



The Eagle

October 2020

Worship This Month...

October 4

*Online worship at 10am
via Zoom*

October 11

*Online worship at 10am
via Zoom*

October 18

*Family Sunday
Online worship at 10am
via Zoom*

October 25

*Online worship at 10am
via Zoom*

Dear friends in Christ,



Fall is settling in. The colors here in New Hampshire have been very vibrant this year. It's been lovely to have so much sunshine to illuminate the changing foliage. However, the abundant sunshine has also meant a lack of rain – for months. The dug

well for our cabin is running low. So low we've adopted our own extreme water conservation measures. It's made me aware of having enough water, or food, or shelter, or safety in new ways. I've also come to sense that my own well is running dry, too. I find it difficult to see hope during this time.

I shared my sense of hopelessness with my spiritual director in our last conversation. He's the one who named the parallel of metaphor that my water well and my soul well are running low. He also shared one of Fr. Richard Rohr's recent meditations in which he offered some guidance for getting through the next several months. Richard quoted the young Jewish woman Etty Hillesum who, like Anne Frank, suffered horrendous injustices in a Nazi concentration camp. He quoted from the Psalms, many of which were likely written during oppression of the Jewish people. And he quoted from W. B. Yeats' poem "The Second Coming" which might be heard today as prophesy for our time despite being written during the struggles of World War I and the Spanish Flu pandemic.

In her diary, Etty shared her hope and knowledge that God dwells in the very deep well inside her, and sometimes she is there, too. "And that is all we can manage these days and also all that really matters: that we safeguard that little piece of You, God, in ourselves." Yes, I need to remember that God is in me, always, even when I feel empty. Psalm 62:5-9 reminds us of that deep presence which is our strength.

In God alone is my soul at rest.
God is the source of my hope.
In God I find shelter, my rock, and my safety.
Men are but a puff of wind,
Men who think themselves important are a delusion.
Put them on a scale,
They are gone in a puff of wind.



PRIEST IN CHARGE

The Rev. William Cruse

ST. JOHN'S WARDENS

Ken Bledsoe, Sr. Warden

Janice Hardy, Jr. Warden

VESTRY

Jason Farrar
John Greenberg
Kathy Lathrop
Amy Lynch
Renee Peters
Ken Silber
Pat Tarbutton
JoEllen Wall
John Woods

CLERK OF THE VESTRY

Pat Tarbutton

FINANCE CHAIRPERSON

Nancy Abbott

TREASURER

John Greenberg



The Eagle

Meg Acer, Editor

Articles can be submitted in writing, or by E-Mail to:

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

stjohnsramsey.org

And the familiar old hymn speaks similarly - All my hope on God is founded: / He doth still my trust renew. / Me thro' change and chance He guideth, / Only good and only true.

And that's our challenge right now, the change and chance that seems to always surprise, frustrate, confuse, and even sap strength and hope. Yeats' poem speaks of the confusion that so much noise from pundits and politicians is causing; How the turmoil of divisions and multiple crises all at once make it hard to listen to God's voice and find our way.

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

It's overwhelming. I feel like the falcon unable to find my way home, the guiding voice drowned out by voices of hatred and selfishness that ignore the equally loud cries from the marginalized and oppressed. Richard Rohr's guidance included suggestions for restoring the Divine Center "by holding it and fully occupying it ourselves." As spiritual practice, he recommends greatly limiting the volume of news we consume through all the sources – even social media. "It will only tear you apart and pull you into the dualistic world of opinion and counter-opinion, not Divine Truth, which is always found in a bigger place." He invites us to fill that time with volunteering, public service, reading from the mystics, and prayer. What is needed at times, and perhaps for you and me at this time, is to return to the deep well within us where God always dwells. Richard writes:

God cannot abide with us in a place of fear.
God cannot abide with us in a place of ill will or hatred.
God cannot abide with us inside a nonstop volley of claim and counterclaim.
God cannot abide with us in an endless flow of online punditry and analysis.
God cannot speak inside of so much angry noise and conscious deceit.
God cannot be found when all sides are so far from "the Falconer."
God cannot be born except in a womb of Love.
So offer God that womb.



It's raining heavily as I write this. My dug well is filling as the parched earth shares the abundance. My soul well is also filling, nourished by the hope God's presence in me provides. May God grant us grace and guide us to be spiritually well so that we may understand how we can be God's womb of Love and restorers of hope in a parched and thirsty world.

Peace - Bill+



From Father Bill



FAITH @ HOME

I recently subscribed to this resource from the creative writers in the Episcopal Church, who are offering ways to help us nurture our faith and spiritual practices. I like this one because it offers reading and reflection options for different age groups, depending on your home and family setting. I pray that our families who are finding the worship services on Zoom a challenge with younger people will use it to guide you as one of the ministers of the Church. For we all are ministers - check out the catechism in the Book of Common Prayer.

Peace - Bill+

“On Wednesdays, Faith @ Home sends out a weekly set of devotions based on the Revised Common Lectionary. These devotions invite you to engage in the discipleship practice of *Reading, Reflecting,* and *Responding* to Scripture in the context of community.

Each one is written for a particular age group pairing, so you can have conversations with everyone, no matter where they're at in life. The *Adult and Small Child* pairing is designed for preschool students and younger; the *Adult and Elementary* pairing is for children in elementary (or grade) school; the *Adult and Youth* pairing is for youth in middle and high school; and the *Adult and Adults* pairing is for use with young adults and adults.

As this is a growing ministry, we would love your feedback and ideas! You can email us at faithathome@forma.church or contact us via [Facebook](#).

We would like to give a special thanks to our contributors for this week's lectionary devotions: Victoria Hoppes, Malcolm McLaurin, Cara Meredith, and Holly Zaher.”

To access Faith@Home: for the week of October 4th, click [HERE](#)

The Journey Forward

In August, the Journey Forward team, led by John Woods, Kathy Lathrop, and Renee Peters, sent out a survey to the parish to assess the congregation's desire to reopen the church for in-person worship. We received 63 responses to the following questions:

Do you welcome the opportunity to attend in-person worship as soon as possible?

Yes: 20 (31.7%) No: 17 (27%) Uncertain: 26 (41.3%)

Do you feel safe bringing children to the service?

Yes: 11 (17.5%) No: 15 (23.8%) Uncertain / NA: 37 (58.7%)

Do you prefer to wait until all coronavirus restrictions are lifted?

Yes: 34 (54%) No: 18 (25.4%) Uncertain: 13 (20.6%)

Would you like to continue participating in on-line Zoom services only?

Yes: 36 (57.1%) No: 13 (20.6%) Uncertain: 14 (22.2%)

Do you want the option of both on-line and in-person services?

Yes: 48 (76.2%) No: 4 (6.3%) Uncertain: 11 (17.5%)

Would you be willing to volunteer as a greeter, usher or set-up person?

Yes: 12 (19%) No: 33 (52.4%) Uncertain: 18 (28.6%)

Are you comfortable receiving communion?

Yes: 23 (36.5%) No: 27 (42.9%) Uncertain: 13 (20.6%)

In addition to the questionnaire, many parishioners offered thoughtful comments to further explain their answers. While it is difficult to neatly summarize the responses to the questionnaire, a few trends are evident:

The Zoom services are popular and spiritually nourishing. Parishioners have expressed a desire for them to continue even after in-person worship has begun. While there is an expressed desire for in-person worship to resume at some point, parishioners are wary of volunteering to make this happen.

Parishioners have mixed feelings about receiving communion while we are under coronavirus restrictions.

The questionnaire has provided useful information for the church leadership as they weigh the risks and benefits of reopening St. John's for worship. The Journey Forward team will continue meeting to develop the safest, most appropriate plan possible. Thank you for your active participation.

~The Journey Forward Team

Pedals for Progress Update

THANK YOU to Tom Tarbutton, James Fraser, Steve Wiersma, Jan & Chuck Hardy, Kathy Fede & Gordon Bear, Maryann Molnar and Amy Lynch.

On Monday 9/21 Gary (St. John's liaison at P4p) picked up the 57 bikes, 1 sewing machine and several helmets which St. John's, along with Tom Tarbutton in Upper Saddle River, had collected for Pedals for Progress. We decided not to run our usual collection but our reputation in the local communities for re-purposing bikes and sewing machines has been established by our previous 10 collections.

Thank you to James and Tom for helping Gary load the truck. The next shipping container from P4p will go, with our bikes, to Togo. *The Togolese Republic is a country in West Africa bordered by Ghana to the west, Benin to the east and Burkina Faso to the north. The country extends south to the Gulf of Guinea, where its capital Lomé is located.* (I am assuming that I am not the only person who has difficulty keeping up with country changes).

Thank you to Tom for continuing to attract an amazing number of bikes in USR (37); to James, and Steve Wiersma, for working with Ramsey recycling; to Jan & Chuck, Kathy & Gordon, and Maryann for storing bikes, and to Amy for helping pick up numerous bikes. And don't let's forget Meg who passes on the information she receives at St. John's. Tom, in this Covid-19 year, single-handedly prepped all the bikes for transportation - removing pedals, re-aligning handle bars etc. P4p is also very grateful for those of you who contributed money for transportation for the bikes and sewing machine.

Previously P4p had, on Jan 12th 2020, picked up 34 bikes and 1 sewing machine which had found their way to us since our collection in May 2019. Which makes our total for 2020 91 bikes and 2 sewing machines.

I know that none of you does this for the thanks you get but we thank you on behalf of Pedals for Progress. The families receiving these items will see a significant improvement in their lives and we have saved our landfills some 'garbage'.

We plan to hold our next collection as soon as we at St. John's think it is safe for the children and the rest of us. Until then, hang on to any bikes or sewing machines you come across. THANK YOU.

~Christine Potts

Red Cross Blood Drive Upcoming Event

WE'RE ALL
IN THIS
Together



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive **St. John's Episcopal Church**

Parish Hall
301 E Main Street
Ramsey, NJ 07446

Wednesday, October 28, 2020
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor keyword: Ramsey

For a limited time, the American Red Cross will test all blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies as an additional health service to our donors.

On day of donation bring your ID, eat a healthy meal a few hours before, and drink extra water!

Use Rapid Pass to save 15 minutes on the day of the drive, go to redcrossblood.org/RapidPass

Come to give in October for your chance to win a \$1,000 Amazon.com Gift Card! We're giving away 5! Restrictions apply, see amazon.com/gc-legal. Terms and conditions apply; visit rcblood.org/unite.

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

©2020 The American National Red Cross | 287501B

Church School

St. John's Church School

October 2020

Sunday church services for all will continue via ZOOM with opportunities for children and youth to worship, participate, and learn. We are considering interactive "child/youth" bulletins that connect with the learnings and messages delivered in the readings and sermons on each Sunday. Several families have shared ideas for increasing involvement in our online church services during the pandemic. Please consider the following with your children:

***Videos:** Families are invited to help their children make short videos (30-60 seconds) that will be shown during the service. "I know that God is helping me when ..."

The readings for this day that remind us of God's help are [Exodus 33:12-23](#) and [Matthew 22:15-22](#). Families volunteer are needed to help lead during the Family Service. Please contact Martha Anderson.

***Photography:** Share your photographs with St. John's.

Upload your photos on our secure website:

mikelpeters.com

Username: stjohns

Password: upload

***Bells:** Families are encouraged to ring bells at certain times of the service.

***Breakout Rooms for Children/Teens:** We are considering the idea of "breakout rooms" for children/teens during the main service, with adult supervision.

Prayer to Use with Children When Praying as a Family

*God of love and hope,
You made the world and care for all creation.
Please be with our family and friends.
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists
and all who are working to discover the right medicines
to help those who are ill.
Thank you for being with us.
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.
Amen.*

ST. JOHN'S MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A House of Prayer for
All People



301 East Main Street
Ramsey, NJ 07446

Phone: 201-327-0703

Email:

meg.acer@stjohnsramsey.org

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

Worship Schedule

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

Sundays at 10:00am
Morning Prayer &
Monthly Holy
Communion

Wednesdays at 7:30pm
Celtic Contemplative
Prayer

Sunday School & Youth
Group
as announced



The Rev. William Cruse
Priest in Charge

The Rev. Richard Louis
Rector Emeritus

Drew Kreismer
Organist/Choirmaster

Meg Acer
Parish Administrator

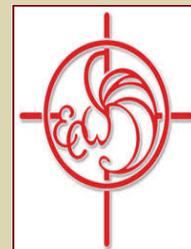
Megan Kendall
Youth Missioner

John Yager
Sexton

ECW

Episcopal Church Women

St. John's ECW will continue our weekly Zoom get-togethers on Mondays from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. If you are interested in having an informal chat with other women, just join us whenever you are able. There is no program or agenda. All women of the parish are warmly invited. The Zoom link is in This Week at St. John's.



Sacristy Progress

