



THE FOURTH EPISTLE

SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MOBILE, ALABAMA

The Reverend Thomas Heard, Rector
The Protestant Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
The Right Reverend James Russell Kendrick, Bishop

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FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

I first encountered Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks through the radio program *Speaking of Faith*. The program is now called *On Being*, and includes wide ranging topics. Rabbi Sacks is an orthodox rabbi and served as the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth from 1991 to 2013. Sort of a parallel role to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find an article titled "Why the world needs Rosh Hashanah." Rabbi Sacks suggests that the Jewish High Holy Days stand as an antidote to the moral crisis raging across the globe. I commend Rabbi Sacks' perspective to you.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur function together: the beginning of a new year and the renewal of relationship with God and each other. It's a stewardship of souls, I think.

Just as God entrusted mankind with God's creation, to shepherd it for future generations, so too, God entrusts us with responsibility for each other. In general, this is referred to as stewardship.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, stewardship is:

- 1: the office, duties, and obligations of a steward
- 2: the conducting, supervising, or managing of something *especially*: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care

For the month of September, we included materials relating to a Season of Creation in our service leaflets. In them, we were presented with problems and potential solutions, but most importantly, what we can do to care for God's creation as shown in what others are doing.

All too often, I think, congregations (including this one) have co-opted "stewardship" to be the label for its annual pledge or commitment campaign. Then there are the "Time and Talents" campaigns, loosely called 'stewardship' that take it to a personal level, never mind concern for the rest of creation.

So, what we will do this year is be open, honest, and above board about what we're doing: this month marks the beginning of our "Support for Saint John's Campaign". You will be asked to pledge to provide support for your parish. It is necessarily monetary support if we are to keep the lights on and the water running, but it is also your participation in our projects. Your support makes what we do on Sundays and weekdays possible. It also enables us to do things that reach beyond the confines of the parish: emergency food and shelter needs, provide shelter space for the Women of McKemie Place.

Our operation is pretty basic. Just as you all experience on your own, we see increases in various line items each year. We also see more facility and equipment repairs as time goes on. One of the items your Vestry is wrestling with now is how to fund the new roof for the parish house and parlor.

We are asked to be stewards of creation. That means all of creation: our planet, the flora and fauna, of our selves, and of each other. Saint John's has a role in our community and beyond. It is both a steward and a recipient of others' stewardship. There is more that we can do, but it will take your commitment to Saint John's to make it happen.

--Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Vida Dutton Scudder

Vida Dutton Scudder will be remembered on Wednesday, 10 October at a 10:00AM Said Mass. Scudder was a tireless worker for women, educator and witness for peace. She was a teacher at Wellesley College and founder of the Women's Trade Union League and the Episcopal Church Socialist League. Her Socialist inclinations repeatedly got her in trouble with the powers and principalities. In spite of all she suffered, she never gave up hoping for the Kingdom of God.

Saint Ignatius of Antioch

We will remember Ignatius, bishop of Antioch and Martyr at our Wednesday Said Mass on 17 October, at 10:00AM. Ignatius is accounted second bishop of Antioch and was martyred in a Roman arena in 115. Ignatius believed the Church to be God's order for the world and wrote and taught about the Church's ordering. Of his more famous writings is, "Where the bishop is present, there let the congregation gather, just as where Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church."

Saint Luke

Luke, the self-identified author of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, brings his own perspective on the person and ministry of Jesus and Jesus' continuing effect on the world. Luke's account of the spread of the early church and the ministry of Saint Paul help us to craft a picture of the world in the first century. His portrayal of the radical hospitality and inclusion that Jesus manifested still stands today as a standard by which we can judge our ministries.

Saint James of Jerusalem

Sometimes called "James the Just", James supported the inclusion of Gentiles in the church. According to a second-century chronicler, James provoked the ire of some factions in Jerusalem because of his success at bringing new converts into the church. Taking James to the pinnacle of the Temple, they commanded him to recant his faith and Jesus. When he refused, James was thrown from the roof and then cudged to death.

Saints Simon & Jude

Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles will be remembered at a Said Mass on Monday, 29 October at 12:10PM. Sadly, our knowledge of these two original apostles is quite lacking. Simon is referred to as "a Zealot" and Saint John mentions Jude in his account of the Last Supper. Tradition associates both with the region of Persia, now Iran. Some accounts call them martyrs, some say that both died peaceful deaths in Edessa or Beirut. The Epistle of Jude brings us a unique doxology:

"Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen."



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Please join us at Saint John's on Sunday, 7 October at 4:00PM in the courtyard for a blessing of all of our furry, feathered and finned friends. All types of animals are welcome, but please respect others and leash or restrain your pets.

PARISH LIFE

PINK SUNDAY

Once again St. John's will be holding a **Pink Sunday** to acknowledge the need for more awareness, research, and treatment for breast cancer. Sunday, October 28 will be our day to **wear pink** to support those fighting cancer, admire the survivors, and honor those taken.

We will have information, discussion, and prayer. Please join us and WEAR PINK!!



4TH SUNDAY POTLUCK OCTOBER 28TH

The October 4th Sunday Potluck will continue our **Pink Sunday/ Breast Cancer Awareness** theme. We'll decorate with our Breast Cancer Awareness information, and bring pink food! Invite friends to join us: for church service and for dinner, just for the service, or just for dinner. We want others to see the different types of activities St. John's parish does.

Breaking News.....

BOOK SALE POSTPONED

If you have been in the Great Hall lately you have seen the plastic on the floor and the ceiling tiles missing or stained. The roof is leaking! Since we are not sure when the roof will be repaired (or replaced), the Book Sale will be postponed.

Postponed, not cancelled: We will be having a book sale to sell the last contents of Thee Store and to sell the books that have been donated. But until the roof is fixed we don't want to have members of the public seeing us not looking our best!

We're still taking donations so you can still bring your gently used paperbacks, hardbacks, and magazines. If you have religious items you would like to contribute to the sale we will be grateful for those, too.

Donations go in the classroom at the end of the hall.

Thank you to all who have donated to this sale.

Remember, the Book Sale is postponed, not cancelled!



Vestry

The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order at 11:30 AM on Sunday, 9 September 2018. All members of the vestry were present. The minutes of the 12 August meeting were approved as submitted.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial reports. The vestry voted to move \$25,000 from the Endowment fund to the checking account. The vestry declined to accept the offer from Church Insurance for a reduced hurricane/wind deductible for a 2% increase in premium.

Janet Buckley reviewed the Outreach programs for the year.

Darren Anderson reported that the Garden is coming along. No estimates for the replacement of the roof have been received. Work days for clean-up and parking lot striping will be scheduled.

A brief conversation concerning growing our membership took place. Time for in-depth consideration will be scheduled for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Fr. Heard.

WHY THE WORLD NEEDS ROSH HASHANAH

— Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, MP, Kt, OBE

The following article comes from The Jewish Chronicles, published on 7 September 2018.

On Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the days between, we enact one of Judaism's most powerful yet unfashionable beliefs: that our lives individually and collectively have a moral dimension.

We may live most of the year as if what matters is success or fame or power or wealth. But on these holy days, we come together in the synagogue to stand before God and acknowledge two altogether deeper truths: that we are the good we do in the world, and we are accountable for the bad we did or the good we failed to do.

This year, courtesy of the BBC, I had a rare chance to discuss these beliefs with some of the finest minds in the world. In the course of making **a series of programs on moral challenges of the 21st century**, I met leading philosophers, thinkers, innovators and philanthropists, as well as sixth-form students from across the country. What they had to say was powerful, important and necessary.

The thesis I wanted to test was that, for the past 50 years the West has been engaged in a fateful experiment: that we can do without a shared moral code. Words that once guided us — like “right”, “wrong”, “ought”, “should”, “duty”, “obligation”, “loyalty”, “virtue”, “honor” — now have an antiquated air about them, as if they come from an age long dead.

Instead, we've outsourced morality to the market and the state. The market gives us choices; the state deals with the consequences; but neither passes any kind of judgment on those choices. So long as we don't directly harm anyone else, we are free to do whatever we like.

This was experienced at the time as a huge liberation. We were freer to be whatever we choose to be than humans have ever been before. But we can now count the costs in broken families, loss of community, a rise in depression, teenage suicides and loneliness, a loss of trust in big corporations and governments, the new tribalism of identity politics, and the vitriol that passes for communication on the internet. A shared morality binds us together. Lose it

and people find themselves vulnerable and alone.

Anyone familiar with the Hebrew Bible could have predicted this. It's the story told by the prophets time and again. We hear it in Elijah, Elisha, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah and Jeremiah. Without a deeply internalized sense of collective responsibility for the common good, society begins to fracture and fragment. We move from a world of “We” to one of “I”: the private pursuit of personal desire.

The result, in contemporary terms, is irresponsible banks, greedy corporations, exploitative politics, sexual predators and neglected children. There's nothing in our nature to make the rich care for the poor, or the powerful for the powerless.

That's why we need morality: to help us care for the good of all of us together, not just each of us on our own.

The prophets said that the end result of such a society would be defeat and despair. Well, we don't have prophets any more. But listen to this list of titles of recently published books in Britain and the United States: *How Democracy Ends*; *The Death of Democracy*; *Can Democracy Survive Global Capitalism?*; *Why Liberalism Failed*; *The Retreat of Western Liberalism*; *The Strange Death of Europe*; and *The Suicide of the West*. These are endless variations and secular updatings of the warnings of the Hebrew prophets.

Virtually all the people I interviewed had a powerful moral message. Canadian psychologist Jordan Peterson talked about the importance of accepting personal responsibility and the dangers of seeing yourself as a victim. Jonathan Haidt, the American social psychologist, spoke about how the politics of victimhood is threatening free speech on university campuses. Harvard sociologist Robert Putnam talked about how the breakdown of families and communities is robbing at least a third of America of social mobility.

British economist Noreena Hertz made the case for a more moral approach to capitalism. Jean Twenge, the world's leading expert on the impact of social media, was scary when she charted the rise of depression among today's teenagers. *New York Times* columnist David Brooks spoke eloquently

about how we've focused too much on the "resume virtues", the skills we need for career success, and too little on the "eulogy virtues", the habits of character that bring meaning and grace into our lives.

Harvard philosopher Michael Sandel reminded us that politics has an inescapable moral dimension. Neuroscientist Steven Pinker urged us to follow facts not feelings. DeepMind's Mustafa Suleyman explained how we need to build ethics into the development of artificial intelligence, and Nick Bostrom, the man who warned the world about the dangers of superintelligence, cautioned against creating technology we can't control.

On the other side of the equation, Melinda Gates and Heather Templeton Dill, heads of two of the world's leading philanthropic foundations, were inspirational, speaking of the power we each have to change other people's lives for the better. The teenagers on the program were no less eloquent in talking about their moral heroes and role models, and their fears and hopes for the future.

The bottom line of all of this is that society needs more than the free market and the liberal democratic state. It needs us to accept moral responsibility for our own lives and for the common good. That truth

has been in eclipse for half a century, but the strains are beginning to show. We have already seen the first tremors of the alternatives: populism, identity politics, the culture of victimhood, and the rise of the far left and far right — what I call the politics of anger.

Long ago Jews pioneered the alternative: the politics of hope. Hope is born when we dedicate ourselves individually and collectively to justice, compassion, the sanctity of life and the dignity of the individual. That is what we are summoned to do on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. God does not ask us to be perfect. He asks us to try our best to love Him, our neighbor and the stranger. And when we fail, as we all do one way or another, He asks us to acknowledge our failures and try again.

From the dawn of our history, Judaism has been driven by a moral passion, God's command to Abraham to "teach his children to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice". That passion is, in the long run, the only thing capable of sustaining a free society. Without it, every superpower in history, after a period of affluence, eventually declines and falls. The Jewish message was rarely more relevant than now. Or as we put it on these holy days, penitence, prayer and charity give us the chance to begin again and avert the evil decree.

Elsewhere in the Diocese

PRAYING THE COLLECTS OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

September 9 through November 25

"It is my hope that this series will help you see the rich treasure that is within our prayer book...Each prayer is formed explicitly and implicitly from scripture. So to study the prayers is to also study scripture." ~ Bishop Russell

Join us for a glimpse into the vast tapestry of prayers that help make up the Book of Common Prayer in our upcoming series entitled "Praying the Collects of the BCP." This 12 week series, Bishop Russell and colleagues will take an in depth look into select collects. You will learn a little about the author and history of the prayer, discover some related scriptural references,

and be asked reflective questions for dialogue in your own discernment. For group or individual study.

The series includes a brief video posted each week that introduces a collect from the Book of Common Prayer. Accompanying the videos will be a downloadable PDF curriculum. All resources will be available at www.diocgc.org/praying-the-collects.





Episcopal Relief & Development is working with partners to provide critical support for the most vulnerable communities affected by Hurricane Florence.

Through a partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina, the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry, the organization is providing emergency assistance to migrant and seasonal farmworkers including water, food, cleaning supplies, hygiene kits, clothing and transportation to safe locations in two counties in eastern North Carolina.

On Friday, September 14, Hurricane Florence made landfall in Wilmington, North Carolina. The system, which has been downgraded to a tropical depression, has killed at least 16 people in storm-related incidents. Hundreds have been rescued from flooded areas and thousands are in shelters. As of September 19, the death toll from Florence was 37.

“Hurricane Florence is expected to have a catastrophic effect on the lives of thousands of North Carolinians. Migrant and seasonal farmworkers in rural areas are particularly at risk,” said Lariza Garzón, Executive Director of the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry.

“I am proud of the work that our church partners are engaged in with seasonal farmworkers,” said Katie Mears, Senior Director for Episcopal Relief &

RESPONDING TO DEADLY HURRICANE FLORENCE

Development’s US Disaster Program. “They are uniquely positioned to help to address the needs of this isolated and remote community.”

Additional response activities include:

- ⇒ Holding ongoing coordination calls with leaders from affected dioceses to help them assess needs and mobilize to respond to the most vulnerable communities.
- ⇒ Leading online trainings in both English and Spanish to prepare congregational leaders to assess their communities’ needs and effectively respond.
- ⇒ Equipping many impacted dioceses with AlertMedia, a cloud-based mass messaging system that was successfully used after Hurricane Harvey and Irma to enable the dioceses to communicate with staff and congregational leaders to share information and assess needs.

Please continue to pray for those impacted by Hurricane Florence. Donations to the Hurricane Relief Fund will help Episcopal Relief & Development respond to this crisis.



September Birthdays

Saint John’s celebrates the September birthdays of Mary Bonner, Thelma Lomers, Mellissa Brown and Ron Brown.



Ashleigh Sheffield	10/04	LaVerne Foster	10/15
Charlynn Will	10/04	Pam Velaski	10/24
Meagan Clanton	10/08	Chris Velaski	10/24
Bob Anderson	10/11	Madison Hughes	10/25
Kay Meador	10/11	Jeweliana Barbour	10/27
Marjorie Duhon	10/13	Jeannie Lott	10/28
Shirley Hall	10/14	Audrey Garner	10/30

Ron & Marie Brown 10/07
Budd & Connie McLean 10/22



For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:

Bea Brown, Julia Heard, Ron Waites, Chick Wohlert, Mac Pearce, Neil McPhail, Marian Boykin, Ron Brown, Jayson Chestang, Budd McLean

For our Homebound:

Joan-Marie Elam, LaVerne Foster, Mary Catherine Warren.

For victims of war and their families, and members of our Armed Forces and their families:

Jacob Hester-Heard, Marcus Rich, Ross Hussmann, Josh Vernor, Ellis Garner, Eric Mattoon.

For our Friends and Family:

Sue Sheffield, David Shippee, Abigail Harrison, Martha Pounds, Robert Levy, John Barnett, Bonnie Adler, Chris Christiansen, Connor, David Green, Laurie Williams, Sadie McGill, Tiffany Matthews, Augusta Wombaugh, Betty Williams, Kelley Lynd, Kay Barnes, Latecia Cushion Knight, Evia Daniel, Charles Geck, Mary Jo Vinson, Bonnie Jernigan, Kaye Turner, Britney Butler, Angie Leon, Neal Tourné, Sandy & Ray Michel, Connor Crist, Paul Nelson, Krystal Hiatt, Mark Stiber.

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James Christiansen

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Kathe Gieseler

Jan Joseph

Connie McLean, *treasurer*

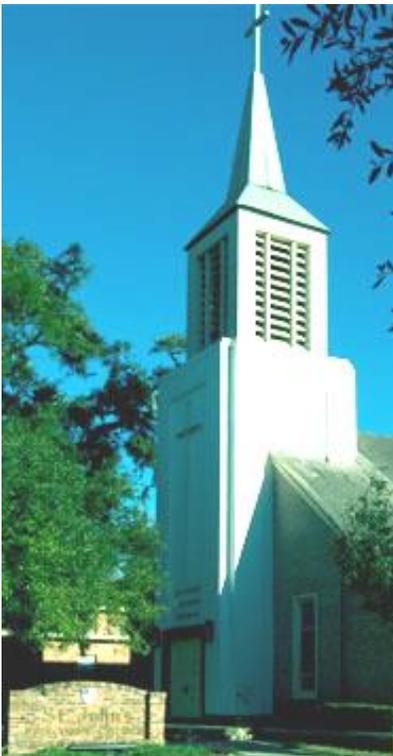
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Come Worship With Us!

Monday—Friday:

8:30AM Morning Prayer

Sunday:

9:00AM Adult and Youth Christian
 Formation

10:00AM Holy Eucharist

Wednesday:

10:00AM Holy Eucharist;
 Healing on the 1st
 Wednesday of the month.

Other Feasts and Holy Days are
 observed throughout the year; please
 see our website for the latest schedule.

Parish Office

Monday-Thursday
 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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www.stjohnsmobile.org

SAINT JOHN'S: THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MIDTOWN MOBILE
 Grounded in shared sacramental life and moving into the world
 to be the hands of Our Lord.