa, Emily, Alexander, Christopher, Lulu, Karen, Susan, Alex, Ann, Liz, Sam, Ruth and John, John’s family, Suzanna, Sebastian, Nico, Lola, Susan, Lynda, Joseph, Katy, Nancy, Christina, Miriam, Stephen, Paula, Jerry, John, Madelin, Benjamin, Richard, Diane, Lucy and Nicholas, Tim, Teresa and Jackie, John, Laura, Daniel, Charlie, Paul, and Randy.
• for St. Paul’s Church, Poughkeepsie, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
• for the Church in the Province of the West Indies, its ministries and people, and for their discernment in calling a new bishop, according to the Anglican Communion cycle of prayer.
• for our work as stewards of God’s creation, that we may use the earth’s resources rightly in the service of others, and be mindful of our connection to all living things.
• for the United States of America, for wisdom and grace for our leaders in the exercise of their duties, that the rights and dignity of all may be protected, and our nation be a blessing to other nations of the earth.
• for justice and peace in this city and nation; for those who serve the common good in law enforcement and the courts; and for the victims of racism, injustice, and intolerance.
• for all who are persecuted for their faith, including Christians in the Middle East; for all refugees and all who welcome and serve those in need.
• for members and friends of the parish serving in the Armed Forces, in the Diplomatic Corps, and with the U.N.: Tracy, Christian, Mads, Michael, Mark.

We commend to God’s never-failing care
• victims of war and violence throughout the world, including all victims of terrorism; all migrants and refugees who have died fleeing danger; and all those killed in the military service of our nation.
• all whom we love but see no more, including Mary Louise Whitmarsh, Rosalyn Simon, and Judy Wolff.
The Vestry

Jennifer Charrington, Sr. Warden · Missy Condo, Jr. Warden

Sue Bennett
Hugh Boston
Gerlinde Brixius
Richard Brown
Tristan Bultman
Stephen de Francesco
Dolly Bross Geary
Susanna Guffey
Elizabeth Littlejohn
Marcy Sendax
Bob Stinson
Anne Strassner
Mary Malhotra,
Vestry Officer for Stewardship

The Clergy & Lay Staff

The Rev. Brenda Husson
Rector
bhusson@stjames.org
212-774-4250

The Rev. Ryan Fleenor
Vicar
rfleenor@stjames.org
212-774-4241

The Rev. Zack Thompson
Associate Rector
zthompson@stjames.org
212-774-4255

The Rev. Eva Suarez
Associate Rector
esaurens@stjames.org
212-774-4256

Grace Beacham
Parish Life
grbeacham@stjames.org
212-774-4231

Zoraida Benitez
Hospitality
212-774-4220

Jeremy Dukanoon-Curtis
Youth & Young Adults
jcurtis@stjames.org
212-774-4239

Sandra De La Cruz
Stewardship & Operations
stewardship@stjames.org
212-774-4243

Saadik Desane
Maintenance
212-774-4204

Loraine Enlow
Children’s & Youth Choir
lenlow@stjames.org
212-774-4204

Isaac Eustaquio
Maintenance
212-774-4204

Andrew Filippone, Jr.
Media Producer
media@stjames.org

Josephina Franco
Hospitality
212-774-4220

Rosa Gentile
Assistant to the Rector
rgentile@stjames.org
212-774-4251

Benjamin Gray
Evening & Sunday Receptionist
212-774-4232

Vicki Hall
Children & Families
vhall@stjames.org
212-774-4232

Stephen Hurst
Maintenance
212-774-4220

Windsor Jones
Mission Coordinator
wjones@stjames.org
212-774-4256

Matthew Leacyraft
Finance & Lay Associate
mleacyraft@stjames.org
212-774-4260

Cathy McAleer
Accounting
cmcaleer@stjames.org
212-774-4238

Hannah Minton
Mission Intern
hminton@stjames.org
212-774-4257

Francis Piraino
Property Manager
fpiraino@stjames.org
212-774-4279

Emil Ramirez
Maintenance
212-774-4220

Mercedes Rosenio
Reception
mrosario@stjames.org
212-774-4200

Araliza Toribio
Weekend Reception
212-774-4200

Stephen Tharp
Artist-in-Residence
212-774-4244

Chris Veillon
Communications
cveillon@stjames.org
212-774-4244

Davis Wortman
Director of Music
dwortman@stjames.org
212-774-4233

The Rev. Carol Anderson
Non-stipendiary Priest Associate
212-774-4240

Jean-Claude Pelissier
Verger Emeritus
212-774-4200

St. James’ Church is a community that actively shares the love of Jesus Christ with each other, our city and the world.

Worship

SUNDAYS
8:00 a.m. · Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
9:10 a.m. · Family Eucharist
11:15 a.m. · Choral Eucharist
6:00 p.m. · Candlelight Communion

WEEKDAYS
M, T, Th, F 8:00 a.m. · Morning Prayer
Wed. 8:00 a.m. · Holy Eucharist
Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m. · Evening Prayer

CENTERING PRAYER
Tue. 6:00 p.m.
Wed. 12:00 p.m.
Fri. 12:00 p.m.
Open for prayer and meditation
Sunday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Visit Us

PARISH HOUSE HOURS
Mon. - Fri. · 9:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesdays · 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

ST. JAMES’ CHURCH
865 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK, NY 10021

To reach any of us during the week, or in case of pastoral emergency at any time, call 212-774-4200.

STJAMES.ORG

St. James’ is an Episcopal Church, a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion.