



The Eagle

April 2024

Worship This Month...

April 7

*On-site at 8am
On-site at 10am and
via Zoom*

April 14

*On-site at 8am
On-site at 10am and
via Zoom*

April 21

Family Service
*On-site at 8am
On-site at 10am and
via Zoom*

April 28

*On-site at 8am
On-site at 10am and
via Zoom*

*Sunday Service is also on
FaceBook Live*

Celtic Service
*every Wednesday at
7:30pm via Zoom*

Jesus lives!! Now what?

Alleluia!! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!!

That's how we started our service Easter Day, after the prelude by our organist and brass choir helped us hear and feel the joy of Easter. And after the children ran (well almost, I was more excited than they, I think) to find the Alleluia banners they had "buried" on the last Sunday of Epiphany. We raised our voices as we sang our Alleluias again! Then we heard a very familiar story, and maybe we heard it in a new way, or from a different perspective. This year we rejoiced exuberantly with our Choirs, Bells, and with brass, hymns and anthems!! This Easter season we gather as a vibrant community of faith in new ways that deepen our relationships to one another and with God.

We enjoyed saying "alleluia" again. Yet this proclamation of Resurrection and life-everlasting for all has some weightiness, at least for me and maybe for you, too. We are looking forward expectantly and still holding grief at what is gone, has changed and what is yet unknown. For the women at the tomb, this was part of their new story. It's part of our new story as we continue to discover new ways to walk our journey of faith. Our faith lifts us, lightens our burdens, and carries us with each step. The symbols of things past and gone are with us, AND the real presence of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit feed us with sure and certain hope of things to come.

We are in a time of great change. Let it be for us at St. John's, and individually, a time of transformation. As on that first Easter, God is doing something new. There had been gruesome crucifixions before, but never had the world experienced resurrection. Jesus foretold it to his disciples, and they didn't hear or believe. Still, this new thing happened, and they were amazed. What are the new ways we will do new things to reveal God's love for all creation? How will we deepen and



PRIEST IN CHARGE

The Rev. William Cruse

ST. JOHN'S WARDENS

Jan Hardy, Warden

Jason Farrar, Warden

VESTRY

Karla Barricella

Bob Carr

Stephanie Doyle

Thomas Frost

Maria Gramugulia

Charlotte Kazigan

Ellane Klie

Brian reinke

Erin Schroeder

CLERK OF THE VESTRY

Ellane Klie

FINANCE CHAIRPERSON

Nancy Abbott

TREASURER

John Greenberg



The Eagle

Meg Acer, Editor

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stjohnsramsey.org

live into our faith so that we may be co-creative with God as we care for each other and join others as we care for the world together. Let us also take decisive action with our shared vision and strategic action plans. For us the crucified Jesus' resurrection is not only a story about one person. As my friend and bishop of New Hampshire, +Rob Hirschfeld wrote, "The triumph over death, of love over hatred, of hope over fear, is a reality that is communicated to all humankind, indeed all creation, in a community of love." We are changed when we experience Jesus after Easter. By challenging and renewing our community we will share God's abundant love for all.

Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan remind us that the personal and political meanings of the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection are captured in two nearly identical questions. The first, "Do you accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior? It is a crucially important question, for the Lordship of Christ is the path of personal liberation, return from exile, and conscious reconnection to God. The virtually identical but seldom asked question is: Do you accept Jesus as your political Lord and Savior? The gospel of Jesus, the good news of Jesus, which is the gospel of the kingdom of God, involves both questions." (The Last Week, 2006)

Whose example do you follow? Answering is transformative.

This is the story we need to tell, of ours and the world's transformation that is happening always. Like Mary running from her encounter with the risen Jesus to share the good news with the other disciples, we have good news to share. We are changed and transformed. With all the ravages that have been in this time, our faith in God's love and Jesus' presence comfort and strengthen us. In community we reach out to one another sharing love and compassion, prayers, and blessings. We are God's people telling God's story in our lives. We write prayers, our psalms, that recount our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrow. We write and read our own acts of the apostles, our own gospels and epistles. We will continue to proclaim our story of God in our lives, of Jesus walking with us as we look to renew Love in a world trying to tear itself apart with divisions.

We will continue to invite others into this love story with God. Because love wins. Love always wins. We must keep telling the story of God's love for all people and Creation.

Peace - Bill+

A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT ST JOHN'S

St John's now accepts Venmo and PayPal.
To access, please scan the QR codes below.

VENMO:



PAYPAL:



If you do not have a Paypal account, you can sign in as a guest thru this link:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=S3KKMZGWSAE3E

ZELLE:

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

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



Youth Group

Apr 7 - Middle School at 10am, High School at 10:30am in the Youth Room

Apr 14 - Middle School at 10am, High School at 10:30am in the Youth Room

Apr 21 - Family Service at 10am

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

General Convention Summer Trip

SAT, JUN 22 - FRI, JUN 28

The Youth Commission is excited to open Registration for the 2024 Diocese of Newark Summer Youth Trip, for youth in grades 8-12!

This year youth will be traveling to Louisville, KY during the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. While there, youth will get to see some of the workings of our denomination, connect with other youth from across the Episcopal Church, meet with our Bishop, take part in spiritual formation, participate in justice activities/missions... and of course there will be lots of fun and food included. **Find out more and register online.**



The Newark Diocese Youth Commission is SUPER excited to OPEN Registration for the 2024 Diocese of Newark Summer Youth Trip!

This year youth will be traveling to **Louisville, Kentucky during the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.** While there, youth will get to see some of the workings of our denomination, connect with other youth from across the Episcopal Church, meet with our Bishop, take part in spiritual formation, participate in justice activities/missions... And, of course, there will be lots of fun and food included. The trip is open to all youth currently enrolled in **8th grade through 12th grade.**

The group will **depart early on Saturday June 22 and return late on Friday June 28** (final travel plans and trip agenda are still being determined). If interested, **please register ASAP.** The total cost for the trip is only \$1500 per youth, which is **all inclusive** - apart from souvenirs and extra snacks.

Register at this link: <https://forms.gle/hkFJ8MPBhVqth2GB7>

Make Deposit Payments at this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z975/home>

St. John's Christian Formation

Camperships Available for Cross Roads Camp - Summer 2024!!!

At the September 2023 meeting, the Vestry approved "camperships" for St. John's children and teens to attend Cross Roads Camp during the summer of 2024. Any current 2nd-12th graders who would like to spend a week at sleep away summer camp at Cross Roads Camp will be eligible for a \$500 campership. Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center is the Episcopal camp of the Newark Diocese. To be eligible your kids must be registered for St. John's Sunday School or Youth Group and this must be their first time attending Cross Roads summer camp.

Why this matters: There have been studies and research on the effects of summer camp on faith formation for children and teens. In the book: "Cultivating Teen Faith: Insight from the Confirmation Project" by Osmer and Douglass 2018, the third chapter is dedicated to camp. It's entitled "Deep Rhythms of Faith Formation: Separation and Reintegration in Summer Camp and Retreats.

"...the deeply immersive and experiential learning opportunities common at camps...are incredibly effective as catalysts for faith formation and environments for Christian education...Christian summer camp experiences were among the most consistently effective discipleship program revealed in our study...[Study showed] Campers showed significant growth during the camp experience in cognitive belief, perception of faith relevance, and self-confidence, with much of the growth persisting months after the camp."

Registration Now Open!!!

<https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/summer-camp/>



Submissions for the May Eagle are due on
April 20

SAVE THESE DATES

23/24 YOUTH COMMISSION EVENTS

FOR YOUTH IN GRADES 6 THROUGH 12

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

**OCT
21**

**DIOCESE YOUTH RALLY
2:30-6:30 PM
ST STEPHENS, MILLBURN**

**NOV
18**

**BOWLING
3 LOCATIONS / TIME TBA**

**JAN
20**

**GAME NIGHT
3 LOCATIONS / TIME TBA**

**MAR
8-10**

**YOUTH RETREAT
AT CROSSROADS**

**APR
20**

**MINI GOLF
3 LOCATIONS / TIME TBA**

**JUN
22-30**

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH TRIP TO
GENERAL CONVENTION
AND MORE**



Happy Birthday April Babies!

Paul Kezmarsky	April 02
Dane Blake	April 03
Harvey Turer	April 04
Stella Brinson	April 05
Blaise Wolfer-Smid	April 10
Haven Wolfer-Smid	April 10
Leo Wolfer-Smid	April 10
Kimberly Leonard	April 11
Christine Potts	April 14
Emily Shortway	April 16
Ava Farrar	April 18
Julia Farrar	April 18
Jan Hardy	April 18
Kate Heyboer	April 18
Robert Wright	April 18
Anna Kozma	April 20
Dorene Milic	April 20
John Greenberg	April 24
Lucy Schroeder	April 25
Emerson Augello	April 27
Stacey McMahon	April 27
Kristin Canty	April 28
Elaine Jones	April 28
Robert Willingham	April 28
Julia Beninati	April 29

St. John's Church School

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

For the rest of the Easter Season, the stories the children have heard about Jesus sharing with the disciples before the crucifixion, now take on a powerful new value. Jesus has become the "Good Shepherd" and appears before his disciples, and asks them to spread the message of "forgiveness". And so, in Eastertide we celebrate the wonder and prepare ourselves to take the message out into the world on Pentecost. "*Peace be with you,*" Jesus says. The disciples are now to carry on the work Jesus had begun. As God sent Jesus, now the disciples are sent out. Their message is handed on to us, the torch of peace, so we can use it in our everyday lives and hand it on to those who come after us.

*Loving Jesus, help us to forgive people when they do things that hurt us or make us angry.
Help us to learn to forgive like you forgive us.*

The Church School's annual outreach project, *Blankets for Project Linus*, will take place in the Parish Hall on Sunday, April 28th at 10:00 AM. All Church School children and youth are invited to participate in the "tying of the knots"!

Church School Calendar – April 2024

April 7	Church School Class Sessions
April 14	Church School Class Sessions
April 21	Family Service Sunday – <i>No Church School Class Sessions</i>
April 28	Church School Outreach Session: <i>Project Linus Blankets</i> , 10:00 AM-Parish Hall

Church School Calendar – May 2024

May 5	Church School Class Sessions
May 12	Church School Class Sessions
May 19	Family Service Sunday – Pentecost - <i>No Church School Class Sessions</i>
May 26	No Church School Classes – Memorial Day Recess



**ST. JOHN'S
MEMORIAL
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

A House of Prayer for
All People



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Ramsey, NJ 07446

Phone: 201-327-0703

Email:

meg.acer@stjohnsramsey.org

Check us out on the Web:
www.stjohnsramsey.org

Worship Schedule

On Site Worship

Sundays at 8am & 10am

Join us online via Zoom
(contact the office for
details)

Wednesdays at 7:30pm
Celtic Contemplative
Prayer via Zoom

Sunday School & Youth
Group

as announced

Lynda Hammond

Sunday School

Coordinator

Stephanie Doyle

Interim Youth Missioner



The Rev. William Cruse
Priest in Charge

Drew Kreismer
Organist/Choirmaster

Meg Acer
Parish Administrator

John Yager



St. John's will once again be performing a musical in June!
This year, we will present "Pippin" by Steven Schwartz
(Godspell, Wicked) and Roger O. Hirson.

Here is some key information about our 2024 show:

Showtimes and Tickets:

Friday, June 7 at 8pm

Saturday, June 8 at 8pm

Tickets will be \$25

**Saint Paul's Men's
Shelter Dinner**



Many thanks to our choir for feeding the men of the Saint Paul's shelter in March. Our greeters are busy preparing a delicious meal for April 3. Anyone interested in helping with the May 1 dinner should contact the church school teachers.

On deck for May 1 - The Church School
On deck for June 5 - Altar Guild