



ST. JOHN'S MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Seek + Serve + Celebrate

The Eagle

April 2020

Worship This Month...

April 5

Palm Sunday

Online worship via Zoom

April 12

Easter Sunday

Online worship via Zoom

April 19

Online worship via Zoom

April 26

Online worship via Zoom

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's my prayer that this letter finds you safe and comfortable, with sufficient supplies. The unprecedented developments of the past weeks have brought us to a place that feels bewildering — like we're strangers in a strange land even though we're amongst the most familiar surroundings.

Yet, as I talk, email and join in our Zoom worship with many of you, I've found comfort and strength in the fact that we are, truly, all in this together — and that our hearts and minds are constantly drawn in the Spirit's tether, as the wonderful anthem reminds us. Our prayers individually at home or in our Zoom worship for our friends, our families, and our world unite us in common prayer for the common good. Christ is present in Word and prayer, God is present, and the Spirit binds us in Love even though we must fast from physically gathering together to share Eucharist. Behold! God is here with us.

And I know God is here by the love you share with me and with one another. Thank you for sharing with us in our new worship gathering on Zoom, for reaching out to one another by phone and email, and by caring for our community during this extremely challenging time. It is times such as these that we can find God and God's love in ourselves and in the world around us. Thank you for sharing God's love.

As we finish this last week of Lent and prepare for Palm Sunday and Holy Week, I share with you our plans for the spiritual journey with Jesus toward the cross, death and resurrection. By necessity it will be different. Perhaps it will invite your participation in new ways that may create moments of reflection and awareness of God's love for you in times of struggle and in joy.

I offer the following suggestions regarding worship in the days ahead:

First, if you can, prepare a space for reverence.

Our lives are incredibly compressed right now; in whatever way and to whatever extent it's possible, I invite you to find a place where you can worship at home this week, and making that place a little more holy (it may require a dust cloth and a vacuum). If your household includes children, ask them to participate in setting aside a place, picking a table and draping with a cloth to make your altar at home.



PRIEST IN CHARGE

The Rev. William Cruise

ST. JOHN'S WARDENS

Ken Bledsoe, Sr. Warden

Janice Hardy, Jr. Warden

VESTRY

Jason Farrar

John Greenberg

Kevin Haas

Kathy Lathrop

Amy Lynch

Renee Peters

Pat Tarbutton

JoEllen Wall

John Woods

CLERK OF THE VESTRY

Pat Tarbutton

FINANCE CHAIRPERSON

Nancy Abbott

TREASURER

John Greenberg



The Eagle

Meg Acer, Editor

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[meg.acer@](mailto:meg.acer@stjohnsramsey.org)

stjohnsramsey.org

Additionally, our tradition and our scriptures show us that worship should be physical and sensory as well as intellectual and spiritual.

Body

Make sure your seat(s) is/are clear and comfortable. If it's your custom to kneel during confession or prayer, have a pillow handy and space to take on that posture.

Senses

Place a candle or two in view and light them before services. Set a favorite icon or cross nearby. And don't forget your nose — if you have incense, flowers, or herbs at the ready, incorporate them into your worship space, as well. Ask your children to choose something small to remind them of reverence and place it on or near the altar in your new holy corner.

Next, a couple of particular ways to prepare for this year's services:

On **Palm Sunday**, we won't be able to distribute palm fronds and process outside and in the nave of the church as is our custom. Instead, I encourage you to collect some sign of life, hope, growth, or renewal from your home or neighborhood this week: a flower blossom; a small branch from a tree with plenty to spare; a leaf or sprig or frond from a houseplant. Matthew's Gospel tells us, "and others cut branches from the trees." These will be the branches we raise for a blessing, and to celebrate the triumph of life in Christ and our ever-present hope of his return. We will gather on Zoom for the Palm Sunday liturgy at. <https://zoom.us/j/754043352> Meeting ID: 754 043 352

On **Holy Wednesday**, St. John's will offer the service of **Tenebrae** at 7:00pm via our Zoom worship link . <https://zoom.us/j/754043352> Meeting ID: 754 043 352

For **Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and the Great Vigil of Easter**, we will share liturgies and resources for you to walk the path to Easter at home in private prayer or with others in your household.

Diocesan Holy Week & Easter Services. Each day throughout Holy Week the diocese will highlight a service from a different church around our diocese, culminating with an Easter Day service celebrated by Bishop Hughes. Most services will be pre-recorded and made available on the appropriate day for on-demand viewing, while some will be streamed live. A full schedule will be available soon. Each of the videos and live streams will be posted, in its turn, in the Featured Video section on the front page of the [diocesan website](http://diocesanwebsite.org), and all will be saved for later viewing at dioceseofnewark.org/worship-online.

Easter Day with St. John's Ramsey – we will gather again on Zoom for the Easter Day liturgy. <https://zoom.us/j/754043352> Meeting ID: 754 043 352

Knowing we are gathering online, spending time with Word and prayer at home, we are uplifted by the sure knowledge that the same God who bridged the distance between heaven and earth “draws like cords around our hearts.”

Until we meet next, in worship or in person, know that you are loved — by me, your Priest-in-Charge, by your Vestry and staff, and by the God who is our ever-present help at all times and in all circumstances.

Yours in Christ,
Bill+

Creating Sacred Space & Practices for Home and Families

RECOMMENDED DIOCESAN RESOURCE SITE: Connected-in-Common, Diocese of CO
<https://episcopalcolorado.org/connected-in-common/>

CREATING SACRED SPACE

Making an Altar at Home - Sharon E. Pearson, *Rows of Sharon*

Creating A Lenten Prayer Space At Home - guidance for creating sacred space at home

How to Set Up a Prayer Table - from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Holy Week in a Box by Building Faith Editors (Building Faith)

Holy Week At Home: Family Practices For The Triduum by Jerusalem Greer (Building Faith)

Maundy Thursday At Home: Stripping The Table by Jerusalem Greer (Building Faith)

Easter Sunrise Breakfast at Home by Traci Smith (Building Faith)

TALKING & PRAYING THROUGH HOLY WEEK with children

Holy Week, The Cross, and Children by Elizabeth Windsor (Building Faith) can give adults confidence talking about the tough stuff with children.

Coronavirus, Anxiety, Children and the Church by Angela Compton Nelson (Building Faith)

Faithful Parenting in a Pandemic by Wendy Claire Barrie (WendyClaireBarrie.com) offers some good ideas for different ages to engage, reflect on what's happening, etc.

Look for the Gifts: Praying with Children During a Pandemic by Christine V. Hides (ChristineVHides.com) has a great idea for a prayer jar, but it's definitely not JUST for praying with children!

Pledge Payments

I would like to thank all those who have continued to submit your pledge payments by mail and through our online options. Our monthly expenses remain uninterrupted during this crisis. If you are financially able to continue your pledge payments, please mail your payments to the church or use the available online options or phone application. See instructions below. Thank you all so much.

God bless,
John Greenberg
Treasurer

Text to Donate to St. John's Ministries

Text number: 844-202-6980

To donate:

-Enter text number

-In the message, enter dollar amount, followed by a space and then the fund code (i.e. 25 fund)

General Fund – fund

Outreach – out

Annual pledge – pledge

Altar Guild – flower

GivePlus+ also offers an easy to use app (downloadable from the Apple Store or Google Play Store) for one time donations **AND** to set up recurring donations. Sign up with your email and search for St Johns by zip code (07446).

To set up Recurring Donations:

To set up recurring donations, you will need to create an account easily with an email address and password on the app.

You will be given the option to login using TouchID/fingerprint feature or a PIN.

Tap the menu icon to manage personal information, change password, review donations or update/add payment methods.

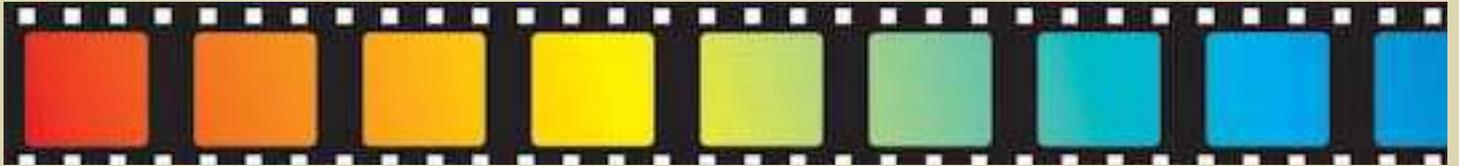
Next time you donate, tap **“Select Frequency”** to create a recurring weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or annual donation to the fund of your choice.

From the menu, go to **“Recurring Donations”** to view or delete any scheduled donation made through the GivePlus app or select Giving History to review your past donations.

ECW

Episcopal Church Women

Our upcoming ECW meetings will be rescheduled when it is safe for us to gather again. In the meantime, we have scheduled an ECW chat on Zoom for Monday, April 6, at 7:00 PM. This will not be our book discussion, but just a chance to socialize with other women of the parish. Even if you have never attended an ECW meeting, you are warmly invited to join us. For the meeting ID, please contact Janice Hardy (HardyCJR@aol.com).



MUSIC NOTES

Greetings all! In this time of social distancing, worshiping together has changed. With the miracle of technology and the skill to use it (Michael Peters and Fr. Bill are very knowledgeable), we are able to connect and worship virtually. A decade or two ago, this would not have been possible. I continue to practice regularly for these services. I actually have more time to spend preparing the music you hear online because I am working both jobs (church and school) from home. Fr. Bill and I are in frequent contact to discuss our next service and so far the results are positive. I hope the music you receive is comforting and connects you to OUR parish church. I select and prepare it with great care, knowing that you will be hearing it at home. Since we are unsure when we will return to "normal", I will continue sending you my best efforts from the organ. This too shall pass!

Drew Kreismer
Organist/Choirmaster

Pedals for Progress

2020 BIKE COLLECTION

Pedals for Progress has canceled all 2020 bike collections scheduled before June. We have rescheduled our collection for **Saturday, November 7th at 9 AM through noon**. Please do note this on your calendar. Please tell your family and friends, neighbors, your Facebook friends and anyone else you see when you are out walking! For us, it is a 3 hour event but for the recipients of a bike or a sewing machine it really is a life changing event. The Outreach Group humbly thanks you for your continued support – we can't do it without you.





Packing up sewing machines

Preparing a bike to be packed on the truck



Children in Cambodia
They are now able to go to
school because of bicycles
from Pedals for Progress.



Church School

St. John's Church School

April 2020

The month of April is a time for the children to learn about the meaning of Holy Week, beginning with Jesus' triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, moving on to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter by discovering how God's presence is in their lives today. Sharing key stories from the gospel of John, children begin to explore the themes of making choices, learning about God's spirit, and the times when Jesus showed God's love in unexpected ways. Through these lessons they will become aware of how people learn new ways to see, new ways to understand, and that the light of Christ is growing around them. This light is symbolized in the Easter season as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Resources to Use with Your Children for

Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter

<http://www.rtc.org/~kreft/biblestories/docs/Holy%20Week%20Story.pdf>

A Prayer for Remembering God is Always With Us

Lord God, you are always with me.

You are with me in the day and in the night.

You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.

You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.

You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.

Today I am feeling (**name how you are feeling**)

because (**reasons you are feeling this way**).

Help me to remember that you love me and are always with me in everything I do.

Amen.



Thank You For Keeping Us Connected

Thank you to Bill Deegan for organizing the Pop-up Service for Noonday at Veterans Memorial Park on March 18. It was a beautiful day and quite moving to those of us who attended. Bill even brought his tape measure to make sure the six-foot distance was maintained!

Thank you to our Vestry members who had a Zoom meeting on March 18 to strategize and make both the mundane and the unprecedentedly momentous decisions about how we will proceed during this pandemic.

Thank you to Bill Cruse for leading the Zoom Celtic Evening Prayer services on Wednesday nights. The peaceful half-hour is a centering time and spiritual renewal for all who participate.

Thank you to Bill Deegan and Chuck Hardy for leading the Zoom Men's Lenten Discussion on March 28. The spiritual contemplation and lively discussion were a wonderful interlude for the guys during a stressful time.

Thank you to Bill Cruse and Drew Kreisner for leading last Sunday's Zoom Morning Prayer service. It was amazing to worship together and see all of the dear faces of our parish friends. Bill's inspiring, loving words and Drew's gorgeous music were exactly what we needed in this confusing, scary time to remember that we are still connected and moving forward in our spiritual journeys. Thank you to LEM Amy Lynch and readers Renee Peters and Jason Farrar for their heartfelt participation. And thank you to computer expert Mike Peters for his technical expertise in producing and sharing the lovely video montages during the prelude and postlude. Now if only coffee hour could have gone on and on!

Thank you to Megan Kendall and the Youth Group for preparing dinner at their own homes to be delivered to the outside door of St. Paul's for the men at the Homeless Shelter on April 1. Our youth inspire us.

Thank you to Meg Acer for creatively continuing with her regular administrative work under difficult circumstances to run the office and keep us all informed. Thank you to John Greenberg for keeping our finances in good order to get through this time of upheaval. Thank you to Mary and Jim Welton who always think about what needs to be done to maintain our temporarily closed building and then do it. Thank you to Ken Bledsoe for being a stabilizing presence and a fount of good advice. Thank you to Drew Kreisner for his hours of practice and recording to send us the gift of music to calm our minds. Thank you to Bill Cruse who is our steadfast shepherd and guide as we navigate this uncharted journey.

Thank you to all members of our St. John's family just for being you and for caring for each other. It was uplifting to see so many share in these opportunities to worship, to express our fellowship, and to flow the cycle of blessings.

Janice Hardy

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

A House of Prayer for
All People



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Email:

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

Worship Schedule

Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist
8 AM & 10 AM

Church School

9:45AM Infant & Child Care

Celtic Prayer

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM



The Rev. William Cruse
Priest in Charge

The Rev. Richard Louis
Rector Emeritus

Drew Kreismer
Organist/Choirmaster

Meg Acer
Parish Administrator

Megan Kendall
Youth Missioner

Holy Week Services at St. John's

April 5 - Palm Sunday via Zoom @ 10am

April 8 - Holy Wednesday - Tenebrae via Zoom @ 7pm

April 9 - Maundy Thursday - home liturgy via PDF

April 10 - Good Friday - home liturgy via PDF

April 11 - Holy Saturday - home liturgy via PDF

April 12 - Easter Day via Zoom @ 10am

The Diocese will offer liturgies for each day for those who wish to watch services "on-demand"

