

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 at 10AM – On site and via Zoom



Christ the Vine ~ artist unknown between 1600 and 1700

St. John's Memorial Episcopal Church

301 East Main Street, Ramsey NJ 07446
201 327-0703 • www.stjohnsramsey.org

We invite your active participation in the worship of God. With microphones muted, please join in the prayers, the responses and the singing of hymns.

MUSIC NOTES - The prelude and communion music are both by the rich pen of the Episcopal organist/composer Robert Powell (b. 1932), whose wife was once the organist here at St. John's.

In each piece here he used a hymn tune that we know well: the prelude comes from 529 and music at communion is from the very familiar "Morning Has Broken". Here he sets each variation slightly higher in pitch (as in the rising morning sun), hence the title "rising variations..." The offertory anthem is by Handel (1685-1759) who wrote the music around 1717 while employed by the Duke of Chandos, near London. Here a newer, more general text is set to the original three voice parts. The postlude is based on the wonderful Welsh tune "Abbot's Leigh". Arranged by the late Charles Callahan, it is a strong and joyful re-statement of the tune we just sang as our last hymn. The tune name comes from Abbot's Leigh, a village and civil parish in North Somerset, England.

~Drew

Serving Sunday, April 28, 2024

Presider: The Rev. Bill Cruse; *Assisting Minister:* Carolyn Greenberg

Organist: Drew Kreismer; *Technology Verger:* Caeden Doyle

Readers: Kathy Lathrop, Jen Lepori

Greeter/Usher: Maria Gramuglia, Ken Bledsoe

Altar Guild: JoEllen Wall, Maria Gramuglia; *Coffee Hour:* Team 4

Serving today, Sunday, May 5, 2024

Presider: The Rev. Bill Cruse; *Assisting Minister:* Jen Lepori

Organist: Drew Kreismer; *Technology Verger:* Caeden Doyle

Readers: Renee Peters, Ken Silber

Greeter/Usher: Maria Gramuglia, Ken Bledsoe

Altar Guild: Stephanie Doyle, Bonnie Rogers; *Coffee Hour:* Team 5

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE Prelude on "In Christ There Is No East Or West"
arr. Robert Powell

The call to worship bell is rung

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN 47 On this day, the first of days

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION

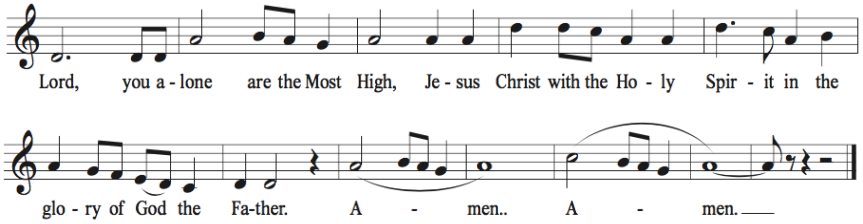
The Presider and People

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

SONG OF PRAISE *Gloria in excelsis* Richard Proulx

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might - y God and Fa-ther. We
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world: have mer - cy on us: You are _ seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our pray'r _ re - ceive, _ re -
ceive our pray'r. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone _ are the



God be with you.

And also with you.

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

Lector 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 22:24-30

Assisting: Please read portions of Psalm 22 in unison

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

the saving deeds that he has done.

THE EPISTLE

1 John 4:7-21

*Lector**A reading from the First Letter of John*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia

SEQUENCE HYMN 529

In Christ there is no East or West

THE GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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.”

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

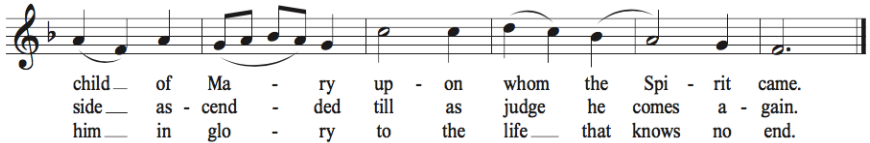
SERMON

The Rev. Bill Cruse

Assisting: *We hold silence for reflection on a word, phrase, or image*

Assisting Minister: We reaffirm our faith as we sing:

We be - lieve in God the Fa - ther, God al - migh - ty by whose
 Christ, who on the cross for - sa - ken, like a lamb to slaugh - ter
 We be - lieve in God the Spi - rit; in one Church, be - low a -
 plan earth and hea - ven sprang to be - ing, all cre - at - ed
 led, suf - fered un - der Pon - tius Pi - late, he de - scend - ed
 above: saints of God in one com - mun - ion, one in ho - li -
 things be - gan. We be - lieve in Christ the Sa - vior,
 to the dead. We be - lieve in Je - sus ri - sen,
 ness and love. So by faith our sins for - gi - ven,
 Son of God in hu - man frame, vir - gin born, the
 hea - ven's King to rule and reign, to the Fa - ther's
 Christ our Sa - vior, Lord and friend, we shall rise with



Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); Music: *Hyfrydol* Rowland Hugh Pritchard (1811-1887)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

[The People stand or kneel as able]

Presider: Christ has gathered us as branches of the true vine. Let us offer prayers to God who does for us whatever we ask. For the whole world and all the churches of God. Glory and praise to you, O living God.

Assisting: For this holy gathering, [for our baptismal candidate Eden.], and for our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. For all the baptized whose faces shine with the light of Christ.

We pray **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Carlye our Bishop, for our priest, Bill, for all who minister and all the holy people of God. In our diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for Trinity Episcopal Church, Allendale and Trinity Church, Bayonne. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Church of Bangladesh.

We pray **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For all nations, peoples, tribes, clans, and families. For all places in strife and unrest, that you may inspire all your people to seek a just peace and that we may hear the voices of those who are unheard.

(the People may add their intentions)

We pray **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For those who suffer and those who mourn; stir up in us a spirit of grace and generosity, that we may give freely to those in need. For all those requiring ongoing care and for all those in danger and need: those who are sick or suffering, prisoners, captives, and their families, those who are hungry, homeless, or oppressed. We pray for **Gregg, Serena, Carolyn, Kathleen, Tom, Karen, David, Taylor, Robin, Megan, Leonard, Marina, Matthew, Kristy, Cindy, Allison, Vince, Graham, Lee, and Ellen.** *(the People may add their intentions)*

We pray **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For ourselves, our families, and those we love.

(the People may add their intentions)

We pray **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For the dying and the dead, we pray. We remember especially _____ . *(the people add their intentions)*

We pray **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Remembering our most glorious and Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord, our God.

The Presider and People add a concluding collect

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who abides in all who love you. Hear the prayers we offer this day and give us your Spirit of peace to love our all our siblings; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

adapted from Planning for Rites & Rituals: Year B

THE PEACE

The Peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

We exchange the Peace

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

I appeal to you, dear friends, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

OFFERTORY Praise Ye the Lord For Evermore George F. Handel

As the gifts are brought to the Table, the people stand and sing:

DOXOLOGY *Old Hundredth, The Hymnal 1982, 380*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Circling through earth through earth so all may grow

Vanquishing fear so all may give.

Widening grace so all may live.

When the Table is set, the people say together:

All good things come from you, O God, and from your generous abundance we give to you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING [Eucharistic Prayer D]

The people remain standing. The Presider says

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 him thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues

It is truly right to glorify you, O God, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say:

Presider and People

SANCTUS

Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Presider continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with matriarchs and patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. John and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

We pray in the manner Christ has taught us, in the many versions or languages of God's creation,

People and Presider

Greek (Romanization)

**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.**

**Pater imon o en tis uranis
ayiasthito to onoma su
eltheto i vasilia su
yenithito to thelima su
os en urano ki epi tis yis
ton arton imon ton epiousion thos
imin simeron
ke afes imin ta ofilimata imon
os ke imis afiemen tis ofiletas
imon
ke mi isenegkis imas is pirasmon
ala ryse imas apo tu poniru
Amin.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Proulx

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us — peace.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven. All who come in peace are welcome to receive communion at this table

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek Christ are welcome at his Table. You may receive the bread and the wine standing or kneeling. Gluten free bread is available; please ask when you are at the rail. If you do not wish to receive, you may come forward for a blessing, crossing your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION MUSIC Rising Variations on "Morning Has Broken"
arr. Robert Powell

COMMUNION HYMN 304

I Come with joy

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as
living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
In the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.**

Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OUR MISSION

THE SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

God the Creator, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gate of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Creator Father, the Redeeming
Son, and the Inspiring Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for
ever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN 379

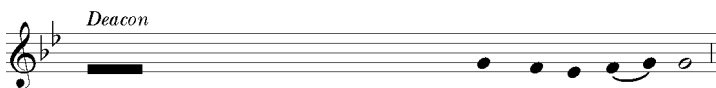
God is Love

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Abbot's Leigh"

arr. Charles Callahan

DISMISSAL



Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia.

People

Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Bells are rung to send us forth.

A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT ST JOHN'S

St John's now accepts Venmo, PayPal and Zelle.

To access, please scan the QR codes below.

VENMO:



venmo

PAYPAL:



ZELLE: To send payment via Zelle to St. John's Church use the following email:
Stjohnsramsey1906@gmail.com.

Please consider increasing your payment by a small amount to cover the ~3% convenience fee the church is charged for its business accounts to offer the Venmo and PayPal payment options. There is no fee if paying via Zelle.

Announcements



Save the date. May 11, 2024 – Sign Up to help! Make a donation to St. John’s to defray cost (\$4000) of supplies and shipping. You can use the QR codes in the bulletin to donate.

To help assemble meals, sign up at:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COD45ABAB2DAAFAC25-49166081-rise/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COD45ABAB2DAAFAC25-49166081-rise#/)

or click the link in the Friday “This Week at St John’s” email.

Social Media: Check out our Instagram and Facebook pages! There are more posts and there is more information! Be sure to **Follow** the pages and **Like** the posts!

Instagram: stjohsramsey **Facebook:** St. John’s Episcopal Church of Ramsey, NJ

Communion Vessels Return - Our flagon, cruet and the follower (the brass device on the top of a candle) for the Paschal candle have been restored and were returned just in time for Easter. Everything looks brand new. The total cost of restoring these items was only \$513, a fraction of what it would cost to replace them. Funds for the restoration came from our Memorial Account and were designated for the Altar Guild. These restorations should last for many years.

Upcoming Church School Events: all events are in Louis Hall

Sunday, May 5: * *Project Linus*: “Tying the Knots” for Fleece Blankets AND Banners for Pentecost Procession

Sunday, June 9: Last Day of Church School Classes *Ice Cream Social*– **after the 10:00 AM service**

Youth Group:

Apr 28 - 10am Middle School, 10:30am High School in the Youth Room.

May 5 - Fleece Tie Blankets in Parish Hall at 10am with Church School for Project Linus

May 11 - Rise Against Hunger

May 12 - 10am Middle School, 10:30am High School in the Youth Room.

May 19 - Family Service at 10am

May 26 - No Youth Group - Memorial Day Weekend

Looking for Sunday School volunteers for Fall 2024 - We’re looking for Sunday School teachers for the 2024-2025 school year. No experience required! We’re implementing a new curriculum that is “out of the box” and requires little to no preparation. All you need is a desire to teach St. John’s kids about Jesus’ love. Commitment would be to teach 1-2 Sundays per month. We are looking for 8

volunteers for the PK/K, 1/2, 3/4, 5/6 classes. Interested? Contact Stephanie Doyle sdoyle0325@gmail.com.

Center for Food Action (CFA) - The need for food donations continues in our area. Please help if you can. Protein items, hearty soups, low sugar cereals and shelf-stable milk are in demand. Also requested are personal grooming items and cleaning products. The center is also in need of bags in which to pack clients' orders. If you have more than you need please consider donating them. Please be sure they are clean and in good condition. Items may be left in the basket in the Louis Hall or in the narthex.

Community Thrift Shop- The shop is currently accepting donations of spring and summer clothing along with toys, linens, current novels and cookbooks, small appliances and other household items. Donations are accepted on Mondays between 9 and 12. Please be sure items are clean and in relatively good condition. They do not take men's suits or shirts with company logos, and cannot accept cribs or car seats. If you are unable to bring items to the shop they may be left in the basket in Louis Hall. Please put items in a bag and **mark bags with #21**. Shopping days are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10-4. Bargains abound. Spotted recently were a number of name brand kids outfits with the tags still attached for just a few dollars. Thank you to everyone who has donated items. St. John's receives a percentage of what each item sells for. Our check for the last quarter of 2023 was \$286. For more information contact Mary Welton (mhswelton@yahoo.com or 201-723-0242).

St. Paul's Shelter: For many years on the first Wednesday of the month St. John's has provided a meal for the men at the St. Paul's shelter in Paterson. Currently we are cooking for 36 men. Different committees and groups are assigned to particular months. For May 1, the Church School will be cooking and in June 5, the Altar Guild is on deck.



Celtic/Contemplative Worship On-line - Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 for this 30-minute service with music and prayer.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/715610304?pwd=bFZFMTk3MXFOQI83OFBvKzIOM3ljdz09>

Meeting ID: 715 610 304 Passcode: 1906301



ECW Zoom meetings - the women of St. John's gather on Mondays at 7:30pm for conversation, prayer, and camaraderie. Usually lasts about 90 minutes.

Meeting ID: 970 1575 9457 Passcode: 497832

<p>Sunday, April 28 8am – Worship (spoken) 10am – Worship (with music) 10am – Church School 10/10:30 Youth Groups 11:30am – Children’s choir 12pm – Pippin Kids 2pm – Pippin adults</p>	<p>Mon., April 29 7:30pm – ECW</p>	<p>Tues., April 30 7:30pm - Pippin Reh.</p>	<p>Wed., May 1 7:30pm – Celtic service 7:30pm – Pippin Reh.</p>
<p>Thurs., May 2 8pm – Adult Choir</p>	<p>Fri., May 3 4pm – Pippin kids reh. 8pm - Alanon</p>	<p>Sat., May 4 11am - Pippin reh.</p>	<p>Sunday, May 5 8am – Worship (spoken) 10am – Worship (with music) 10am – Church School 10/10:30 Youth Groups 11:30am – Children’s choir 12pm – Pippin Kids 2pm – Pippin adults</p>

ST. JOHN'S MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PRESENTS



Book by
ROGER O. HIRSON

Music and Lyrics by
STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

Originally produced on the Broadway stage by **Stuart Ostrow**
Directed on the Broadway stage by **Bob Fosse**

Theo Ending Originally Conceived in 1998 by Mitch Sebastian

General Admission - \$25

Friday, June 7 at 8pm
Tickets available at:

Saturday, June 8 at 8pm
Tickets available at:



You may also purchase tickets by delivering payment in a clearly labeled envelope to Kristin Canty or the church office with cash or a check payable to "St. John's Church". Tickets will be reserved for you.

THE PARISH STAFF

The Rev. William (Bill) Cruse, Priest-in-Charge; Drew Kreismer, Organist/Choirmaster
Meg Acer, Parish Administrator; John Yager, Sexton
Bushra Khawaja, Nursery Care; Caeden Doyle, Technology Verger

THE VESTRY

Jason Farrar, Warden; Jan Hardy, Warden.
Karla Barricella, Robert Carr, Stephanie Doyle, Thomas Frost, Maria Gramuglia, Charlotte
Kazigian, Ellane Klie (Clerk), Brian Reinke, Erin Schroder, John Greenberg (Treasurer)

YOUTH FORMATION

Lynda Hammond, Sunday School Coordinator
Stephanie Doyle, Interim Youth Coordinator

The Rev. William (Bill) Cruse ❖ Cell Phone: 914-953-9738

Office hours: By appointment Email: bill.cruse@stjohnsramsey.org Meg Acer, Parish
Administrator ❖ meg.acer@stjohnsramsey.org

Office Hours: Tues – 8am-3pm, Wed – 12:30-4:30, Thurs – 8am-12pm, Fri – 12:30pm-2:30pm



St. John's Memorial Episcopal Church
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