

## The Ethiopian Christians and us Why it matters?

Do you recall this traditional hymn?

*"Faith of our fathers, holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death."*



That faith that we inherited comes from a long line of faithful Christians from all around the world but in particular some nations from what is considered "The Cradle of Humanity".

Ethiopia has Christians being welcomed as early as the Ethiopian person being converted by Phillip the Apostle, in the book of Acts 8:26-38 (35 CE) and Christian refugees being welcomed in 284-330 AD during the persecutions under Diocletian in Aksum which was the core of the later kingdom which we know as Ethiopia. All these are a reminder that Ethiopia is the oldest Christian nation in the world.

We inherited devotions, liturgical actions and theology from these Early Christians. We also inherited the joy of the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In St. James, Tempe, we can see signs of Ethiopian tradition in the crosses, the incense, and this Palm Sunday, with the tradition of carrying umbrellas in the procession.

The use of umbrellas in Christian processions serves to locate the deacon (*Gospel*), and the priest (*Eucharist*) in the middle of the crowd. Today, we will have an umbrella over our deacon to mark with joy the importance of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Ethiopian crosses are designed in such a way that textiles or fabrics are enfolded in the base of the cross through the entire year, including Lent.

### Note about use of incense this Good Friday and Easter Vigil:

Ethiopia is the birthplace of frankincense and myrrh. Incense is an intrinsic part of their religious identity. In the Old Testament, when the Queen of Sheba comes to visit King Salomon, among her gifts are myrrh and frankincense. Most religions around the world use incense to purify and sanctify things, places and people. Incense has a sensorial power that brings down all forms of evil.

Our Ethiopian incense at St. James from The Boswellia Project is a unique initiative that combines respect for our ecology and quality products for liturgy. No other existing businesses or monasteries in the world propose environment-friendly, natural incenses, produced from sustainable sources.

Our incense is suitable for people with allergies. Sweeter, with lemon, pine aroma, it is also more competitive than industrial incenses.

### **"Being Aware"**

*Jesus said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." (Luke 22:15)*

Jesus, aware that his actions are leading to his arrest, is eager to run the course, complete the race. And he wants to enjoy the company of his followers one final time. As we run our course and complete our race, be aware that the Lord is with us each step of the way.

**Share the good news for generations - make a legacy gift to St. James.**

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Please pray for the Church of North India.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Please remember St. Stephen's in Phoenix.

**Please Pray for our Church Family.** . . . Janey, Gerry, Dana, Kristy, Carrie, Simon, Patti, the Muller family, the Spence family, Sandra, Robert, the Hollis family, the Huls family, Luke, Rob, Jeff, Chris, the Papaccio family, Eileen, Susan, Nancy, Ellen, Kate, Jim, Paul, Carol, Debbie and Jennifer, our siblings & families in Navajoland, those affected by COVID-19 and our front line medical providers, Becki, Tessa, Pat, Ashley, Donald and Lynn. We acknowledge, pay respect and pray for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community as the original people of the land and their role as custodians of this land given to them by our one and only Creator God. We pray for all affected by violence, terrorism & natural disaster, and we pray for those in the military. We pray also that God will send us those who are hungry to know and follow Jesus, that we might welcome & walk with them on their spiritual journey.

### THIS WEEK AT ST JAMES

Sunday	9:30 am	Holy Eucharist ( <i>With hymns and contemporary songs</i> )
	10:30 am	Outdoor Coffee Hour
Thursday	6:30 pm	Supper with Eucharist
Friday	12:00 pm	Good Friday Liturgy
	7:00 pm	Ritual of the Burial of the Icon of Christ
Saturday	10:30 am	Morning Prayer
	8:00 pm	Ester Vigil

**Welcome to our visitors!** Please sign our guest book located on the lectern in the narthex by the main entrance and join us for refreshments after the service. We offer nursery care and children's programs that provide safe, nurturing environment for your children during both services.

*This is the Lord's Table.* All are invited to receive Holy Communion. If you wish to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest.

### **WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP OR ANSWERS....**

Father Sam<sup>†</sup> is available to answer your questions, to respond to pastoral concerns, to offer support and counseling, and, most of all, to listen. My door is always open! You can reach me at the office, or after hours on my cell phone: (510) 847-0229, or email at rector@stjamestempe.org.

**Officers of St. James:** Bob Klassen, (480) 225-3342 or bob.klassen@gmail.com; Steve Vanden Heuvel, (303) 688-0550 or SteveQE@gmail.com; and Gerry Carlston, (480) 678-2710 or pgcarlston@cox.net.

**Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain:** Call Diana in the office, (480) 345-2686.

**Godly Play/Children & Youth Ministries:** Eileen Flock, (480) 586-1124 or eflock@cox.net.

**Ministry of Music:** Lali Breen, (480) 205-5635 or lb.dbstrings@gmail.com.

**Parish Nurse:** Patricia Maybee, pmaybee@gmail.com.

### LAST WEEK AT ST. JAMES:

Worship Attendance: 50  
(via Facebook Live: N/A)

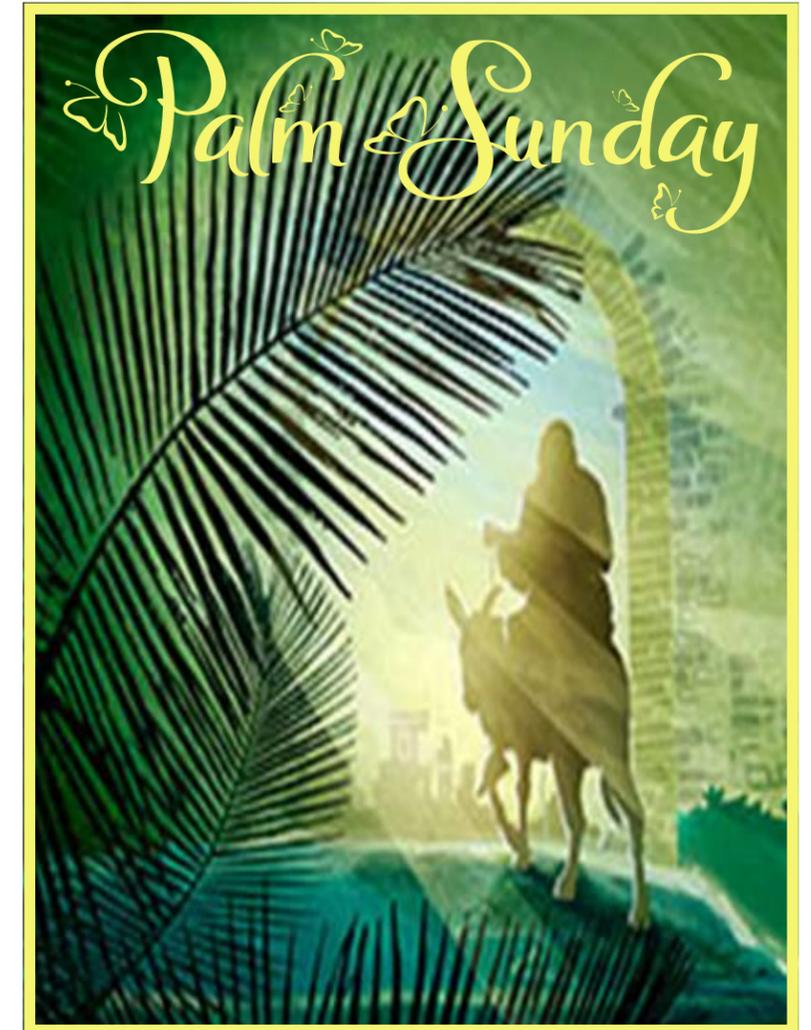
Giving -  
\$ 2218 (Operating)  
\$ 250 (Designated Gifts)

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26  
John 20:1-18

YTD Operating Income: \$ 61,268 (as off 3/31/2022)  
YTD Operating Expenses: \$ 62,064 Surplus/Loss: \$ 796

*St. James Episcopal Church*  
*Welcoming, loving and serving all God's children*



*April 10, 2022*

**The Rev. Dr. Sam Dessórdi Leite, Rector**

The Rev. Dr. Robin Hollis, Deacon

975 E. Warner Road ☩ Tempe, AZ 85284  
(480) 345-2686

www.stjamestempe.org ☩ office@stjamestempe.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## Around the Community

**AS OF APRIL 7, 2022, FACE MASKS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED** when visiting St. James the Apostle, or attending worship. Individuals are, of course, still welcome to wear a mask if they choose. Whatever decision you make about face masks, please respect the decisions that other people make. Whether a person chooses to wear a mask, or not, is entirely up to them. Whatever decision each person makes, and whenever they choose to make it, is entirely their own and should be respected.

**COFFEE HOUR:** Join us after the service! It is important for us to remember that we will still be wearing masks and following the social distancing guidelines already set forth. We ask that you take your coffee and food outside to the patio area.

**EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY:** We invite you to join our group meeting in the St. James Library on **Monday evenings, 6:30 to 9 pm.** For more information, please contact Mary Jane Porter, [mjp4@cornell.edu](mailto:mjp4@cornell.edu) or (480) 625-4369.

**LADIES NIGHT OUT:** We will meet at 6:00 pm on **Tuesday, April 12th,** at Valle Luna Mexican Restaurant, 1949 W. Ray Road, Chandler 85224. If you haven't come before please join us for a fun evening of food and fellowship. Hope to see you there!! And bring a friend! For the safety and health of everyone it is asked that you be fully vaccinated to attend.

**REMINDER: THE WEEKLY GATHERING** for Prayer, Meditations and Bible Study will resume in May.

**ON MAUNDY THURSDAY (APRIL 14TH),** we will be sharing a meal and the Eucharist with our friends, just as Jesus did with his disciples. We will be bringing Middle Eastern food in that evening, so please sign up on the back table if you can join us. If you would like to help defray the cost of the meal you can place an envelope in the plate, earmarked for hospitality, or you can drop cash in the donation jar on the hospitality table.

Can't be with us on site? Join us online.

The Easter Triduum  
A Virtual Celebration



4 pm Maundy Thursday - Zoom Service  
3pm Good Friday - Zoom Service  
6 pm Easter Vigil - Zoom Service

Meeting ID 826 4563 7928 Password: 680612

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82645637928?pwd=ODE2cVFMWWNqZUICSSs3NW9NVKITZz09>

Meeting ID: 826 4563 7928 Passcode: 680612

## What's Happening at St. James?



**Maundy Thursday, April 14 (NO Live Stream)**  
6:30 pm Supper with Eucharist  
*All who desire may experience the ritual of Foot Washing*

**Good Friday, April 15 (NO Live Stream)**  
Noon Liturgy of the day with Veneration of the Cross  
7 pm Ritual of the Burial of the Icon of Christ:  
*(With the blessing of Hot Cross Buns)*

**Holy Saturday, April 16 (NO Live Stream)**  
10:30 am Morning Prayer and setting the church for Easter Vigil  
8 pm Easter Vigil, Eucharist Celebration.

**Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**  
9:30 am Easter Eucharistic liturgy

## Did You Know?

**BARGAINS GALORE AND BOOK SHELF BOOKSTORE:** Every Saturday morning, from 8 to noon, Bargains Galore opens its two buildings and outdoor patio at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Sun City to customers. The store is fully stocked with a great variety of clothing items for both men and women as well as shoes, toys, kitchen and household items, linens, televisions, computers, small appliances, and sometimes furniture. Bargains Galore is entirely run by volunteers, and all merchandise is donated. Proceeds from the store are used for outreach ministries. **BOOK SHELF BOOKSTORE** is open at the same time every Saturday. All the books and DVD's are donated and the bookstore is now receiving books from the Phoenix Library as well, mainly large print and audio books. The Bookstore also has its own Outreach fund. When teachers come in to buy books for their schoolrooms, they pay for them out of their own pocket. Now the bookstore uses this fund to pay for their books. St. Christopher's is located at 10233 W Peoria Avenue, Sun City, AZ 85351. For more information on how to donate to the thrift shop or bookstore, please call the church office at ( 623) 972-1100.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Monday, April 18th,** in observance of Easter Monday.

## Meditation Verse

"at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth"  
*Philippians 2:10*

## Ministry Opportunities

**LITTLE FREE LIBRARY:** We are still collecting books to be placed in the Library. A box for donated books is located in the narthex. Please keep in mind we are particularly looking for contemporary fiction and children's books, especially those for young readers. Religious or faith based novels will be donated to the church library.

## Coming Soon...

**OUR MEN'S GROUP** will meet for lunch for those fully vaccinated fellows on **Thursday, April 21st** at 11:30 am at Biscuit's, 4623 E. Elliot Road, Phoenix 85044.

**EYC MOVIE UNDER THE STARS:** **Saturday, April 23rd** at 7:00 pm. Popcorn, Candy and Drinks will be provided. The movie will be played on the east patio starting at 7 pm. We look forward to seeing you. If you plan on attending, please let Eileen know via email ([eflock@cox.net](mailto:eflock@cox.net)) or text ((480) 586-1124) by **Wednesday, April 20th** so I can ensure we have snacks for all who attend.

**UMOM WALK THE WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS** is a fun, family friendly event with the goal to raise funds and awareness for families and single women experiencing homelessness in Arizona. This year the walk will be in-person at the Phoenix Zoo, **Saturday, May 14th,** from 6 am to 9 am. Register as either an individual or a team, and pricing includes a commemorative walk T-shirt and Phoenix Zoo entrance. For more information, visit [www.umom.org/walk](http://www.umom.org/walk). We walk because WE can make a difference.



**8TH ANNUAL LADIES TEA!! Saturday, June 4th** at 2:00 pm. Cost is \$15 per person. This year we are having our "Fancy Hat" contest as well as our famously fantastic raffle baskets. We are looking for dessert donations and other volunteers. **Please see Barbara Meyers for more information.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! Sunday, October 23rd.** Evening of Music will present "St. James Jams," a musical event with silent auction. More details to come soon!

*All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.*