St John’s Episcopal Church

Feast of the Transfiguration
August 6, 2023
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
PO Box 217
Ross, California 94957

(415) 456-1102
info@stjohnsross.org
www.stjohnsross.org
As we worship today, you are invited to pray aloud with us, or join silently; to sing along or enjoy listening. Welcome - we are grateful for your presence!

During the service, please text your prayer request, birthday, anniversary or occasion of thanksgiving to 415.275.0115.

Year W: A Note About our Readings from the Bible
"What does it look like to tell the Good News through the stories of women who are often on the margins of scripture and often set up to represent bad news? How would a lectionary centering women’s stories frame the presentation of the scriptures for proclamation and teaching? ... More simply, what would it look like if women built a lectionary focusing on women’s stories?" This quote comes from the introduction to A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church: Year W: A multi-Gospel Single-Year Lectionary, by The Rev. Wilda Gafney, a Hebrew biblical scholar, Episcopal priest, and former Army chaplain. Rev. Gafney has developed the Year W lectionary using fresh translations of the texts to help us encounter the Bible with new eyes.

Give
Offerings may be given:
- in the plate
- text to give 415.855.3575
- Online at www.stjohnsrss.org/give
- Paypal PayPal.Me/stjohnsross

Altar Flowers Given By
Leslie and Harry Harelik
  in loving memory of her parents Dr. and Mrs. Henry Goodwin Glass
Nancy Strauch
  in loving memory of her sister Jane Thompson

To remember or celebrate a loved one with a donation for our altar flowers, please contact Nancy Strauch at 510-237-5021.

Prelude

Welcome
After the welcome announcement a bell will sound, signaling a few moments of prayer and silence.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Opening Hymn 542  Christ is the world's true light  St. Joan

1 Christ is the world's true light, its captain of salvation, the Day-star clear and bright, of every race and nation; new life, new hope awakes for all who own his sway: freedom her bondage breaks, and night is turned to day.

2 In Christ all races meet, their ancient feuds forgetting, the whole round world complete, from sunrise to its setting: when Christ is throned as Lord, all shall forsake their fear, to ploughshare beat the sword, to pruning-hook the spear.

3 One Lord, in one great Name untie us all who own thee; cast out our pride and shame that hinder to enthrone thee; the world has waited long, has travelled long in pain; to heal its ancient wrong, come, prince of Peace, to reign.

— George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959)
© Oxford University Press. Used with permission under OneLicense.net #A-707510
Acclamation

Presider       Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People     Glory to God for ever and ever.

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.

Song of Praise

Benedictus es, Domine

Plainsong

REFRAIN (sung after each trope)

praised and exalted above all for ever.

Blessed art thou, O God of our ancestors; (Refrain)
Blessed art thou for the Name of thy Majesty; (R)
Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness; (R)
Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths,
and dwellest between the Cherubim; (R)
Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom; (R)
Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven, (R)
Blessed art thou, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, (Refrain Sung Three Times)

Collect of the Day

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

O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the King in his beauty; who with you, O Father, and you, O Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading

2 Peter 1:13-21

I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to refresh your memory, since I know that my death will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the
power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 99:5-9**  
_Repeat refrain after the cantor the first time._

5  We proclaim your greatness, O Lord our God.  
   We bow down before your footstool, for you are holy.

6  Moses and Aaron among your priests,  
   and Samuel among those who call upon your name, *  
   they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.  
   —Refrain

7  You spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *  
   they kept your teachings and the law that you gave them.

8  You answered them O Lord our God; *  
   to them you were a God who forgives,  
   Though you punished their offenses. —Refrain

9  We proclaim your greatness, O Lord our God.  
   We bow down towards your holy mountain,  
   for you, O Lord our God, are holy.  
   —Refrain
Gospel Acclamation

Ross Alleluia No. 2
John Karl Hirten
Sung by all. Cantor will sing the first line, then all continue singing or repeat the first line, ad libitum.

Cantor will sing a verse, after which all repeat the Alleluia.

Holy Gospel


Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

John Karl Hirten

A moment of silent reflection follows the sermon
The Creed  Sung by all, standing

Arfon

Words by Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993)
©1991 by GIA Publications, Inc. Used with permission under OneLicense.net #A-707510

Prayers of the People

Gracious God, we pray for the Body of Christ, the Church, that we who have been entrusted with the gift of new life, may bring life to the world and renewed hope to our church; for this we pray. God have mercy.

Gracious God, we pray for persistence in prayer; for the courage to seek peace before the battle begins, and for economic justice before the weight of inequality fractures the will of nations; for this we pray. God have mercy.
Gracious God, we pray for the courage to hold fast to the ideals of our faith, bringing love to those who live in despair and desperation, and through their cries receive the saving grace that enlightens our common vocation as disciples of Jesus; for this we pray. God have mercy.

Gracious God, we pray for your presence to surround and support those who suffer or are in need: especially…, we pray for those who have died: especially…, and for the prayers of our community…for this we pray. God have mercy.

Gracious God, we pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Minister and People
God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution
The presider offers God’s absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Peace
You are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

HOLY COMMUNION
During the Offertory Anthem, the ushers collect offerings of money for God’s work in and through the church and in thanksgiving for the many gifts God has given us. We rely on the financial contributions of members and visitors and are grateful for your generous support.

Offertory
Sung by the Summer Pop-up Choir
The Doxology

Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

Presider The Lord 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 the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

...Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:
In the middle of the Eucharistic prayer, the Presider says:
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People  Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Presider continues with the prayer, and then says
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.
Lord’s Prayer
You are invited to raise your hands in prayer and blessing as we pray.
And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Presider and People
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.

Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast. —REFRAIN

Presider    Holy things for holy people.

Administration of Communion
To receive communion please come forward and receive a piece of the consecrated bread from the priest. If you need a gluten free wafer please indicate that to the minister. If you would like to receive the common cup, please help guide the chalice so you may drink from it. The practice of intinction (dipping the bread into the wine) is no longer permitted, in alignment with best health practices. If you prefer not to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing, indicating your preference by crossing your arms over your chest.

Communion
Postcommunion Prayer

*Please stand.*

*Presider*  
Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. 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.*

Hymn 135  
*Salzburg*

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,  
manifested by the star  
to the sages from afar;  
branch of royal David’s stem  
in thy birth at Bethlehem;  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

2. Manifest at Jordan’s stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana, wedding-guest,  
in thy Godhead manifest;  
manifest in power divine,  
changing water into wine;  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

3. Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
manifest in valiant fight,  
quelling all the devil's might;  
manifest in gracious will,  
ever bringing good from ill;  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

4. Manifest on mountain height,  
shining in resplendent light,  
where disciples filled with awe  
thy transfigured glory saw.  
When from there thou leddest them  
steadfast to Jerusalem,  
cross and Easter Day attest  
God in man made manifest.

—Sts. 1-3, Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885), st. 4. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984)

Dismissal  

Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!  

People  

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude  

Improvisation

Join us for coffee and fellowship in our parish hall following the service. Coffee and refreshments on the house. Or, support our Youth Ministry at the Espresso Bar: Lattes or espresso drinks: $3. Palio Coffee for sale, whole or ground, decaf or regular: $15 per pound. All proceeds support our Youth Ministry.
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY
8am: Worship *(On summer break. Resumes September 10.)*
9am: Family Worship *(Held on the lawn, weather permitting, or in the Parish Hall.)*
10am:
Worship (in-person in the church & live stream)
Sunday School for children & youth

MONDAY
7pm: Bible Study *(Zoom).* All are welcome. We are reading the Acts of the Apostles.
(No meeting on 7/31, 8/7, 8/14.)

TUESDAY
7:30am: Christian Meditation *(Zoom)*

One TUESDAY a Month *(on summer break)*
6pm: Dinner Church in the Parish Hall

2nd SATURDAYS of the Month
9am: Men's Group
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Puttin’ on the Ritz (Ross)
St. John’s Ross Harvest Gala - October 21, 2023
Our Silent Auction is a fun way that makes the Harvest Gala a successful fundraiser for our parish. Last year, we received over 40 items in support of our auction that raised almost 20k! This year, we are looking to increase both the number of silent auction offerings and amount raised. If you donated an item to the auction last year, please do so again; you can give the same item or something new. If you have a new item to donate to the auction (tickets, restaurant gift certificates, 100 pt. wine, auction parties, vacation homes, and more...), please email our Director of Stewardship, Lee Steward for more information on how to donate to this year's Silent Auction. All auction items are due by September 1, so please prayerfully consider making a donation today! Thank you for your generous support.

Parish Weekend Away: September 8-10 Nestled into the rolling hills of Sonoma wine country, The Bishop’s Ranch occupies acres of beautiful land with pristine views. Accommodations include simple but well-appointed rooms, and excellent food prepared by the Ranch staff. The staff and clergy of St John's provide activities and programs for all ages: some of which are age-specific, and some intergenerational. There’s also plenty of free time. All are invited to attend. The retreat begins Friday, September 8 at 5pm and ends on Sunday, September 10 at 2pm. Register here. Sign-up deadline is August 17.

Welcome Sunday Open House & BBQ Sunday, September 17 is our Welcome Sunday Open House following the 10am service. The Open House is an opportunity to learn about the many ministries, outreach, and ways to connect to the community at St. John’s. A complimentary lunch is provided by our Men’s Group. A bounce house will be available for kids of all ages. Welcome Sunday marks the beginning of the program year for the church with the resumption of our regular children and youth programs and the return of our choirs. It’s a great Sunday to invite a friend to check out St. John’s.

Gently Used Children’s Clothing Parishioner and Spiritual Director Jennifer Whitaker is in the process of becoming a foster mother, and she is seeking gently used donations to help prepare her home to receive a child, 4-7 years old. This wishlist has some examples of the books, toys, and supplies she is hoping to find. If you have something you would like to donate, please bring it by the office in the next couple of weeks. Contact Rev. Heather for more info.

Handmade Hat Drive There are over 1000+ unhoused residents in Marin County based. Let’s make the holidays special and warm for our neighbors. If you or your kids want a fun and meaningful way to help the homeless from anywhere between now until November 17 drop off date. Join our community by knitting or crocheting
hats. I taught myself in less than an hour to crochet these fun hats. All you need are either knitting needles or a crochet hook and some medium weight yarn. If interested email Leslie Limpert for more details.

Children’s Summer Sunday School @ 10AM Our Summer Sunday School class is for kids ages 4-10. We gather in the Fireside Room and after the class, we join parents in the church for communion. This Sunday, our lesson will be the inspiring story of Ruth, a Bible heroine whose unwavering loyalty and faithfulness set her apart. From a foreign land to becoming an integral part of God's divine plan, Ruth's journey displays the power of love, kindness, and God's providence. Hope to see your kids! For more info, email Director of Children's Ministry, Sandra Pathik.

Back to School Blessing Mark your calendars for our Back to School Blessing on August 27th during the 10AM Service. We bless all students as they start the new academic year.

Summer Sunday Morning Youth Group We meet at the 10 am service – 6th-12th grade in the Youth Room. Join us for doughnuts and good chats.

Sunday Evening Youth Group will return in September. Have a great summer!

Youth Group on Instagram Follow the St. John's Youth Group at st.johnsrossyouth

St. John’s Choristers is our Children’s Choir. Choristers are open to children 6 y.o. and up and there is no audition. Rehearsals take place on Thursday afternoons, time TBA depending on schedules, with an alternate time during the week to accommodate availability. Rehearsals begin this year on August 24. The plan is to have the group sing once a month at the 10 AM service. For more information and to sign up, contact John Hirten at john@stjohnsross.org. Note: If there is enough interest, John would be willing to include a younger group as well.

The St. John’s Choir is on summer break and will return on September 17 (Welcome Sunday). Rehearsals start back up on Thursday, September 7, at 7:15 PM. Interested in joining? We are always looking for new members! While there are no auditions to join, we do recommend that you know the basics of music reading in order to enjoy the experience. For more information, contact John Karl Hirten, music director, at john@stjohnsross.org.

Music Notes Like many religions, the Christian church operates within a yearly calendar. Ours is based on two separate cycles. One uses the fixed date of Christmas, Dec. 25, and that cycle always begins four Sundays before that date (the four Sundays of Advent). The other cycle is based on the ever-changing date of Easter which always occurs on the Sunday after the first full moon that falls on or after March 21.
The important days in the church year are called "Feasts." The modern connotation of that word implies a large group around a fulsome table eating their hearts out in celebration. That is not far off from what was the original intent of a religious feasts. Early Christians inherited the practice from the Romans, who would celebrate their holidays with feasting and resting from work. In fact, the word "holiday" is a compound word of "holy" and "day." So, even if we don't have a giant table with a cornucopia on it, we still celebrate by commemorating the day.

The principal feasts of the church year are Easter Day, Ascension Day (forty days after Easter, always on a Thursday), the Day of Pentecost (fifty days after Easter), Trinity Sunday (the Sunday after Pentecost), All Saints' Day (Nov. 1), Christmas Day (Dec. 25), and the Epiphany (Jan. 6). Most of these feasts occur on a Sunday, but not all. For example, All Saints' Sunday is the Sunday following Nov. 1, and the feast may be observed on either day. The principal feasts take precedence over any other observance, so the feasts of the Holy Name (Jan. 1), the Presentation (Feb. 2), and the Transfiguration (Aug. 6 – today) are celebrated instead of the usual Sunday observance if they fall on a Sunday.
PRAYER LIST

Members
Ursula Jones
Russell Wirth
Ron Martyn
Signe Lando
Susan Ivancic
The Rev. Jan West
JT Sweet
Carolyn Reid-Sale
Carol Hughes
Katie Hoertkorn

Friends & Family
William Keuffel (brother of Susan Aley)
Nick Mirdadian (family of Lynn Taylor)
Evan Gershkovich (American reporter held in Russia)
Jeri (friend of Jeanette Anspacher)
Kelly Larson (daughter of Michelle & Glen Larson)
Robert Stauder (friend of Jon Price)
Marcy Heller (sister of Sally Rankin)
Lucy Thorpe McKee (dear friend of Eve & Russell Wirth)
Charlie Thornhill (young friend of the Ericson family)
Pam Schmitz (daughter of the late Rev. Chuck Gompertz)
Susan Yates (friend of Amy Rankin-Williams)
Marie-Reine Saber Abou Jaoudé (friend of Maya Farhoud)
Gigi Short (sister of Judy Gibson)
Joy Mistele (former parishioner)
Jay Warner (brother-in-law of Eleanor Prugh)
Annetta Black (former parishioner)
Elizabeth Bohannon (friend of Lyn Klein)
Peter Hoyt (Holly Posner’s father)
Ted Brown (brother of Libby Brown)
Barbara Glinn (friend of Carol Hughes)
Dilys Hoyt (mother of Holly Posner)

In Death
Bruce Taylor (husband of Lynn Taylor)
Rosalyn Quint (mother of Alisa Quint)
Our Vision St. John’s is 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

Clergy, Staff & Vestry
Bishop of California The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus
Rector The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams
Associate Priest The Rev. Heather Erickson
Assisting Priests The Rev. Skip Fotch, the Rev. Jan West, and the
                Rev. James Ward
Bookkeeper Henry Auriti
Dir. of Children’s Ministry Sandra Pathik
Dir. of Stewardship Lee Steward
Choir section leaders Betsy Bennett-Smith, Asher Davison,
                Lee Steward, Jessica House Steward,
                Paul Thompson

Church Administrator Virginia Kosydar
Music Director John Karl Hirten
Youth Minister Maggie Doyle
Treasurer Susan Aley
Vestry Pres.: The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams
            Senior Warden: Becky Hlebasko
            Junior Warden: Joannie Ericson
            Tim McCandless, Alden Mills, Karen Petterson,
            Kari Chao, Hadley Dettmer, Nancy Wolcott,
            Claire Comins, Donalyn Hellar, David Kinney,
            Alice Pidgeon