



ST. JAMES' IN-THE-CITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Respecting the dignity of every human being

UPDATE

19 JUNE 2016
THE FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome to St. James' in the City!

We're happy to have you with us this morning, and **Happy Father's Day!** We hope you find our parish to be a place of welcome and invitation. After the service, come have a cup of coffee and visit our welcome table, where you'll find out more of what St. James' has to offer.



Orlando. Where to begin.

There is so much wrong with the news of the massacre at The Pulse. 1) The direct attack on the LGBT community takes violence against that community to new depths of horror. (The fact that the attack came during Pride Week was especially poignant.) 2) It occurred on Latino night, targeting a subset of the LGBT community, often discriminated

against in their own culture. 3) The shooter, homegrown but inspired by Isis, is Muslim, generating more anti Muslim backlash.

It's a poisonous stew of hatreds -and as un-American as it could be. But hatred and discrimination are now part of what passes for political discourse.

We only have to read the psalms to be reminded that words have the power to create or destroy, to remember God spoke the world into being by his own creative Word, which became flesh in Jesus. How many more Pilates will want to head for the wash basin eager to disavow any responsibility after speaking hatred in the public square?

And how many people who call themselves Christian have used a similar rhetoric of judgment and condemnation—for the LGBT community, for Muslims, for the outsider.

Where is the God who loves his children unconditionally?

Alas, he is still hanging on a tree, bearing our sorrows, and waiting for us to be his hands and heart in the world.

"Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name." (BCP p. 99)

In Christ,
+Catherine

Conversations with Eric Law

Saturday, June 25th

We will continue our conversations with the assistance of Eric Law, simply for us to get to know each other better across and not just within our several communities. These conversations will take place in various spots in the parish house on Saturday, June 25, the Vestry conversation from 9:00am to noon, and parish conversations from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, with arrangements for lunch in between the sessions.

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