

TODAY'S HYMNS are listed here and on the hymn board above the pulpit. They can be found in the blue-covered *The Hymnal 1982* in the pew rack.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Opening: # 460 | 3. Offertory: # 423 |
| 2. Gradual: # 482 | 4. Closing: # 690 |

LOOKING AHEAD

WORSHIP

Sunday, July 30, 2017.....Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist
8AM – Rite I; 10AM - Rite II
The Rev. John Miller, Celebrant and Preacher

Sunday, August 6, 2017, The Feast of the Transfiguration
Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist: 8AM – Rite I; 10AM - Rite II
The Rev. John Miller, Celebrant and Preacher

Sunday, August 13, 2017.....Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist
8AM – Rite I; 10AM - Rite II
The Rev. Mark A. Thompson, Priest-in-Partnership
Celebrant and Preacher

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Saturday, August 5, 2017.....Norman's Attic
Sunday, August 13, following the 10AM liturgy.....Welcome Reception
for Father Mark Thompson
Sunday, August 20, 3PM..... ..Music and Poetry with Oscar Rodriguez
Saturday, September 30, 2017.....Harvest Fest



"Ashes to Go" with the Rev. Kathleen S. Clark

The St. James' Weekly News
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 23, 2017

Celebrating the Ministry of
The Very Rev. Christopher L. David
Interim Pastor



*"Who would true valour see, let him come hither:
One here will constant be, come wind, come weather.
There's no discouragement shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim."*

[From The Pilgrim's Progress, John Bunyan, 1684]

WELCOME

A warm welcome to all and a special welcome to those who are visiting; the addition of your praise and thanks heartens us all. If you are seeking a church home or simply a place to rest for a while on your spiritual journey, we invite you to consider St. James' to be that place. The service leaflet will guide you through the liturgy. In the pew racks you will find the *Book of Common Prayer* (red binding) and *The Hymnal 1982* (blue binding). Please do not hesitate to ask a fellow worshipper for help.

If you are new to St. James' and wish to be included in our weekly e-mails (*This Week At St. James'*), please fill in one of the welcome forms (available on the table in the narthex) and leave it in the offertory plate or with an usher. Restrooms are located in the undercroft on the right-hand wall. There is an elevator located in the narthex for those who need it. **Please do not hesitate to speak to an usher or any church member if you have questions or need assistance.** Whether you are a visitor or a parishioner, if you would like a call and/or a visit please call the office at 375-9952 or send an e-mail to stjamesparishoffice@gmail.com. If you have a need for hospital visitation for yourself or for a family member or friend, **you must call the Parish Office.** The SWVMC, like many hospitals these days, does not inform us of nor do they make available the names of patients being admitted.

TODAY'S HYMNS are listed on the back cover and on the hymn board. Gail Albright is our organist today.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY are given by Patricia Gordon Michael to the greater glory of God and in grateful appreciation for the ministry of our Interim Pastor, the Very Rev. Christopher L. David.

PLEASE JOIN US following the 10AM liturgy for a reception honoring Father Christopher on his final "official" Sunday with us as Interim Pastor.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM GREAT SNACK CHALLENGE. 852 snacks to go toward our goal of 1500 for the season. Thank you for your generosity. There is a basket next to the table at the back of the pews. We can do this!!!

NORMAN'S ATTIC NEWS. HELP NEEDED!!! Check the Bulletin Board in the Undercroft to find out who is doing what and where you are needed. Also check your email for a message from Joanna Taylor giving the full information about our biggest fundraising event. If you have any questions, please see Joanna or any of the persons listed for specific responsibilities on the sign-up sheets.

~~~~~

## TODAY AT ST. JAMES

**Altar Guild:** Joanna Taylor

**Bean Counters:** Phil Sherwin and Pat Clancy

**Reception Hosts:** Nancy Boardman; Rob Faley; Susan Gratz; Ed Gust; Marilyn King; Chris Meyer; Patricia Michael; Irene Novotny; Sandy Preble; Eileen Rice; Garry Roosma.

**Table Flowers:** Donated and arranged by Nancy Boardman and Jill Roosma

**SLP Packers for July 25:** Elizabeth & Fred Broberg; Wendy Bahan

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the Sick: Bob Alexander; Lynn Bates; Ken Blackler; Garrett Brewer; Janet Cassell; Peter Garneau; Jo Gillikin; Dot Grout; Thomas Hayton; Esther Jaffee; Jane Jersey; Bruce Keene; John Laughrey; Mary Loring; Alan Mears; Bob McCarthy; Gail McDevitt; Charlie Menghini; Jack Michael; Cecelia O'Brien; Andie Owen; Ralph and Natalia Panelli; Irene Roth; John and Judy; Dot Whitley; Wilfred Williamson; Ward Wilson; Jeanne Zouck; Barbara; Beth; Bob; Bruce; Celia; Chris; Dennis; Dick; Erika; Helen; Isaac; Jan; John; Kathy; Kay; Rick.

For the Departed: All our departed loved ones; the victims of violence, war, persecution and oppression in the United States and throughout the world.

For Those In Need of Our Prayers: Andie Owen and her family; Philip Brown; Erika Draper and her children; Charles; Anna, Sherri; Alyce; Sue; Sara; John; Katie; Joan; Cathy; Alex; Sofia; Eleanor; Wanda; the Kluj family; Hank; Ellen; Estelle; Michael; Piper; all who suffer from terrorism, strife, hunger and deprivation throughout the world; the homeless; refugees; for peace and justice everywhere; for all who need our prayers.

### For Those Who Celebrate This Week:

**Birthdays:** 7/24-Jake Claro; 7/27-Todd Closs; 7/29-Tasha Gratton

**Wedding Anniversaries:** 7/24-Debbie and Gene Stone, Kelly and Alan Langlais

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** None this week

For Those Who Serve in the Armed Forces: Gary Marckres; Margaret; Willow Bucchieri-Sibley

In Thanksgiving For: The ministry of our Interim Pastor, Fr. Christopher, not only for his work with us at St. James' but also for the ministry and service of his life.

For The Church: For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Thomas, our Bishop; the people and mission of this Diocese; Lynn Bates, Canon to the Ordinary; the Very Rev. Christopher L. David, Interim Pastor; the Rev. Mark A. Thompson, Priest-in-Partnership; this parish of St. James' and its mission; the Revs. Paul Gratz, Sean Lanigan, John Miller, Keith F. Patterson, priests; Kathleen Moore, seminarian. In the Diocesan Prayer Calendar we pray for the Congregation of Trinity Church, Rutland; and the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

St. James' Episcopal Church  
Parish Office, 802-375-9952 [stjamesparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesparishoffice@gmail.com)  
[www.stjamesarlingtonvt.org](http://www.stjamesarlingtonvt.org)

## *From the Interim Pastor*

### **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED**

Almost two years ago I set out on my second tour as an interim. I was to be here for 12 to 15 months after being assured that there would be no need of such an extended interim of the sort that happened at Trinity Church, Rutland. As we know, my 12 month contract was extended by six months, expiring on February 28 of this year. Well, here we are almost at the end of July. It was longer than I intended, but I do have to say that the weeks did not drag as we worshiped, worked and enjoyed fellowship together. It has been a pleasure to serve with you all and the timing for the conclusion of that service has been very, well, “timely”. There is a slight and appropriate break between my departure, to be covered by Fr. John Miller, and the arrival of your new priest, Fr. Mark Thompson.

For my part, there were the developmental tasks and tools of transition by which I would do what a trained interim is supposed to do as they work to work themselves out of a job. This involved working with the MDC in the first instance and then with the Vestry to get things done during the interim period. There was also the building of pastoral and personal relationships which goes along with being a parish priest, albeit a temporary one, which should also be a part of the interim period however short or long it might be. Much of what I had to do was done fairly early on and the various delays were unexpected.

On St. James’ part, the transitional tasks were all there: coming to terms with the past, healing wounds, developing a realistic picture of the situation, considering opportunities and challenges and discerning what a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont might be called to be and do in Arlington now. This involved the Ministry Discernment Committee, the Vestry and the congregation as a whole, in the specific exercises which were part of the plan, such as the Questionnaires, Parish History and Appreciative Inquiry days, as well as continuing to work on “being the people of God”, week in and week out, and undertaking what the parish does in Church and in the community. Finally came the decision to embrace the Priest in Partnership model, which I can now say, seems the eminently sensible way to go. Now we can say “Mission Accomplished” *in part*.

I say ‘in part’ because, while the transitional mission is achieved, the door now opens to the continuation and growth of that part of God’s Mission which is entrusted to you and to your new priest, Mark Thompson. I don’t know if you will continue to use the discernment prayer or not, but mutual discernment as you continue on your journey with a new priest at your side will be part of the ongoing task. Make him as welcome as you made me and be open to the gifts and insights and differences that he will bring.

May God guide and bless you all as you embrace your future.

Sincerely in Christ,



Christopher L. David



*Shrove Tuesday, 2016*

## ***SAYING GOODBYE TO FATHER CHRISTOPHER***

Sunday, July 23, 2017

At the risk of sounding like a popular song, it is never easy to say goodbye to someone who has become an important part of one's life and community – someone we have learned to respect, admire and love. Despite what we might consider a short – too short – tenure (although perhaps Kathleen and he don't think it's such a short time), Father Christopher has become an integral part of the fabric of the life of St. James' and has left a lasting mark on us and our community.

At the very beginning, his choice of "Interim Pastor" as a title gave us a clue to why he would become so important to us. He didn't come to fill a gap and "mind us" while we were waiting for the next incumbent to arrive. Father Christopher chose to fill the role that the word "pastor" conveys – to be a shepherd, a guide, a protector, a nurturer, a supporter; a teacher. Someone who encouraged us to do things we might think we could not do – for example, taking on the great task of ministry discernment not only as a named committee but also as an entire worshipping community looking toward the next phase of a long and storied history.

In a sermon Father John Miller gave on May 7 of this year, on Good Shepherd Sunday, he described some of the characteristics of a pastor/shepherd and I am going to borrow from what he said:

The shepherd knows his sheep. Father Christopher quickly learned not only our names but also our selves. He was interested in us as individuals as well as members of the community in his care. He extended that care by bringing the Church to those who were no longer able to attend in person with a regular schedule of pastoral visits to the home-bound or those in hospital, bringing the sacrament of Holy Eucharist as well as friendly far-ranging conversation and genuine interest in the lives and well-being of those he visited.

The shepherd guides by leading. That leadership was expressed in many ways – sometimes by gentle nudging, sometimes by downright chivvying, sometimes by simply doing it himself first so we'd get the

idea: Vacuuming the carpet in the office, for example. Or tidying up the Old Vestry Room before the Bishop's visit. Or figuring out how to open the safe. That leadership was expressed in the Vestry meetings, in the meetings with the Ministry Discernment Committee, the Altar Guild and other groups and committees; in thought-provoking, engaging, inspiring sermons that challenged us and encouraged us to open our minds and hearts to new ideas, different perspectives and hope for creative solutions to the challenges of the world today. For a recent example: Who will forget the concept of Jesus sharing the yoke with those who follow Him thus lightening the burden of attempting to follow the Way? Each of us, I am sure, can recall such a specific moment or moments.

The shepherd feeds his sheep. Throughout his tenure here, Father Christopher fed us in many different ways: The beauty and strength of the liturgy of the Holy Eucharist; the Healing Services; innovative and enlightening Advent and Lenten programs; the introduction of Tenebrae during Holy Week (for which he also made the special holder for the candles); the inspiring and moving Holy Week services, including the cross that appeared on Good Friday (also made by him); the loving care and attention to special services: Baptisms, memorials, funerals; the special attention paid to the choices of hymns each week; the knowledge of the hymns and hymn tunes – will you ever again sing "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" without remembering that it is meant to be sung with delight? Or sing "Guide me oh thy great Jehovah" without remembering the Welsh valley in the name of the tune? And then there was the thoughtful and diligent preparation of the orders of service for each season of the year, for each special feast and occasion and the innovative "Hearing Aid" for sermons (printed copies readily available each Sunday).

Father Christopher nourished us in other ways – generous with time, energy, do-it-yourself assistance and money. He is a fount of knowledge about how to do many different things and in most cases, is able to do the repair or the project himself. On any matter - spiritual, historical, practical - you name it - he was always there to listen, respond and guide. And also to tell wonderful stories.

Last Sunday, Father Christopher joked that the good thing about being an Interim is that you're fired before you begin. Maybe. But he never

“fired” us. When the original estimate of the interim period ended and we weren’t anywhere near the conclusion, he extended his contract – no muss, no fuss – and then extended it again when we still needed him. He didn’t leave us floundering but continued his pastoral care as he has been doing since the first day of his tenure. He has led (sometimes from behind), guided, nudged, pushed (gently), supported, encouraged, chided (also gently) and delighted us. He made us think and he made us laugh. He made us feel that we are worth saving and that we, collectively and individually, matter. He reminded us, in every way, by words and actions that – and I quote from his sermon on June 25, that although our troubled world is not what God intended when He created it, “we are baptized into this world to deal with it the way it is – to try to tell the world what God had in mind. To do it with loving kindness – to use the weapons we are given – the weapons of the spirit: truth, courage and conviction – with loving kindness.”

What an enormous gift! What a generous spirit! How can we ever thank you sufficiently for being a true pastor to us no matter the length of the tenure? We cannot but we can do this – we can try our best to remember and honor you by following the guidance you leave us in your farewell message: As the door now opens to the continuation and growth of that part of God’s Mission which is entrusted to us and to Father Mark Thompson we will accept the concept that mutual discernment will be part of the ongoing task as we continue on our journey with a new priest at our side. We will try to make him welcome and to be open to the gifts and insights and differences that he will bring to us in this next phase in our history. And we will try our best to do it with loving kindness.

We will not forget you and the loving kindness you showed to us. We wish you every blessing and every happiness in the next phase of your life and ministry. We thank you for sharing that life with us even for such a short time. We are delighted to know you, and Kathleen, and Gillian and Owen, and we thank them, and all your family, for sharing you with us.

It is an honor as well as a joy to know you. You will always be in our hearts and our prayers. And we know, in the words of John Bunyan that

“Hobgoblin nor foul fiend can daunt his spirit.  
He’ll know he at the end shall life inherit.  
Then fancies fly away. He’ll fear not what men say.  
He’ll labor night and day to be a pilgrim.”

We offer a toast to thank you for your ministry to us and a gift from your grateful flock.

Thank you and *Vaya con Dios*.

Patricia Gordon Michael  
Senior Warden  
July 23, 2017