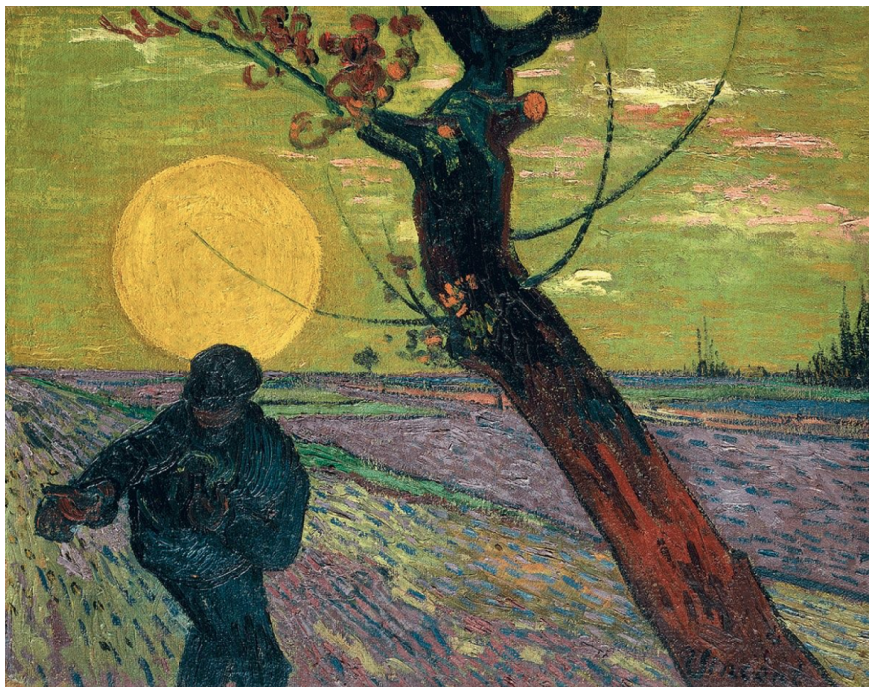


St John's Episcopal Church



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 12

July 26, 2026, 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

Welcome - we are grateful for your presence! If this is your first time here, or your first time back in a while, we invite you to fill out a Welcome Card found in the pews (or use the qr code) and give it to an usher or priest. As we worship today, you are invited to pray aloud with us, or join silently; to sing along, or enjoy listening.

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

Altar Flowers Given
to the Glory of God

FAITH-FILLED GATHERINGS

Sunday
8am: Worship (resumes September 20)
9am: Intergenerational Family Worship
10am:
Worship (in-person & live stream)
Children's Sunday School
Morning Youth Group

Monday
7:30pm: Women's Bible Discussion (Zoom) (resumes August 17)

2nd Saturdays of the Month
8am: Men's Group

Christian Meditation: Next Tuesday All are invited to gather in the chapel on Tuesday, July 28 at 7:30am for prayer and Christian meditation. Also known as contemplative prayer, meditation seeks God in the stillness and silence, beyond word and thought. The group meets in-person and via Zoom. For more information, please email parishioner Melinda Ching.



cover image
The Sower, 1888
Vincent van Gogh. (1853-1890) Dutch.
Oil on canvas, 73 x 92 cm

Prelude

Welcome

A few moments of silence follow the welcome announcement.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Opening Hymn 398

I sing th'almighty power of God

Forest Green

Sung by all, standing

- 1 I sing th'almighty power of God,
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command,
and all the stars obey.
- 2 I sing the goodness of the Lord,
that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his Word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky!
- 3 There's not a plant or flower below,
but makes thy glories known;
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from thy throne;
while all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that I could be,
thou, God, art present there.

— Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

Opening 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

Jubilate Deo

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Sung by all. May be sung as a round.**Collect of the Day***Presider* God be with you.*People* And also with you.*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading**Romans 8:26-39***Please be seated.*

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:129-136

Plainsong, Tone 8

Congregation sings the EVEN verses with the choir



129 Your decrees are **wónderful**; *

therefore I obey / them with **áll** my heart.

130 When your word goes forth it **gíves** light; *

it gives understanding / to the **símple**.

131 I open my mouth and **pánt**; *

I long for / your **commándments**.

132 Turn to me in **mércy**, *

as you always do to / those who **lóve** your Name.

133 Steady my footsteps in your **wórd**; *

let no iniquity have do/minion **óver** me.

134 Rescue me from those who **oppréss** me, *

and I will keep / your **commándments**.

135 Let your countenance shine upon your **sérvant** *

and teach / me your **státutes**.

136 My eyes shed **stréams** of tears, *

because people / do not **kéep** your law.

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**Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A moment of silent reflection follows the Sermon.

Creed Sung by all, standing

1 I be-lieve in God al-might-y, Au-thor of all things that
 2 I be-lieve that Je-sus suf-fered, scourged and scorned and cru-ci-
 3 I be-lieve in God's own Spir-it, bond-ing all the saints with-
 4 be, Mak-er of the earth and heav-ens, Keep-er
 5 fied; tak-en from the cross, was bur-ied— True life
 6 in one church, cath-o-lic and ho-ly, where for-
 7 of the sky and sea. I be-lieve in God's son, Je-sus, now for
 8 there had tru-ly died. I be-lieve that on the third day Christ was
 9 give-ness frees from sin; in the bod-y's res-ur-rec-tion, for the
 11 us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir-it and of
 12 raised up from the grave, then as-cend-ed to God's
 13 break-ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev-er-
 14 Mar-y born to bring a-bun-dant life.
 right-hand. He will come to judge and save.
 last-ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

Words by Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993)

Music: *Beach Spring*, Traditional American

©1991 by GIA Publications, Inc. Used with permission under OneLicense.net #A-707510

The Prayers of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek Truth.

For all bishops, priests, deacons, and lay ministers;
For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation...and for the prayers sent in by text...Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
We will exalt you, O God our Ruler;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.
A moment of silence is kept.

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

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

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Rachel Aarons (b. 1984)

When morning gilds the skies, my heart, awaking, cries,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall, this rings by curfew call,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

When mirth for music longs, this is my song of songs
May Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer hath none that can compare with:
Jesus Christ be praised!

No lovelier antiphon in all high heav'n is known than,
Jesus Christ be praised!
There to the eternal Word the eternal psalm is heard:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

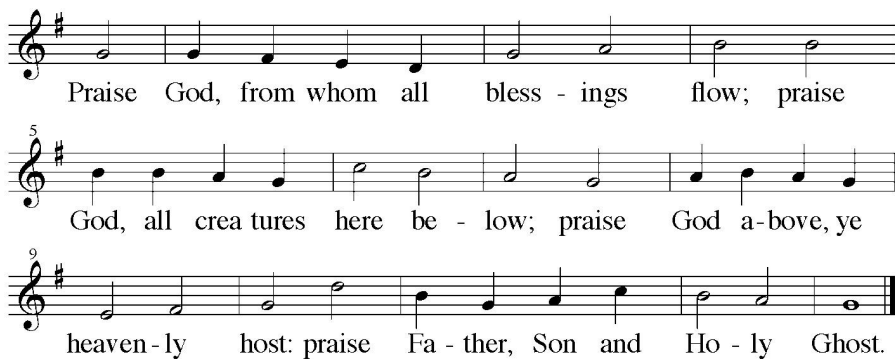
Sing suns and stars of space, sing ye that see his face,
sing, Jesus Christ be praised!
God's whole accreditation o'er both now and evermore
shall Jesus Christ be praised!

— German, ca. 1800, tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)

The Doxology

Old Hundredth

The people stand to sing the Doxology while the collection is presented at the altar.



Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

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

The Presider continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, and then says

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

Sanctus (S-129 in the Hymnal)

Robert Powell (b. 1932)

Sung by all.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blest is the One who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

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,

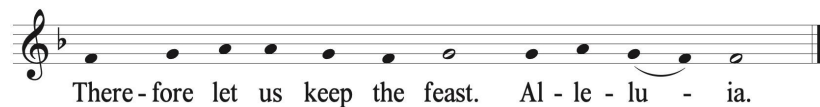
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread (S-152)

Ambrosian Chant, adapt. Mason Martens
(1933-1991)

Choir Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All



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 711

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

Seek Ye First

Sung by all

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you;
Allelu, alleluia.
Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Allelu, alleluia.
2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
seek and ye shall find,
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;
Allelu, alleluia. — *Refrain*

— Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Join us for coffee and treats in the parish hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar Note: Next week the church office will be open on Tuesday, 9am-1pm, and Wednesday, 1pm-4:30pm. If you need to reach a priest please call or text the Sunday Prayer Number: 415.275.0115.

Women Dining for Agape Farmhands: August 12 Please join us on Wednesday, August 12 from 6-8pm for an evening of fun and fellowship in the parish hall, as we gather to support our programs at Agape Farm in Malawi, Africa. Bring a casserole, or salad, to share (pot-luck style). We will provide the beverages. There will be plenty of food so feel free to bring a woman friend(s). There will be a brief presentation sharing exciting updates on all the progress being made at Agape. To support these programs, we ask that you consider a donation equivalent to what you might spend going out for dinner. RSVP by August 7. info@agapefarmhands.org

Marin Deanery Summer Convocation: August 12 What is a Deanery? Why do we meet and what do we do? The Canons and Constitution of the Diocese of California tell us that we have six geographic deaneries in our diocese. Each Deanery is constituted by ALL Episcopal church members and clergy resident in or serving within the geographic boundary of the deanery. Clergy, Delegates, and Alternates for Convention may vote (if there is reason for a vote); everyone else has a seat and a voice –which means, in good Episcopal tradition, all are welcome! If you attend an Episcopal Church in Marin County, this gathering is for you! Bring your voice and your inspired ideas! We look forward to exploring more of what we may become – together!

Date: Wednesday, August 12

Where: Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, 10 Old Mill St., Mill Valley, Parking in the neighborhood on the streets.

Time: 2:00 - 2:30 pm Arrivals and Refreshments; 2:30 - 4:00 pm Program

Lake Lagunitas Hike: August 22 Join Rev. Chris for a hike around Lake Lagunitas on Saturday, August 22, 9:30am. Come enjoy this beautiful trail followed by refreshments at the picnic area. Suitable for all ages, especially for families with children! Those who wish to bike to the picnic area, meet at St. John's at 9am. Details to follow.

Rev. Chris Farewell Party: August 29 The Wardens and Vestry invite you to a farewell dinner party to celebrate the more than twenty-three year ministry of our rector and his wife, the Rev. Chris and Amy Rankin-Williams. Rev. Chris and Amy, along with their family have made a lasting impact on the faith community of St. John's, Ross. The evening will be filled with toasts and remembrances, laughter and tears, AND a delicious buffet dinner.

What: Farewell Dinner Party

When: Saturday, August 29 beginning with cocktails at 5:30pm (Cocktail attire)

RSVP by August 8: www.stjohnsross.org

Parish Weekend Away: September 11-13 Hiking trails, swimming pool, simple but well-appointed rooms, and amazing food! Join us at The Bishop's Ranch in Sonoma for our annual Parish Weekend Away 2026. This year we'll gather from Friday, 9/11 to Sunday, 9/13 for two days and two nights of fellowship, fun, rest, and spiritual development. Families, singles, and seniors welcome. Online signup www.stjohnsross.org

Grief Ritual: November 1 All are invited to attend a Grief Ritual at St. John's on Sunday, November 1 on All Saints Day. The hours are 12:30pm - 3:30pm. Parishioner Dave Calhoun will facilitate this opportunity to remember that which and those whom we have lost. Early registrations are welcome – please email Dave to reserve a spot or to find out more. dxcalho@yahoo.com

St. John's Women's Retreat: April 29-May 1, 2027 Please save the date for our 2027 Women's Retreat at St. Dorothy's Rest. More information and sign-ups will be coming soon.

Summer Sunday School. We invite all children from preschool to 5th grade to join us for a summer of discovering who God is, exploring His world, and growing in faith through hands-on experiences. We meet in the Fireside Room at 10AM. After the class, the kids will join their parents for holy communion in the church.

Volunteers Needed. Extra hands are needed this summer to help our kids learn, explore, and grow in faith. Interested? You can email the Children's Ministry Director for more information.

Sunday Morning Youth Group On most Sundays, all youth (grades 6th-12th) are invited to meet in the Youth Room at 10am. This Sunday, all are welcome to join Robert and Mike for a conversation about the question of the week. For more information, please contact Rev. Heather.

Music Notes A native of Laramie, Wyoming, Rachel Aarons has played piano since the age of four. While in college, she studied piano, voice, and composition while pursuing a B.A. in French Language and Literature. Rachel composes for her church choir where she is happy to be a Back Row Alto. She lives in Virginia with her husband, and her two dogs, and stays busy as a real estate agent.

The prayer "Be thou my vision" is from the Irish monastic tradition and is thought to date back as far as 700 AD. It is one of two examples in our hymnal of a *lorica*, a Celtic incantation meant to be recited to oneself as a preparation for either mental or physical battle. Mary Elizabeth Byrne translated the text in 1905 and Eleanor Hull versified it and included it in a collection of her poems in 1912. Her entire original poem is printed below:

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;

Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my whole Armor, be Thou my true Might;
Be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tow'r,
O raise Thou me heav'nward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
O high King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

SERVING TODAY

Sun (Worship Prep)

Jo Burnett	Altar Guild
Susan Edwards	Altar Guild
Patty Griffith*	Altar Guild
Leslie Ross	Altar Guild
Ellen Clark	Communion Bread Baker

Sun, 9:00 AM (Family Worship)

The Rev. Jim Ward	Clergy - Presider
Ethan Dettmer	Preacher

Sun, 10:00 AM (Sunday School)

Sandra Pathik	Sunday School - Teacher
---------------	-------------------------

Sun, 10:00 AM (Worship w/Choir)

Euie Hill	A/V - Audio
John Summerlin	A/V - Video
The Rev. Jim Ward	Clergy - Presider
The Rev. Skip Fotch	Clergy - Assisting
Anne Doyle	Eucharistic Minister
Marjorie Sun	Eucharistic Minister
Eleanor Prugh	Lector
Ethan Dettmer	Preacher
Harry Harelik	Usher
Jan Heglund	Usher

Sun, 11:00 AM (Coffee Hour)

Kari Chao	Goodies Supplier
-----------	------------------

PRAYER LIST

Members

Rosemary Morgan
Melinda Booth
Ted Anspacher
Travis Wright
The Rev. Jan West
JT Sweet
Carol Hughes
Signe Lando

Friends & Family

Anne Cain	(neighbor of Shari and David Kinney)
Cindy Chase	(friend of Holly Posner)
Maria Bonilla	(friend of the Posners)
Marlene Anderson	(friend of LaTonya Sumners)
Patrick Dowd	(friend of Jamie and Joe Behrendt)
Kathy Behrendt	(daughter-in-law of Jamie and Joe Behrendt)
Liz Colborn	(relative of Danielle Colborn Wright)
Melissa Mikesell	(friend of Danielle Colborn Wright)
Joy Burghardt	(friend of Anne Doyle)
Vera Grigorian	(former parishioner)
Leslie Gay	(friend of Lauren Lamm)
Marcia Summers	(former parishioner)
Martin Ash	(friend of Alisa Quint)
Kayley Jones	(goddaughter of Rick and Marilyn Riede)

In Death

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. Austin K. Rios
Rector	The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams (<i>crw@stjohnsross.org</i>)
Associate Priest	The Rev. Heather Erickson (<i>heather@stjohnsross.org</i>)
Assisting Priests	The Rev. Skip Fotch The Rev. James Ward
Bookkeeper	Henry Auriti (<i>bookkeeper@stjohnsross.org</i>)
Children's Ministry	Sandra Pathik (<i>sandra@stjohnsross.org</i>)
Stewardship	Lee Steward (<i>stewardship@stjohnsross.org</i>)
Choir Section Leaders	Mitch Ashley, Betsy Bennett-Smith, Lee Steward, Jessica House Steward, Paul Thompson
Choral Scholar	Ash Jones
Church Administrator	Virginia Kosydar (<i>virginia@stjohnsross.org</i>)
Music Director	John Karl Hirten (<i>john@stjohnsross.org</i>)
Treasurer	Susan Aley
Youth Ministry	Mike Lessin, Robert McGee
Vestry	President: The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams Senior Warden: Lexi Ford Kernot Junior Warden: Paul Castro Michael Hiscott, David Petterson, Donalyn Hellar, Marian Mancini, Katie McGee, Lauren Lamm, Gene Cheston, Julie Flynn Siler, Katie Hindman (<i>vestry@stjohnsross.org</i>)

AUGUST

SUN	Worship 9am, 10am
MON	Women's Bible Discussion 7:30pm (resumes online 8/17)
8/12 WED	Marin Deanery Summer Convocation, Mill Valley: 2pm
8/12 WED	Women Dining for Agape Farmhands: 6pm
8/16 SUN	SVdP Sandwich Making after 10am worship
8/22 SAT	Lake Lagunitas Hike w/Rev. Chris: 9:30am
8/29 SAT	Rev. Chris Farewell Party 5:30pm
8/30 FRI	Rev. Chris' Last Sunday 9am, 10am
8/31 MON	Rev. Chris' Last Day as Rector