

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



WELCOME TO ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

We hope that you will glimpse the glory of God both in this sacred space and in those whom you encounter today. We welcome you as God welcomes—without reservation or exception. This is a house of prayer for those who believe and for those who seek. May you find peace and come to know God's abundant love.

REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

Today's readings give us a place to stand when we must confront evil. Matthew's gospel approaches the question of evil within the personal sphere. How should a Christian act when the network of relationships hits a snag? It is inevitable that human connections will sooner or later go haywire. How then should we intervene?

The guidelines of the early Church are noteworthy for their compassion and restraint. Then as now, the Church was not immune from scandal. Excommunication and ostracism have lacerated the Mystical Body in the past, and will probably do so again. Jesus proposes a much more gentle way of dealing with behaviors and attitudes we feel we cannot tolerate.

First, he suggests dealing with the problem directly, before it grows like a cancer. We are often tempted to ignore trouble, which then becomes more difficult to heal. Jesus proposes that the person who feels wronged should initiate the reconciliation. That seems a healthy step for those who might be inclined to wallow in self-pity, yet never take action to end their misery and seek reconciliation.

Second, he recommends keeping the issue private until various channels have been tried and exhausted. In contrast, we often rush to complain publicly before we even have a clear picture of what's wrong. When the gossip spreads, the whole situation worsens.

Finally, he operates from a basis of compassion. The purpose of the process is never to humiliate or to condemn, but always to restore union with the brother or sister. In contrast, we often enter conflict with the self-righteous purpose of emerging as a winner. Jesus upholds the ideal that the person takes priority over our raging opinions and the causes we champion.

Quietly consider: When was the last time I confronted evil? How might Matthew's guidelines have helped in that situation?

PRAYER STARTER

O God, help me to live in the light of love so that all around me are daily encouraged to turn to you...

THE SERVICE BEGINS ON PAGE 355 IN THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST READING

EXODUS 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

PSALM 149

1 Hallelujah!
Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

2 Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

3 Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

4 For the Lord takes pleasure in his people *
and adorns the poor with victory.

5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
let them be joyful on their beds.

6 Let the praises of God be in their throat *
and a two-edged sword in their hand;

7 To wreak vengeance on the nations *
and punishment on the peoples;

8 To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron;

9 To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all his faithful people.
Hallelujah!

THE SECOND READING

ROMANS 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:15-20

Ministry Fair Today!



There are so many ways to get involved! What is God calling you to do? Come and see what we offer.

We are pilgrims on The Way



Creator God, who calls us to pilgrimage: Direct our journey so that we may serve you with joyful hearts, steadfast courage, and the grace to know where you lead, in order that all will know you as the Way, the Truth and the Life; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns in glory everlasting. Amen.

.....Worship on the Way

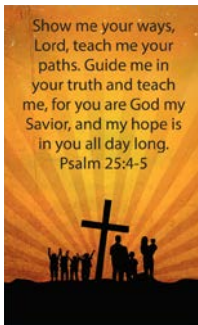
	Contemplative Eucharist	7:30am
	Eucharist with Taizé Music	9:00am
	Traditional Choral Eucharist	11am
	Taizé Worship	First Sundays of the month @ 3pm
	Spanish Eucharist	2 nd @4 th Wednesdays 12:15pm

.....Learning on the Way



Christian Education

Christian Education Programs Begin This Month!



- Adult Forum Begins September 17th @ 10:10 in the Conference Room. Read Chapter 1 of *A Wrinkle in Time*
- A HUGE variety of Continuing Education is offered through the School for Deacons. Course offerings are at the back of the church.
- Bible Study continues on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 10am in the Fireside Room.
- Godly Play continues for pre-school & kindergarten aged children. Sundays at 10:10 across from the Conference Room.

Sunday School

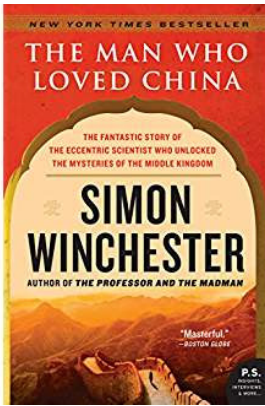
IMPORTANT! IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A CHILDREN'S/YOUTH EDUCATION OFFERING PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY LOCATED AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH AND AT THE MINISTRY FAIR TABLE.

.....*Fellowship on the Way*



Choir Practice
Coffee Hour

Resumes in the Fall
Sundays @ Noon



Book Club To read
The Man who Loved China

Tuesday, October 3rd @11:30am, Fireside Room.

Both epic and intimate, *The Man Who Loved China* tells the sweeping story of China through Needham's remarkable life. Here is an unforgettable tale of what makes people, nations, and, indeed, humankind itself great.

Trip to Israel

Join Rev. Michele, Rabbi Rick and the congregations of St. James Cathedral, and Temple Beth Israel for our second joint trip to the Holy Land.

Experience the land where Jesus, Mary, and his disciples lived. See the places mentioned in the Bible. Leave forever changed. This unique opportunity fosters a deeper understanding of the land, culture, history, and religions of the region.



Church of the Holy Sepulcher

The trip will be **April 9th - 22nd**.

The cost is \$4750 double occupancy.

Our first informational meeting is **Tuesday, October 17th @ 7pm @ Temple Beth Israel**.

Contact Rev. Michele with questions.

.....Tending on the Way



Food Bank
Thrift Shop

Thrift Shop Donations accepted

Wednesdays 2:30pm - 4:30pm
Wednesdays 1:00pm- 4:00pm
Sunday 9:30am-10:30am & 12:30-1:30pm
Wednesdays 12:30pm - 1:30pm

