

# St John's Episcopal Church

Ross, CA



## Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 17, 2021

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Hydrate your soul at St John's:

A community of connections across generations.  
Connect to God through worship, service,  
real life and tradition.

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## NOTES ON OUR LITURGY

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January 6 marks the Feast of the Epiphany, and the weeks that follow (until Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent on January 14) are called the season of Epiphany. The word “epiphany” comes from the Greek and means something like “manifestation” or “showing forth.” The feast day is older than Christmas, and is the Church’s original celebration of the nativity of Christ, and also of his recognition by the magi. The season is characterized by a focus on the “showing forth” of the true identity of Jesus of Nazareth, and of our call to follow him.

Today we also celebrate the Feast of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Civil Rights Leader and Martyr. The church remembers and calls us to imitate Dr. King’s faithfulness to the call of the Gospel, his dedicated fight against the sins of racism and economic injustice, and his commitment to nonviolence. We remember him, repent of our own sins, and rededicate ourselves to pursuing God’s vision of justice for all.

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As we worship today, you are invited to pray aloud with us, or join silently; to sing along or enjoy listening. Welcome - we are thankful for your presence!

Have a prayer request that you’d like to be shared (anonymously or with your name) on Sunday during the prayers? Would you like a blessing for a birthday, anniversary, or other occasion of thanksgiving? **During the service, please text your prayer request to (415) 275-0115 and it will be shared at the Prayers of the People.**

Please join in praying for the needs and concerns of our congregation by viewing our online [Prayer List and Prayer Wall](#).

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**Altar Flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God.**

To remember or celebrate a loved one with a donation for our altar flowers, please contact Nancy Strauch via [email](#) or at 510-237-5021.

## Prelude

When I Consider Your Heavens

Rosalie Bonighton (b. 1946)

## Welcome

*A bell will sound, signaling a few moments of prayer and silence.*

# Liturgy of the Word

## Processional Hymn

The people who in darkness walked

Hymnal 126, verses 1-2 (*Dundee*)

The image shows a musical score for a processional hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The first system contains verses 1 through 5, and the second system contains verses 1 through 5. The piano accompaniment is written in a simple, blocky style, primarily using chords and single notes.

1 The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a glo - rious light;  
2 To hail thy ris - ing, Sun of life, the ga - thering na - tions come,  
3 To us the prom - ised Child is born, to us the Son is given;  
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace for ev - er - more a - dored,  
5 His power in - creas - ing still shall spread, his reign no end shall know;

1 on them broke forth the heaven - ly dawn who dwelt in death and night.  
2 joy - ous as when the reap - ers bear their har - vest trea - sures home.  
3 him shall the tribes of earth o - bey, and all the hosts of heaven.  
4 the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - lor, the might - y God and Lord.  
5 jus - tice shall guard his throne a - bove, and peace a - bound be - low.

*All standing, the Presider says*

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*People*

Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

*Presider and People*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Presider*

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

*People*

*Have mercy on us.*

## **Collect of the Day**

*Presider* God be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your Church, following the example of your prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

## **First Reading**

**1 Samuel 3:1-10**

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm 139:1-5,12-17**

*Please join in praying the Psalm aloud.*

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out \*  
and known me.
- 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; \*  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 5 You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.
- 12 Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 13 For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 14 I will thank you because I am marvellously made; \*  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- 15 My body was not hidden from you, \*  
while I was being made in secret and  
woven in the depths of the earth.
- 16 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; \*  
all of them were written in your book;  
they were fashioned day by day, \*  
when as yet there was none of them.
- 17 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \*  
How great is the sum of them!

## Gospel Acclamation

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning

Hymnal 117 (*Morning Star*)



Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,  
guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

## Holy Gospel

John 1:43-51

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## Sermon

The Rev. Bill Rankin

*One minute of silent reflection follows.*

## **Prayers of the People**

*The prayers this Sunday are based on the prayers of Martin Luther King Jr. After each petition, you are invited to respond "God, hear our prayer."*

We pray today in the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. saying:  
*God, hear our prayer.*

We thank you for your church, founded upon your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon you. Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace. Help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the reign of our Lord and of our God, we pray.

*God, hear our prayer.*

God, help us as individuals and as a world to hear it now before it is too late: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and God's justice and all these other things shall be added unto you."

*God, hear our prayer.*

O God, we thank you for the fact that you have inspired men and women in all nations and in all cultures. We call you different names: some call you Allah; some call you Elohim; some call you Jehovah; some call you Brahma; some call you the Unmoved Mover. But we know that these are all names for one and the same God. Grant that we will follow you and become so committed to your way and your kingdom that we will be able to establish in our lives and in this world a brother and sisterhood, that we will be able to establish here a kingdom of understanding, where men and women will live together as brothers and sisters and respect the dignity and worth of every human being.

*God, hear our prayer.*

Eternal God, out of whose mind this great cosmic universe, we bless you. Help us to seek that which is high, noble and good. Help us in the moment of difficult decision. Help us to work with renewed vigor for a warless world, a better distribution of wealth, and a brother/sisterhood that transcends race or color.

*God, hear our prayer.*

### *Priest*

Finally, we pray for those who are suffering from illness or distress, especially..., and for those who bear a private grief, that the Holy Comforter may bring them relief from their burdens. We pray also for those who have died, especially...that they may rest with Dr. King in your presence; Let us pray.

*God, hear our prayer.*

God, we thank you for the inspiration of Jesus. Grant that we will love you with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and love our neighbors as we love ourselves, even our enemy neighbors. And we ask you, God, in these days of emotional tension, when the problems of the world are gigantic in extent and chaotic in detail, to be with us in our going out and our coming in, in our rising up and in our lying down, in our moments of joy and in our moments of sorrow, until the day when there shall be no sunset and no dawn. We ask this in the name of the holy and undivided Trinity, One God. *Amen.*

### **The Peace**

*The Ministers and the People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### **Announcements**

## **Holy Communion**

### **Offertory Anthem**

*During this time of uncertainty, St. John's particularly needs your help to continue to offer care and support to our community. You can give online [here](#).*

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory            LEVAS II #226 (*Battle Hymn of the Republic*)

Mine eyes have seen the glory  
of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage  
where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He has loosed the fateful lightning  
of His terrible swift sword,  
His truth is marching on.

*Refrain:*            *Glory, glory, hallelujah!*  
                         *His truth is marching on.*

In the beauty of the lilies,  
Christ was born across the sea,  
With a glory in His bosom  
that transfigures you and me;  
As He died to make us holy,  
let us live to make all free,  
While God is marching on. *Refrain*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Presider* God be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to our God.  
*People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The Presider continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, and then says*

. . . Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*The Presider continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, and then says:*

Therefore, according to his command, O God,

*Presider and people*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*The Presider continues:*

By him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours,  
Almighty God, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

## **Lord's Prayer**

*Please join hands with those worshipping alongside you or extend your hands a sign of connection to the Church throughout time and space as we pray the Lord's Prayer.*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

### **Administration of Communion**

*The Church has always believed that to desire communion with Jesus in the bread and wine is to receive it on a spiritual level, even when circumstances prevent a bite of bread or sip of wine. In the silence, you are invited to meditate on the gift of Jesus' presence in and with us, offered in the bread and wine and received by faith.*

### **Postcommunion Prayer**

Resurrected Lord: we ask you to dwell in each of our hearts as we receive you by faith, in each person who has been hospitalized, in all medical personnel, in the rulers of the nations and civic leaders, in those who are alone, those who are oppressed and mistreated, in those who do not have their daily bread, in those who have lost a loved one because of covid-19 or some other condition. May the Resurrected Christ bring us hope, strengthen our faith, fill us with love and kinship, and grant us his peace. *Amen.*

### **Blessing**

*The presider offers God's blessing.*

### **Birthdays, Anniversaries and Occasions of Thanksgiving**

*All those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and occasions of thanksgiving are invited to come forward.*

Today, tomorrow and always we rejoice in the hands of God.  
May God's powerful hands support you.  
May God's guiding hands lead you.  
May God's loving hands enfold you.  
We rejoice in the hands of God. *Amen.*

## Postcommunion Hymn

Ye servants of God

Hymnal 535, vv.1-2 (*Paderborn*)

1 Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,  
2 God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save;  
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne!  
4 Then let us a - dore, and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful Name;  
and still he is might; his pres - ence we have.  
Let all cry a - loud, and hon - or the Son.  
All glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

the Name all - vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol;  
The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,  
The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,  
and hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

his king - dom is glo - rious; he rules o - ver all.  
as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King,  
fall down on their fa - ces, and wor - ship the Lamb,  
and thanks nev - er - ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

**Dismissal**

Our worship has ended and now our service begins.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

*People*

Thanks be to God!

**Postlude**

Echo Fantasie

Gerhardus Scronx (Flemish 17 c.)

# St John's Episcopal Church

## **Our Vision:**

**St. John's will be a spiritual home that welcomes all, loves and respects all, and serves all in Christ's name**

## **Our Mission:**

**We pray, worship and celebrate the Gospel**

**Responding to the needs of our communities**

**While building relationships to support us on our journey of faith**

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Bishop of California:	The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus
Rector:	The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams <i>crw@stjohnsross.org</i>
Associate Priest:	The Rev. Ginger Strickland <i>ginger@stjohnsross.org</i>
Assisting:	The Revs. Skip Fotch, Jan Hickman West, and Bill Rankin
Deacon:	The Rev. Dr. Joanna Benskin
Director of Music:	Dr. David Montgomery
Choir section leader:	Betsy Bennett-Smith <i>david@stjohnsross.org</i>
Church Administrator:	Virginia Kosydar <i>virginia@stjohnsross.org</i>
Youth Minister:	Tom Fregoso <i>tom@stjohnsross.org</i>
Director of Children's Ministry:	Sandra Pathik <i>sandra@stjohnsross.org</i>
Treasurer:	Susan Aley
Director of Stewardship:	Emily McFarland <i>emily@stjohnsross.org</i>
Bookkeeper:	Henry Auriti <i>bookkeeper@stjohnsross.org</i>
Vestry:	<i>President:</i> The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams <i>Senior Warden:</i> Robb Baer <i>Junior Warden:</i> June Sullivan Mary Beth Baker, Genny Biggs, Joannie Ericson, Maya Farhoud, Jennifer Jones, Paul Kaplan, Mike O'Brien, Chris Russell, Jaco Sadie, Kathryn Supinski, Amy Taylor.