St John’s Episcopal Church
Ross, CA

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany
February 14, 2021, 10AM

Come hydrate your soul at St John’s:
   A community of connections across generations.
Connect to God through worship, service,
   real life and tradition.

14 Lagunitas Road
P.O. Box 217
Ross, CA 94957

(415) 456-1102
info@stjohnsross.org
www.stjohnsross.org
The Season of Epiphany
January 6 marks the Feast of the Epiphany, and the weeks that follow (until Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent) 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 – both manifestations of Jesus’ true identity. The season is characterized by a focus on the “showing forth” of who Jesus of Nazareth really is, and of our call to follow him.

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](#).

Altar Flowers Given*
Keao Caindec
In loving memory of Puanani Caindec.

*Remember or celebrate a loved one with a donation for our altar flowers. Contact Nancy Strauch via [email](mailto:) or at 510-237-5021.*

Prelude
Stillness

Colin Mawby  (b. 1936)

Welcome
After the welcome announcement a bell will sound, signaling a few moments of prayer and silence.
O wondrous type! O vision fair of glory
With Moses and Elijah nigh the incarnate
With shining face and bright array, Christ deigns to
And faithful hearts are raised on high by this great
O Father, with the eternal Son, and Holy

vision's mystery; for which in joyful
that the Church may share, which Christ upon the
Lord holds converse high; and from the cloud, the
manifest today what glory shall be
vision's mystery, for which in joyful
Spirit, ever One, vouchsafe to bring us

strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
mountain shows, where brighter than the sun he glows!
Holy One bears record to the only Son.
theirs above who joy in God with perfect love.
strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
by thy grace to see thy glory face to face.
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.
O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading          2 Kings 2:1-12
When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his
mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm 50:1-6
*Please join us in praying the Psalm in unison.*

1 The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken *
and has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals the divine glory.

3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
before whom there is a consuming flame, and round about whom a raging storm.

4 God calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgement of this people.

5 “Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of the divine cause; *
for God, God alone, is judge.
**Gospel Acclamation**

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning

Hymnal 117 (*Morning Star*)

![Gospel Acclamation Music](image)

**Holy Gospel**

*Mark 9:2-9*

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

*People*  Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

*Priest*  The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*  Praise to you, Lord Christ.
Sermon
One minute of silent reflection follows.

Prayers of the People
From Planning for Rites and Rituals
Let us hear your voice as we kneel in awe before you. May we recognize your glory
and be forever changed.
   Merciful and gracious God,
   Hear our prayer.

Speak to us of peace. Call us to work for justice and to care for the welfare of all your
children: in our homes, in our workplaces, in our neighborhoods, in your Church, in
the world. Shine your light in the dark places of our lives and in this world.
   Merciful and gracious God,
   Hear our prayer.

Call us to be a compassionate and prayerful presence for those whose hearts ache
from grief, whose souls are weary or wounded. Overshadow us with your presence.
Walk down from the mountaintop with us, and walk before us into the places you
would have us serve as witnesses to your healing and love.
   Merciful and gracious God,
   Hear our prayer.

Priest
Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially...; give them
courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.
   God of love and mercy
   Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially...; that your will for them
may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal
kingdom.
   God of love and mercy
   Hear our prayer.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son:
Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and
hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in
bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your
purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and peoples may serve you in
harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Offertory Solo
How Can I Keep From Singing      arr. Sally DeFord and James Loynes

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 alongside you or hold out your hands a sign of connection to the wider community with whom we pray.*

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.

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.*
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
Festal Trumpets
Noel Rawsthorne (b. 1929)

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.

Today after the 10am service, please join us here for coffee hour on zoom. If you would like help in connecting through zoom, please reach out by email.
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

Bishop of California: The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus
Rector: The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams
crw@stjohnsross.org
Associate Priest: The Rev. Ginger Strickland
ginger@stjohnsross.org
Assisting: The Revs. Skip Fotch, Jan Hickman West, and Bill Rankin
Deacon: The Rev. Dr. Joanna Benskin
Director of Music: Dr. David Montgomery
david@stjohnsross.org
Choir section leader: Betsy Bennett-Smith
Church Administrator: Virginia Kosydar
virginia@stjohnsross.org
Youth Minister: Tom Fregoso
tom@stjohnsross.org
Director of Children’s Ministry: Sandra Pathik
sandra@stjohnsross.org
Treasurer: Susan Aley
Director of Stewardship Emily McFarland
emily@stjohnsross.org
Bookkeeper: Henry Auriti
bookkeeper@stjohnsross.org

Vestry: President: The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams
Senior Warden: Jennifer Jones
Junior Warden: Kathryn Supinski
Genny Biggs, Joanne Ericson,
Jennifer Jones, Paul Kaplan,
Mike O’Brien, Chris Russell, Jaco Sadie,
Kerry Hoeveler, Becky Hlebasko, Tim
McCandless, Alden Mills