# St John's Episcopal Church



# Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 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.

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.

#### 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**

To the glory of God

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

#### **Prelude**

#### Welcome

A few moments of silence follow the welcome announcement.

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

# Hymn 213, stanzas 1-4

Come away to the skies

Middlebury

- Come away to the skies, my beloved, arise and rejoice in the day thou wast born; on this festival day, come exulting away, and with singing to Zion return.
- 2. Now with singing and praise, let us spend all the days, by our heavenly Father bestowed, while his grace we receive from his bounty, and live to the honor and glory of God.
- 3. For the glory we were first created to share, both the nature and kingdom divine! Now created again that our lives may remain, throughout time and eternity thine.
- We with thanks do approve the design of that love which hath joined us to Jesus' Name; so united in heart, let us nevermore part, till we meet at the feast of the Lamb.

#### Easter Acclamation

Presider Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!

# 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 Traditional

Sung by all 3X. Congregation stamps their feet as noted.

Christ is risen, Alleluia, trampling [*STOMP*] down death by death. Jesus lives, sing Alleluia, trampling [*STOMP*] down death by death.

# Collect of the Day

PresiderGod be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

First Reading Acts 8:26-40

Please be seated.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24-30 Plainsong

Congregation joins with the choir on the verses in Plain type



- 24 My praise is of you in the great as**sém**bly; \*
  I will perform my vows in the presence of / those who **wór**ship you.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek you shall **práise** you: \* "May your heart / live for **év**er!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and **túrn** to you, \* and all the families of the nations shall / bow be**fóre** you.
- 27 For yours is the royal **pówer**, O God; \* you rule o/ver the **ná**tions.
- 28 To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in **wór**ship; \* all who go down to the dust / fall be**fóre** you.
- 29 My soul shall live for you; my descendants shall **sérve** you; \* they shall be known as / yours for **év**er.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people **yét** unborn \* the saving / deeds that **yóu** have done.

**Gospel Acclamation** 

Shepherd's Alleluia

John Karl Hirten

All repeat refrain after the choir each time.



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Verse: You are God, we praise and acclaim you.

You, O God, are eternal.

All creation worships you. — Refrain

Holy Gospel John 15:1-8

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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

Sermon

The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams

A moment of silent reflection follows the Sermon.

## The Creed sung by all, standing



Words by Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993)

Music: Domnach Trionoide, Gaelic Melody

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## **Prayers of the People**

# Adapted from Women's Uncommon Prayers

Gracious God, we pray in thanksgiving for the unity we share through our death and resurrection in Jesus Christ, 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 the forgiveness of our sins, that the wounds we inflict on one another in the name of righteousness may be healed by the Divine Life that overcomes human frailty; 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 for the Body of Christ, the Church, that together we may rededicate ourselves in the unity of the Holy Trinity; for this we pray. *God have mercy.* 

Nurturing God, your love is free, your compassion unconditional, and your mercy infinite. You shower upon us gifts abundant. Grant that we may know and trust these gifts, that we may discover the joy they bring, and inspire us to love and serve out of that joy. In the name of the Risen Christ we pray. *Amen* 

#### Peace

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

#### Announcements

#### HOLY COMMUNION

## Offertory & Collection

The ushers take a collection during the offertory anthem. We rely on the financial contributions of members and visitors and ask for your generous support. Ways of giving to St. John's are listed on page 2 of the bulletin.

**Offertory** My eyes for beauty pine Elizabeth Coxhead (b. 1987) *Sung by the choir.* 

My eyes for beauty pine, My soul for Goddës grace; No other care nor hope is mine, To heaven I turn my face. One splendour thence is shed from all the stars above: 'Tis named when God's name is said, 'Tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love.

And every gentle heart that burns with true desire, Is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.

# — Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

# **The Doxology** Gelobt sei Gott The people stand to sing the Doxology while the collection is presented at the altar.



# **Great Thanksgiving**

The people remain standing.

PresiderThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.PresiderLift up your hearts.PeopleWe 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.

The Presider continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, and then says

 $\dots$  And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:



The presider continues with the Eucharistic prayer, and then says:

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and People
Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The presider continues with the Eucharistic prayer, and then says: Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*Presider and People*Blessed are you now and for ever. *AMEN*.

# Lord's Prayer

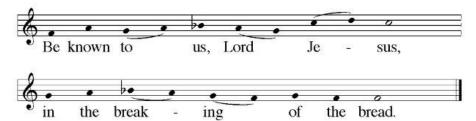
You are invited to raise your hands in prayer and blessing as we pray. And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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**

Plainchant, adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)

Please repeat refrain the first time after the cantor.



- The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.
   —Refrain
- 2. One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread. *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 Music** 

Now the green blade rises sung by the Choristers Traditional French Carol

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain, wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain, thinking that never he would wake again, Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain; quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen: Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain, thy touch can call us back to life again; fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

—John M. C. Crum (1872-1958 ©2014 Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission under OneLicense.net #A707510.

### Postcommunion Prayer

Please stand.

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and People
God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
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 304** I come with joy to meet my Lord Land of Rest

 I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved, and free, in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me.

- I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread.
- As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
   That love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends.
- 4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near, is in such friendship better known: we see and praise him here.
- 5. Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways; and as his people in the world we'll live and speak his praise.

—Brian Wren (b. 1936)

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#### Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude Rondeau from "Abdelazer Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

\*\*\* Members of the congregation are always welcome to watch the organist play the postlude. Walk up the ramp behind the organ console. Parents with children are especially welcome, but please wait until the end to converse! \*\*\*

**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. All proceeds support our Youth Ministry.

#### **FAITH-FILLED GATHERINGS**

#### **SUNDAY**

8am: Worship

9am: Family Worship (Held in the Parish Hall.)

10am:

Worship (in-person in the church & live stream)
Children's Sunday School & Morning Youth Group

## MONDAY

7pm: Bible Study (Zoom). All are welcome.

#### **TUESDAY**

7:30am: Christian Meditation (in-person and online)

### **WEDNESDAY**

**2pm:** Bible Study (in the Fireside Room). All are welcome.

# 2nd Tuesday

6pm: Dinner Church in the Parish Hall

# 2nd SATURDAYS of the Month (usually)

8am: Men's Group

**Dinner Church:** May 14 Join us Tuesday, May 14, 6-8pm to celebrate a decade of Dinner Church at St. John's! (That's a lotta convo and cooking!) Special guest appearance by the Rev. Steve Hassett, who co-founded Dinner Church with parishioner Marjorie Sun. This also will be the third and final session on the theme, "Got Time?" Join us for festivities, to eat, share, and build your faith and community. Suggested donation: \$10 per person to cover groceries. RSVPs requested by May 10.

**Choral Evensong: May 19** Come join the St. John's Choir and friends for Choral Evensong on Sunday, May 19, at 4pm. This beautiful, meditative, service is based on traditional practice dating back to the 16th Century, and will feature a Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis by our own John Karl Hirten, Preces and Responses by the Elizabethan English composer William Smith, and an anthem by Harold Friedell. There will be a simple wine and cheese reception after the service. All are welcome, and please bring a friend!

#### SERVING TODAY

Sunday Worship Prep

Leslie Limpert Altar Guild Nancy Strauch Altar Guild Judy Valentine Altar Guild Beverly Wynn Altar Guild

Lyn Klein Communion Bread Baker

Liz Peer Flower Angel

8:00 AM (Worship)

Chris Rankin-Williams Clergy - Presider Chris Rankin-Williams Clergy - Preacher

Shelley Wilson Usher

9:00 AM (Family Worship)

Chris Rankin-Williams Clergy - Presider Heather Erickson Clergy - Preacher

10:00 AM (Children's Sunday School)

Sandra Pathik Children - One Room: Teacher

10:00 AM (Worship)

Heather Erickson Clergy - Presider Chris Rankin-Williams Clergy - Preacher

Anne Doyle EM
Marjorie Sun EM
Bill Kaufman Lector
open A/V - Audio
Bill Posner A/V - Video
Jan Heglund Usher
Tim McClean Usher

**Chancel Choir** 

Kathleen Auld, Betsy Bennett-Smith,\* Cynthia Captain, Kari Chao, Danielle Colborn Wright, Kelli Fleitas, Roy Gale, Sepp Hammer,\* Ariana Hiscott, Shari Kinney, Eleanor Prugh, Helen Sandeman, Jessica House Steward,\* Lee Steward,\* Sue Talmage, Paul Thompson,\* Cheryl Ziedrich (\*section leader)

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Annual Fund '24 - Spiritual is Tangible -** We have received 90% of our 1mm goal in pledges and gifts from 252 households. If you have not made your pledge/gift, please join us by giving online or making a commitment. Thank you for your generous support!

**Adult Education with John Falcone: April 28 & May 5** Resurrection Economics: Thinking about the Economy as if New Ways Really Were Possible "This course is helping me read the news more intelligently." "Very very interesting... I learned many new things!" Join us in person in the Fireside Room on Sundays from 11:30am to 12:50pm (or catch up by reading course materials online.) See below for links to reading materials.

## Upcoming topics:

Session 2 April 28: "Theology, Scripture, and the Commons." Session 3 May 5: "Scripture, politics, and debt forgiveness."

**Men's Group Retreat: Registration Open** The Men's Group will hold its annual retreat Thursday afternoon May 30 thru Saturday June 1 — at St. Dorothy's Rest, the Episcopal retreat center deep in the Redwoods near Occidental, California. Enjoy good discussion, good food, and good fellowship. More info to come. Email group leaders Paul Clark or Keith Granger for details.

**Wednesday Bible Study** Please join us for an ongoing in-person bible study led by parishioner Ethan Dettmer on Wednesday afternoons in the Fireside Room at 2pm. All are invited - no experience or preparation necessary. For more information, contact Rev. Heather.

An exploration of Mary Magdalene and the Divine Feminine Last spring a group of us read and discussed Meggan Watterson's Mary Magdalene Revealed. This spring we are going to explore Cynthia Bourgeault's The Meaning of Mary Magdalene: Discovering the Woman at the Heart of Christianity. Our gatherings will be once a week in the evening on Zoom - probably on Wednesdays. Stay tuned for more details. Please contact Rev. Heather for more information.

**Children's Sunday School @10AM.** We will have our Sunday School class in the Fireside Room. After the class we join parents for holy communion in the church.

**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** We meet from 5:00-6:30 pm on Sunday evenings. Join us for games, chatting, crafts, service projects, and more! Dinner is provided.

**Evening Youth Group Dinner** Volunteers We need volunteers to provide dinner for Evening Youth Group as we enter Spring 2024 of our program year. Your help is always appreciated!

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

**Music Notes** Robert Seymour Bridges was Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom from 1913 to 1930. His art was an avocation for him at first. He was a trained physician and worked at a teaching hospital in London, working as a casualty physician. He was disillusioned by the medical practice at the time and intended to retire at forty so as to devote more time to writing poetry, but even that he had to cut that short by two years after he developed lung disease. He is the only medical graduate ever to hold the post of Poet Laureate.

Elizabeth Coxhead lives in St Albans, U.K. She's an Assistant Producer for BBC Radio 3 and is part of the editorial team for International Women's Day. Elizabeth started her music education as a chorister at Chester Cathedral, going on to sing in choirs at University of Durham whilst studying French and Italian. She sang for Jeremy Summerly at St Luke's Chelsea, London, for ten years and it was through that connection that she was able to get some of her pieces into the general public.

English born hymn lyricist Brian Wren has written over 250 hymn texts, as well as a number of books about hymnody and worship. He is a strong proponent of the view that hymns are as much poetry and theology as they are music. In his book *Praying Twice: The Music and Words of Congregational Song*, he states that the act of reading a hymn aloud as a poem helps recover its poetry and power to move us, as it is done "when anyone attempts, by artistic skill and creativity, the interplay of intellect and imagination, and/or the methods of reasoned inquiry, to grasp, know and understand the meaning of God's creating, self-disclosing and liberating activity centered and uniquely focused in Jesu Christ.

#### PRAYER LIST

#### Members

Nancy Svendsen Betty Enemark

Ted Anspacher

Rick Alo

Jerry Daly Travis Wright

Elliot Fink

Elliot Fink

Marcia Summers

Signe Lando

The Rev. Jan West

JT Sweet

Carolyn Reid-Sale

Carol Hughes

Katie Hoertkorn

# Friends & Family

Doris (mother of Paige Dickow)
Steve Irwin (former parishioner)

Gorence Family (friends of Kelli Fleitas)
Joanne Aguilar-Millan (sister of Martin Coyne)
Ruth Lewis (mother of Nancy Alvarez)
Don Mason (Father of Donalyn Hellar)

Adam Nicolopoulos (Friend of Rankin-Williams) Hisham Awartani (grandson of Marian Price)

Emily (friend of Melinda Booth & Bill Richardson)

Colin Sanders (Cousin of Helen Sandeman)
Tanya Jaspering (daughter of Rev. Jan Heglund)

Marcy Heller (sister of Sally Rankin)
Marie-Reine Saber Abou Jaoudé (friend of Maya Farhoud)
Gigi Short (sister of Judy Gibson)

Jay Warner (brother-in-law of Eleanor Prugh)

Peter Hoyt (Holly Posner's father)
Dilys Hoyt (mother of Holly Posner)

#### In Death

The Rev. Cecil Williams

Sandy Truex

#### ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**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, Sepp Hammer,

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: Joannie Ericson Junior Warden: David Kinney

Kari Chao, Hadley Dettmer, Nancy Wolcott, Claire Comins, Donalyn Hellar, David Kinney, Alice Pidgeon, Michael Hiscott, David Petterson,

Lexi Ford Kernot, and Lauren Tucker

Cover Art

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