



JOURNAL

April 2021

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The Episcopal Diocese of
East TN
<https://www.dioet.org/>

Worship Schedule

Sundays
9:00 Sunday Morning Worship
St. John's Episcopal Church
Zoom/Facebook page

Tuesday
5:30 pm Tuesday Evening
Worship, Prayer with Litany
for Healing
Zoom Meeting contact
office@stjohnstn.org for
information

Thursday
10:00 am Worship Morning
Prayer
Zoom Meeting contact
office@stjohnstn.org for
information

Dear Friends in Christ,

Just an eight-letter word. Begins with "a" and ends with "a". We refrain from using this word and fast from hearing this word in Lent as we walk the way of the cross and head toward the sorrows of Holy Week. This beloved and powerful word is an Easter word and awaits the joy of Easter morning, when God opens the grave, and Jesus rises from the dead, and Love conquers death.

"I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people," said the Lord God. More than any other year we will have a vivid sense of our own participation in the resurrection as we begin to "open up" and emerge from the pandemic. Our exclamations of Easter joy will have extra layers of meaning and emotion.

Yet even in the high anticipation of our first in-person worship services, and amidst the joy, many of us may still experience mixed feelings and a range of emotions. Some of us will still feel very anxious. Or overwhelmed. After a year of extra stress and fear, the prospect of adjusting to more big changes – even good ones – can seem daunting.

Some of us are emotionally drained and depleted. Or even shy and uncertain after a year of isolation. We may need to reacquaint ourselves with each other. And some of us are very disappointed that we can't get back in the nave and back to fully normal more quickly.

But we're moving in the right direction—thanks be to God! We can pray and celebrate together in body and spirit, and in God's creation, during the Easter season. *And* we have so much more to look forward to in the months ahead.

"Opening up" is joyful but we've never done anything like this before. So be generous with each other and yourself and your vestry. We may not figure everything out perfectly and immediately, but we will figure it out together, and with grace, and thanksgiving.

And the sound of "A _____ a!" will be ringing in our ears.

Faithfully,

Laura



HE IS NOT HERE

He has risen

JUST AS HE SAID

Matthew 28:6



Senior Warden's Report

I have never been shy about speaking up during a committee meeting. I am a talker. During Lent I subscribe to the free daily email devotional from Living Compass called Living Well Through Lent. Every day as I read the email, I am convinced that this year's theme of "Listening With all Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind" was chosen just for me. Practicing intentional listening literally chose me as a Lenten discipline, and it has made me very aware of the people in my life who are already great listeners. The late television talk show host Larry King once said, "I remind myself every morning: Nothing I say this day will teach me anything. So, if I'm going to learn, I must do it by listening." New and exciting listening opportunities have been created for me and all members of the vestry by the development of the liaison positions. The role of the liaison is to support existing ministry leaders and listen to learn about new ministries. Please reach out to your Vestry members in their liaison role as you feel led to participate in an existing ministry or to create a new ministry.

Bill Archer (Junior Warden)	Building and Grounds	(william_archer@comcast.net)
Emily Bidgood	Children, Youth and Adult Formation	(epbidgood@gmail.com)
Wesley Buerkle	Stewardship	(buerkle@etsu.edu)
Owen Grosserode	Children and Youth Formation	(owengrosserode@yahoo.com)
Ed Jordan	Hospitality	(shundra77@icloud.com)
Jackie Mabrey (Senior Warden)	Communication and Evangelism	(jackiemabrey@gmail.com)
Rebecca Paluzzi	Worship	(paluzzir@etsu.edu)
Rita Plemmons	Pastoral Care	(retp62@gmail.com)
Joe Ripeppi	Outreach	(jpr5600@yahoo.com)

St. John's YTD Financial Report

	Feb 2020 Actual YTD	Feb 2021 Actual YTD	Feb YTD Budget	Variance YTD 2021 Vs 2020	Variance YTD Vs Budget
Plate Offerings	\$1,111.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$1,111.53	\$0.00
Pledge Payments	\$98,053.10	\$52,704.66	\$64,100.00	-\$45,348.44	-\$11,395.34
Prior Pledges	\$285.56	\$1,685.00	\$400.00	\$1,399.44	\$1,285.00
Contributions	\$13,514.00	\$10,540.60	\$4,700.00	-\$2,973.40	\$5,840.60
Misc. Income	\$180.00	\$42.00	\$158.34	-\$138.00	-\$116.34
Prepaid Pledges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$113,144.19	\$64,972.26	\$69,358.34	-\$48,171.93	-\$4,386.08
Total Expense	\$58,910.93	\$46,084.63	\$51,879.76	-\$12,826.30	-\$5,795.13
Net Income	\$54,233.26	\$18,887.63	\$17,478.58	-\$35,345.63	\$1,409.05

Attention Graduates!

You made it through this historic year! Now Graduation is just around the corner and your St. John's family wants an opportunity to recognize your achievement. **Please let us know who – you or your family member – is graduating in 2021.** Send the graduate's name, picture, school they are graduating from, major if applicable, parent / family names, and future plans for the graduate. Send your information to Lynn McCoy lotnta@gmail.com or to the church office.

CONVERSATIONS AND COMPLINE, March 2020 - 2021

For those of you who have attended regularly and for those who have dipped in and out of the Wednesday evening classes over the last year, thank you. The offerings and your attendance have helped keep our community of St. John's alive and learning. Thanks to all who have offered education for us, including Lee Phillips, Beth Wiley, Chaplain Mike Woods, Lee Bidgood, and Reverend Laura. A special thanks to Emily Bidgood who has been our faithful liaison to and from the vestry. Brandon Guffey has been a particular support in helping with Zoom. Our interim rector, Canon SuzeAnne Silla, was a supporter and initiator of much of this program during her time with us. Thanks to those of you who have offered Compline to us, including Reverend Laura and Canon SuzeAnne, Joel Tramel, Lee Phillips, Gary Mabrey, and Anne Koehler.

We are currently studying Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's curriculum on "The Way of Love". The seven steps: *Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest*, can be seen as a "Rule of Life" or a daily rhythm of beginning to spend time regularly with God. This daily rhythm, in turn, helps us begin to perceive the world through the lens of "glasses" of the scripture and prayer, in which we "see the world rightly" with God's presence and activity in it.

We will take some time off for Holy Week and Easter and then will continue our progress through the seven steps. This is not a short-term, one-time offering, but a beginning of "Walking the Way of Love" as part of the "Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement". Both Presiding Bishop Curry and Bishop Brian Cole encourage us to get more acquainted and more involved "to help our beloved Episcopal Church to grow spiritually awake and more centered on Jesus" (Bishop Curry).

Here are some resources for further information:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/> There is a welcome from Presiding Bishop Curry and short videos on each of the seven steps of the "Way of Love". There are abundant printed resources online.

<https://www.churchpublishing.org/siteassets/pdf/excerpts/walking-the-way-of-love.pdf>

This is a PDF for "Walking the Way of Love" with an essay by different clergy on each of the seven steps. It is well worth reading.

Reverend Laura is forming a group to work on Adult Faith Formation. Please let us know your ideas for future offerings.

Thanks, Frances Jackson

Stations of the Cross



Children, Youth & Family Outdoor Gathering

On Sunday, April 11th at 2:30 pm all church children, youth of all ages, and their families are invited to a Priestly Play Date with Rev. Laura at Carver Park Playground, West Market Street & West Watauga Street, downtown Johnson City. This is an informal child-centric occasion to (finally) meet with Rev. Laura. We will gather at the playground to visit and play, and then move to a pavilion for snacks and a brief focused conversation about how children and youth ministry may look in the short term while opening up from COVID. Your thoughts about the future will be joyfully received.

Lenten Artwork

St. John's Youth and Children provided the artwork on the bulletins during Lent. We wanted to share the artwork for those who might not have gotten a chance to see the bulletins.

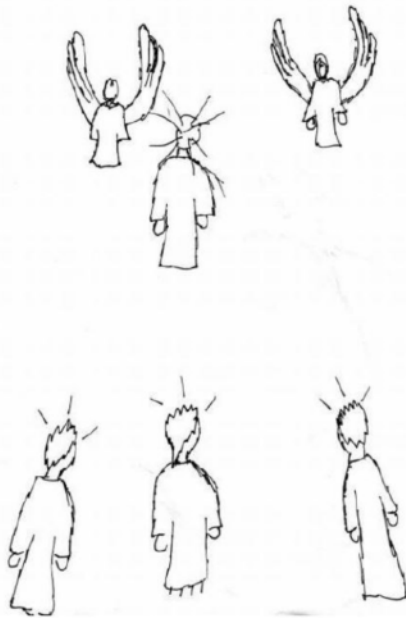
Gospel: Mark 1:9-15
Artist: Willis Bidgood



Gospel: Mark 8:31-38
Artist: Owen Grosserode



Gospel: John 2:13-22
Artist: Finn Lilavivat



Gospel: John 3:14-21
Artist: Crawford Lilavivat



Gospel: John 12:20-33
Artist: Emma Wallen

Happy April Birthday

1	Benny Baird	10	Becky Morrison	21	Martha Montgomery
2	Haynes Wilkes	11	Jan Sparks	22	Rebecca Paluzzi
3	Laura Beth Davidson	12	Bonny Stanley	23	Maria Morrill
4	Samuel Miller	12	Frances Jackson	24	SuzeAnne Silla
4	Lee Phillips	12	Rick Gordon	24	Savannah Church
5	William Morrison	15	Andy Ford	30	Chris Newby
6	Jim Hunter	19	Thomas Ward	30	Tara Thomas
6	Alison Maddux	20	Jon Lau	30	Judy Moss
7	Lisa Lange	20	Linda Webb		
7	Phyllis Tuthill	20	Jim Fakonas		



Happenings

Special events in April

Good Friday Liturgy	Fri, Apr 2	♦ 12:15 -12:45 pm	Zoom Video gathering
Stations of the Cross	Fri, Apr 2	♦ 6:30 - 7:30 pm	Church grounds. Please register with office
Easter Vigil	Sat, Apr 3	♦ 8:00 pm	Zoom Video gathering
Easter Sunday Services	Sun, Apr 4	♦	
Service of the Word with Holy Communion		9:00 am	Zoom video gathering
In-person liturgy with Holy Communion		11:15 am	Harris Pavilion in Rotary Park
Flowering of the Easter Cross	Sun, Apr 4	♦ 11:00 am	Harris Pavilion in Rotary Park
Church office closed	Mon, Apr 5	♦	
Morning Worship	Sun Apr 11, 18 & 25	♦ 9:00 am	Zoom video gathering
In-person worship service	Sun, Apr 11 & 25	11:00 am	Harris Pavilion in Rotary Park
Children, Youth & Family Outdoor Gathering	Sun, Apr 11	♦ 2:30 pm	Carver Park Playground, West Market & Watauga
Virtual Coffee Hour	Sundays	♦ 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering following Morning Prayer

Monthly Scheduled Meetings

Finance Committee (online meeting)	Tue. Apr 20	♦ TBA	Zoom video gathering
Vestry Meeting (online meeting)	Tue. Apr 20	♦ 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering

Weekly Scheduled Meetings

Sunday School for Children (K - 6th)	Sundays	♦ 10:30 am	Zoom video gathering.
EfM	Sundays	♦ 5:00 - 7:30 pm	Zoom video gathering.
Tuesday Worship, Evening Prayer with Litany for Healing	Tuesdays	♦ 5:30 pm	Zoom video gathering.
Centering Prayer Group (on line meeting)	Tuesdays	♦ 6:00 pm	Zoom video gathering. Zoom meeting opens at 5:45, meeting starts at 6:00 pm.
Morning Prayer (Rite I)	Thursdays	♦ 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering.

Are these yours?

These earrings were found in a communion bag returned to the church recently. If they are yours please **contact Jean Archer at 423-283-7639**



Easter Day Schedule

9:00 am Online via Zoom
Service of the Word with Holy Communion

11:15 am In-person liturgy with Holy Communion
at Rotary Park in Harris Pavilion
1001 North Broadway Street, Johnson City

There will be a limit of 50 people for the in-person service. Masks will be required and social distancing protocols will be in place. If you plan to attend in-person, please make your reservation by calling the church office(423-926-8141) or emailing at office@stjohnstn.org. (Currently there are no available spaces to attend the Easter in-person services as we have reached our sign-up limit!)

Flowering of the Easter Cross

If you are attending the in-person Easter service, you are encouraged to bring flowers from your yard to place on the Easter Cross.



Worship in Easter Season

Tentatively on April 11 and 25th, we will continue having one service on-line via Zoom at 9:00 am and an in-person service at 11:15 am at Rotary Park in Harris Pavilion. **Communion will be served each week only at the outdoor in-person service. Reservations will need to be made in the week prior to the service.**

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JOHNSON CITY, TN
PERMIT NO. 176

