

St John's Episcopal Church



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 18

September 6, 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

Wednesday

1pm: Bible Study

Thursday

11am: Christian Classics Lite

2nd Saturdays of the Month

8am: Men's Group

Monday

7:30pm: Women's Bible Discussion
(Zoom)

Tuesday (once a month)

7:30am: Christian meditation, 9/22
6pm: Dinner Church, 9/8



INFORMATION



ALTAR FLOWERS



GIVE

cover image attribution

Edelfelt, Albert, 1854-1905. Women Outside the Church at Ruokolahti, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville,

Prelude

Welcome

A few moments of silence follow the welcome announcement.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Hymn 518

Christ is made the sure foundation

Westminster Abbey

Sung by all, standing

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and corner-stone
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever, and her confidence alone.
- 2 All that dedicated city, dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring in glad hymns eternally.
- 3 To this temple where we call thee, come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving kindness, hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction shed within its walls alway.
- 4 Here vouchsafe to all thy servants what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee, for ever with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory evermore with thee to reign.

— 7th C. Latin, tr. by John Mason Neale (1818-1866) alt.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Presider and People

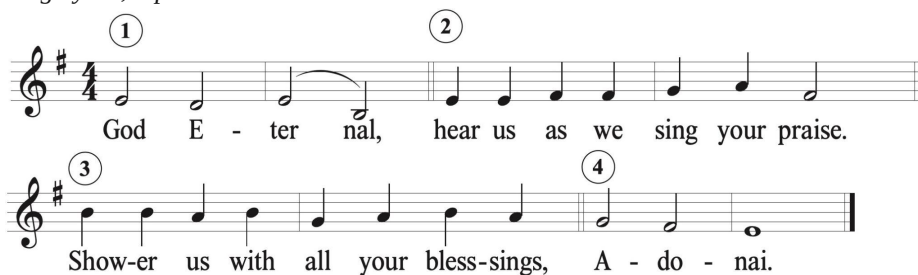
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of Praise

God Eternal

Mah Tovv

Sung by all, repeat as directed



Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Romans 13:8-14

Please be seated.

A Reading from Letter of Paul to the Romans.

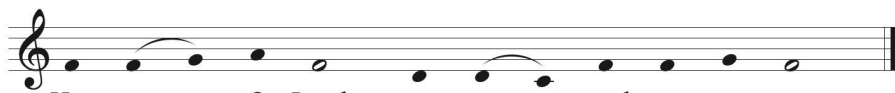
Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please repeat refrain after the cantor the first time.



How sweet, O Lord, are your words to my taste.

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire. — *Refrain*

36 Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways. — *Refrain*

38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life. — *Refrain*

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Ross Alleluia No. 2

John Karl Hirten

Cantor will sing the first line, then all continue singing or repeat the first line.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Heather Erickson

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
fied; tak-en from the cross, was bur-ied— True life
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
there had tru-ly died. I be-lieve that on the third day Christ was
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
raised up from the grave, then as-cend-ed to God's
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

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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 Music

Draw us in the Spirit's tether

Harold Friedell (1905-1958)

Sung by the Choir

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; For when humbly, in thy name,
Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them:
Alleluya! Alleluya! Touch we now thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather In the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father Break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluya! Alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up.

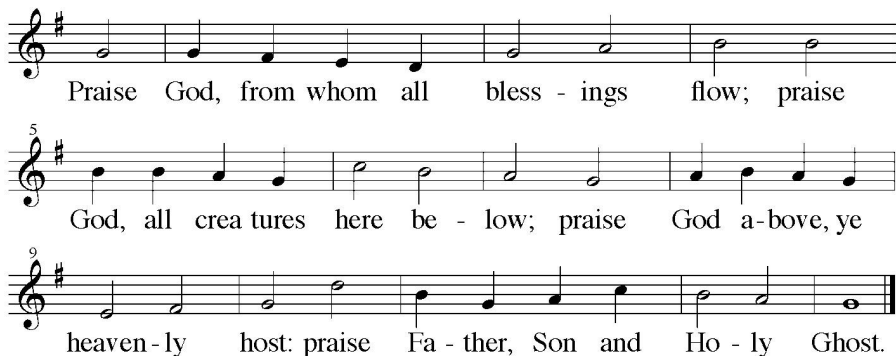
All our meals and all our living Make as sacraments of thee,
That by caring, helping, giving, We may true disciples be.
Alleluya! Alleluya! We will serve thee faithfully.

—Percy Dearmer (1931)

The Doxology

Old Hundredth

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



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
God, all crea tures here be - low; praise God a-bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

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 the Lord our God.

People **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

Missa Simplex

John Karl Hirten (b. 1956)

Sung by all



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



God of pow - er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless ed is the one who comes in the name of our God.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

from MISSA SIMPLEX by John Karl Hirten.

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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

Presider

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,

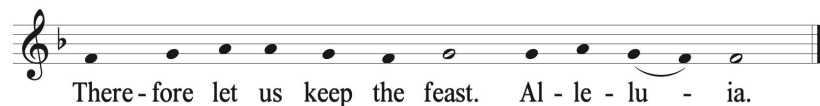
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread (S-152)

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

Choir Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All



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. 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 Meditation

The Gift of Love

Hal H. Hopson (1933-2025)

sung by the Choir

- 1 Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift of all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
- 2 Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
- 3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

— Hal H. Hopson

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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. Afterwards, all say:

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.

Sung by all

- 1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
field and forest, vale and mountain,
blooming meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.
- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother:
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

— Henry van Dyke (1852-1933)

Dismissal*Leader*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

*People***Thanks be to God!****Postlude****Please join us for coffee and treats in the parish hall.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Becoming Beloved Community - Anti-Racism Class and Training: Today This class and training is for anyone who would like to deepen their understanding of systemic racism and explore how we, as a people of faith, may work together to build beloved community. There are six modules (though we will only meet together four times - there will be a bit of home learning). Each module includes a video “talk” and questions for reflection and discussion. This course fulfills our diocesan anti-racism training requirement for Convention Delegates, Deanery Delegates, and Vestry members. It may also be done individually. Please let Rev. Heather know if you would like to sign up or if you would like direct access to the online course. The in person class will meet on Sundays at 11:30am in the Youth Room on September 6, September 20, October 11, and October 18.

Calendar Note: In observance of the Labor Day holiday, the church and office will be closed this Monday, September 7.

Dinner Church Resumes: September 8 Stressed out about all that’s going on in the U.S. and in the world? Would you like to strengthen your spiritual muscles in a safe place? Yes? Then Dinner Church this fall is for you as we tackle Spiritual Fitness 2.0. Dinner and convo in the parish hall, 6 to 8 p.m. To just eat, sign up here so we fix enough food. To cook the meal, sign up here. We start prepping at 5 pm.) We ask for a \$10 donation to cover the cost of groceries.

- September 8: Boosting empathy
- October 20: Cultivating courage
- November 10: Waking up our spiritual brain
- December 8: Designing a more meaningful life

Bible Study: September 9 All are invited to attend bible study on Wednesdays at 1 pm in the Youth Room for our ongoing series on the “Ten Commandments.” We are discuss where the Ten Commandments came from, what they meant to Jesus, and what they might mean to us today. No preparation required! Please contact parishioner Ethan Dettmer for more information.

Christian Classics Lite: September 10 All are invited to participate in the second season of our weekly reading and discussion program facilitated by parishioner David Kinney and Rev. Heather. This session's focus is the spiritual disciplines as explored in Richard J. Foster's book Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth (Special Anniversary Edition). The group meets in the Youth Room on Thursdays, 11am-noon, beginning on September 10 and ending on December 10. Please let Rev. Heather or David Kinney know if you would like to be included on our email list and if you need a copy of the book.

MOC Forum: September 20 All are invited to attend a forum hosted by the Marin Organizing Committee (MOC) and St. John's on Sunday, September 20 after the 10am service. The forum focuses on issues impacting Marin's immigrant residents, particularly

the increasing activity by ICE in the Bay Area, and the looming termination of Temporary Protected Status for almost 80,000 Californians. Ways to support our friends and neighbors, and ways to advocate for them more effectively will also be discussed.

Christian Meditation: September 22 All are invited to gather in the chapel on Tuesday, September 22 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 contact parishioner Melinda Ching.

Welcome Sunday BBQ: September 27 All are invited to attend the St. John's Welcome Sunday BBQ on the lawn. Welcome Sunday marks the beginning of the fall program year for the church with the return of our full offerings for children, youth and adults. A complimentary lunch is provided by our Men's Group. A bounce house will be available for children, youth and adventurous adults. Bring a friend!

Harvest Gala: October 17 We are gearing up for our Harvest Gala - The Masquerade Ball - on Saturday, October 17 from 5-9pm. There will be delicious food, festive dancing, and mysterious masks all around - everyone is invited! Tickets are \$100/person (kids under 18 are free). You can purchase your tickets online at stjohnsross.org. In addition to exciting Harvest Parties, we are now accepting other items for our online silent auction. These can range from gift certificates to delicious local restaurants, elegant wines, tickets to shows or sporting events, or even vacation homes you are willing to donate for a week...all in support of our wonderful St. John's-Ross community. Please email our Director of Stewardship, Lee Steward, to donate an item to the silent auction. The silent auction opens at noon on Friday, October 2. Thank you for your support.

Grief Ritual: November 1 All are invited to participate in the St. John's 2027 Grief Ritual to be held after church on All Saint's Day, Sunday, November 1, from 12:30-3:30pm. Parishioner Dave Calhoun will return to Marin to facilitate this opportunity to remember that which and those whom we have lost. Dave offers a video announcement here for you

St. John's Choristers, our children's choir, is starting up again for the fall on **September 9**. Singing in a choir is a great way to gain confidence, learn how to participate in a group dynamic, and meet new friends. The goal is always to keep things moving along, and fun. Open to children 6 y.o. and up and there is no audition to join. Rehearsals take place on Wednesdays at 3:45pm and last 45 minutes. Please email John Karl Hirten at john@stjohnsross.org or call him at St. John's for more info.

Sunday School @ 10AM. Children from preschool through 5th grade are invited to join us for a combined Sunday School class in the Fireside Room. This Sunday, we'll learn that we are all important in God's family and that Jesus is with us when we gather in His name. After class, the children will join their parents in the church for Holy Communion.

Sunday Morning Youth Group On most Sundays, all youth (grades 6th-12th) are invited to meet in the Youth Room at 10am. (Youth are always welcome in church, too!) For more information, please contact Rev. Heather.

Youth Confirmation Class Youth Confirmation Class begins in October (Sundays, 11:30am). We meet a couple of times a month to explore together what it means to live a life of faith in the Episcopal Church, culminating in Diocesan Confirmations at Grace Cathedral on June 5. Youth of all ages are invited (many choose to take the class while in 8th grade). For more information or to sign up, please contact Rev. Heather.

Music Notes “Christ is made the sure foundation,” is a translation by John Mason Neale of an ancient 7th century Latin hymn called “Urbs beata” (Blessed City). The original hymn is based on St. Paul’s description of the church in Ephesians 2, “build upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone.” The tune was adapted from the final chorus of an anthem by Henry Purcell (1659-1695), “O God, thou art my God.” The name *Westminster Abbey* was given to the tune by Sidney Nicholson, who was abbey Organist during the early part of the twentieth century. Purcell himself was organist there from 1678 until his death.

English priest, poet, and liturgist Percy Dearmer (1867-1936) distinguished himself in the field of hymnology as the co-editor, with composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, of *The English Hymnal* (1906). He also co-edited *The Oxford Book of Carols* (1928) and other major collections. The music for “Draw us in the Spirit’s tether” was written by Harold Friedell who was the influential music director at Calvary Church and then St. Bartholomew’s Church in New York City. Using Dearmer’s text, Friedell composed it as a communion hymn specifically for Pentecost Sunday of 1945. Taking his previously composed hymn tune, Friedell later created the SATB anthem arrangement the choir is singing this morning. The hymn text begins in the upper room with the disciples and comes full circle as we join them around the table and are nourished to serve others in the world.

Hal H. Hopson was a prolific composer, arranger, teacher, and promoter. He composed over 1300 published pieces, most of which are hymn arrangements and psalm settings. A Texas native, he studied at Baylor and Southern Baptist Seminary, and worked in churches in Texas and Tennessee. “The Gift of Love” uses the famous text from Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, adapted by Hopson, and set to the tune *O Waly Waly*. Folk music enthusiasts will recognize the melody associated with the text “The Water is Wide.”

SERVING TODAY

Sun (Worship Prep)

Anne Doyle	Altar Guild
Holly Kaufman*	Altar Guild
Susan Mackenzie	Altar Guild
Shelley Wilson	Altar Guild
Jo Burnett	Communion Bread Baker
Connie Granger	Flower Angel

Sun, 9:00 AM (Family Worship)

The Rev. Jane Gould	Clergy - Presider
The Rev. Heather Erickson	Clergy - Preacher

Sun, 10:00 AM (Sunday School)

Connie Granger	Sunday School - Teacher
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Sun, 10:00 AM (Worship w/Choir)

John Summerlin	A/V - Audio
Euie Hill	A/V - Video
The Rev. Jane Gould	Clergy - Presider
The Rev. Heather Erickson	Clergy - Preacher
John Falcone	Eucharistic Minister
Bill Kaufman	Eucharistic Minister
Martin Coyne	Lector
Harry Harelik	Usher
John Vance	Usher

Sun, 11:00 AM (Coffee Hour)

Katie McGee	Goodies Supplier
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PRAYER LIST

Members

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

Friends & Family

Nancy Phillips	(friend of Sandy and Tom Bertelsen)
Kristen House	(friend of Eve & Russell Wirth)
Hydie Richardson	(sister of Bill Richardson)
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)

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Diocesan Campus Ministries and campus chaplains at Stanford University, UC Berkeley, and San Francisco State

Pastoral Note: A memorial service for Alf Brandin will be held at St. John's on Saturday, September 26 at 1pm.

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
Interim Rector	The Rev. Jane Gould (<i>jane@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. Jane Gould 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>)

Welcome the Rev. Jane Gould, Interim Rector For me, Labor Day Weekend marks the end of summer and the beginning of school. Having spent 26 of my first 30 years in school or teaching school, and then living in a boarding school until I was 52, my imprinting is deep. Now, even though my granddaughter started kindergarten in LAUSD on August 10, Labor Day Weekend still announces new beginnings.

Arriving as your Interim Rector this Labor Day Weekend feels right to me. I just finished my summer work coordinating the 10-week Summer Seminarian Fellowship for the Rural & Migrant Ministry of New York, and now I'm back in my home in Mill Valley ready to start something new. Over the course of the next year, we'll have the chance to journey together as you, with your Vestry and Rector Search Committee, choose St. John's next Rector.

Ordained 40 years ago in the Diocese of Massachusetts, I, accompanied by my husband John, followed our sons and their partners to California in 2017. I became the Rector of St. Luke's/ San Lucas in Long Beach, CA (Diocese of Los Angeles) and served there until I retired in 2023. Now, we split our time between our LA family of Gardner, Tiffanie, Wilder (5) and Desmond (almost 3), and our Mill Valley family of Sam, Georgia, and almost 2-year-old twins Louisa and Charlotte. Those who worship at 9:00 have seen us often in the company of our younger generations, and we occasionally worship at 10:00 when the kids have other Sunday morning plans.

Being part of the St. John's community over the last 2 years has given me a deep appreciation of who you are and how you live your faith day by day. I look forward to working with your lay and ordained leaders so that this year of transition is a time of discovery and growth. Rev. Chris retired from a healthy church, and we have the chance to build from the fabulous foundation we have been given. Now is a moment for all of us to lean into leadership, to reflect on the importance of St. John's in our lives, and to think and pray about what we are being called to become in the years ahead.

No school year ever started with so much promise and possibility. I look forward to learning and leading with you, Jane+

The Rev. Jane Gould, Interim Rector
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