



The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

Transfiguring Times

Thursday, April 9, 2026

The Rector's Metamorpho-News

Dearly transfigured people of God,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! Easter is not over. In the Christian Church, we celebrate a whole Paschal season. It starts on Easter Sunday and ends with Pentecost Sunday. This whole season reminds us about the story of God's people and the birth and rebirth of new life. At the center of our Christian faith, is the newness of life that we are gifted through Jesus Christ. I was recently talking to parents my age whose son loves dinosaurs. I was thinking about how the symbols for the Resurrection are birds' eggs and the Phoenix. The eggs represent new birth and the phoenix of course rises from its own ashes and has been a symbol of the Resurrection since the earliest days of Christianity. In many ways, birds are an especially helpful metaphor for Resurrection.

We know that the dinosaurs did not disappear entirely; they did not all go extinct. Surprised? In 1964, a scientist from Yale discovered a theropod dinosaur that was remarkably like modern birds. In the 1990s, feathered dinosaurs were discovered in China. It turns out that, scientifically, birds are the surviving dinosaurs. Today, all birds are categorized by scientists as "avian dinosaurs." Most of you have probably heard of the famous line from "Jurassic Park," the line "life finds a way." This is as true spiritually as it is scientifically. The dinosaurs did not all die; their legacy survived and has thrived in the form of their avian dinosaur/bird descendents.

A particularly fascinating case is the Hoatzin, a tropical bird found along the Amazon and Orinoco rivers in South America, who are the only surviving member of their genus. These incredible birds hatch with claws! They are able to climb using these claws on their wing digits just like Archaeopteryx the first "bird"-like dinosaur discovered.

Perhaps, this makes it even more fitting that the symbols of Resurrection in Christianity have long been the egg and the Phoenix. The birds really did rise from the ashes and take to the skies. They emerged from the ashes of the asteroid and grew up alongside mammals and modern reptiles to repopulate the earth. God's promise to us is Resurrection and eternal life. We face challenges. One day, we will die on this earth. However, we will live forever through Jesus Christ and one day be bodily resurrected. Jesus died on the cross so that he could rise from the tomb. The tomb is empty and life is full. Happy Easter for this whole season!

Blessings,

Fr. Caleb



First: Romanian Easter eggs, Next/Left: Archaeopteryx - the first "bird", Last/Right: Hoatzin baby with "dinosaur" claws.

Fr. Caleb deeply values the connection with the members of our congregation and welcomes your input. Whether it's through office or home visits, phone calls, or email, he is here for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any needs, or concerns, or simply want to chat.

This Weekend

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

8:00am Rite I (spoken contemplative service, approximately 1 hour)

Please see the Order of Worship in the pews or [click here](#)

10:00am Rite II (choir service, approximately 1 hour 15 minutes)

Please see the Order of Worship in the pews or [click here](#)

[YouTube](#) link (for streaming the 10:00am service)

OR

[Facebook](#) link (for streaming the 10:00am service)

Please join us after each service in the Fellowship Hall for coffee/tea, snacks and conversation.

NOTE: Homemade treats and baked goods are always welcome too!



Altar Guild

Saturday, April 11 | 9:30am

Sacristy

Altar Guild members care for the altar, vestments, vessels and linens under the direction of the Rector. They prepare the altar and worship space for services including weekend worship, weddings, funerals and

baptisms. Contact [Barbara Press](#) to volunteer or to learn more.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Saturday, April 11 | 10:30am

Fellowship Hall

All women who attend Transfiguration are included in ECW. The group meets the first Saturday of each month to plan their projects and activities with a potluck lunch following the meeting. For questions, contact [Peg Wier](#).



Second Sunday Offering

Sunday, April 12 | 8:00am & 10:00am services

April's collection will be [Lutheran Social Services of SW](#). It helps children and their parents build strong, self-reliant foundations through fun and educational activities designed to support growth and learning.

 **Spring**
MATCH CAMPAIGN

A generous donor has gifted us with a \$15,000 donation. We would like to match that gift with all proceeds going to the Transfiguration operating fund. That means every gift toward this campaign will be doubled until we reach the full match. This is a wonderful chance to stretch our giving and strengthen our ministries. Please designate "Match Campaign" in the memo.

TRANSFIGURATIONMESA.ORG



Food Collection

Superstition Community Food Bank

Collected Weekly



Suggested donations for this week are:
canned meat and peanut butter. For next
week: canned vegetables, instant potatoes
and rice. You can place your donations in the
basket at the back of the church or in the bin
in the Fellowship Hall.

Coming Up

The Week Ahead at Transfiguration

Tuesday, April 14

8:30am Trekking on Tuesday
4:30pm Vestry Meeting
7:00pm Compline

Wednesday, April 15

9:00am Lord's Soup Kitchen
9:30am Morning Prayer
7:00pm Compline

Thursday, April 16

10:00am Catechism: Episcopalian
101
11:45 Thursday Morning
Eucharist
6:00pm Catechism: Episcopalian
101
7:00pm Compline

Friday, April 17

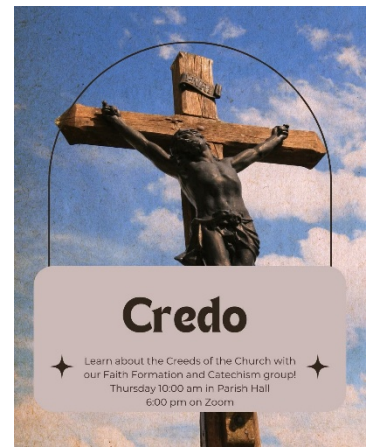
10:00am Book Club

Saturday, April 18

8:00am ECM Meeting

Sunday, April 19

8:00am Sunday Service
10:00am Sunday Service w/music
ECM Breakfast after both services



Catechism: Episcopalian 101

Thursday, March 12 - Thursday, April 16 | 10:00am

During Bible Study & Coffee Hour

Fellowship Hall

OR

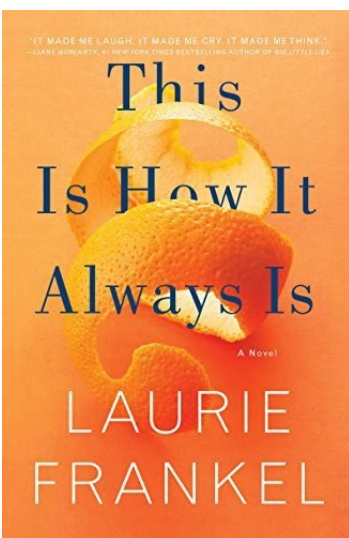
Thursday, March 12 - Thursday, April 16 | 6:00pm

via Zoom

Would you like to learn more about being an Episcopalian? Please join us for two options: 1) In person sessions on Thursday mornings during the Bible Study and Coffee Hour or 2) Zoom session on Thursday evenings. You're welcome to attend one, two or all sessions!

Zoom link for the Thursday evening sessions:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84488545184?pwd=8jdB9XE2iNGiJlJmlEh9vRkz1DZim8.1>



Book Club

Friday, April 17 | 10:00am AZ time

via Zoom

April's Book Club will discuss *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel. The discussion leader will be Lynn Graff and the Goodreads rating is 4.28. [Click here](#) for the book review.

This is a novel about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family. And it's about the ways this is how it always is: Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again, parenting is always a leap into the

unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts, children grow but not always according to plan. And families with secrets don't get to keep them forever.

ECM Breakfast

Sunday, April 19 | 9:00am & 11:00am

Fellowship Hall

Please join us for a delicious home cooked breakfast after each service. More details to come!



Bible Study & Coffee Hour

Thursday, May 7 | 10:00am

Fellowship Hall

Starting May 7, join us in discovering the ethno-religious cultures of the Middle East, exploring faith communities that existed since the time of Jesus and which grew up alongside Christianity. If you follow current events, you may have heard reporters mention Mandaean, Yazidis, Zoroastrians, Alawites, Druze, and Samaritans and wonder who they are. Many of these faith communities are mentioned in the New Testament and have had an impact on shared religious traditions, including the belief that we are all descendents of Adam and Eve and/or of Abraham and his family. During this Bible Study course, we will learn about the New Testament passages describing the culture of the time, the smaller ethno-religious groups that developed near or alongside the Christian faith, and what we can learn from each other about love of God and our neighbor. You also won't want to miss out on our cultural "exchange" days when we will feature food from some of the cultures we learn about! To order the book, [click here.](#)

Icon Painting Workshop Phoenix, Arizona

Experience the unique spiritual world of the Byzantine Era through icon painting

July 20-25, 2026

All Saints of North America Orthodox Church Phoenix, Arizona



Join us on this six day intensive course under the direction of visiting master iconographer and expert instructor Theodoros Papadopoulos from Greece. This Virgin Mary icon will "come alive" as he will guide you step by step, through the ancient techniques of Byzantine Iconography. Let us journey together, discovering anew, this traditional artistic expression of theology and spirituality often called the "meeting place of the Divine". Whether you are beginner or a professional, this workshop offers the opportunity to learn or refine your techniques. It is a great opportunity for everyone to experience first hand the painting of an icon.

The schedule of courses runs daily from 9:00 am until 4:30 pm.

Your tuition fee of \$850 includes all materials including boards, pigments, brushes, etc.

Space is limited and early registration is suggested.

For information & registration visit the website
theodoreicons.com/phoenix

or contact the instructor Theodoros Papadopoulos at
theodoreicons@gmail.com

FYI

Birthday Blessings

The following parishioners are celebrating birthdays next week:

- Jo Laslo on 4/8
- Theresa Miller on 4/10
- Cynthia Helliwell on 4/11
- Oliver Zakaras on 4/11
- Annie Vernon on 4/11
- Jeremy Scherer on 4/11
- Adrian Sanchez on 4/14
- Peg Wier on 4/15



Please wish them a very happy birthday and keep them in your prayers!



Photos from Holy Week services.

Worship & Formation



Prayer and Reflection

Sundays | 7:30am & 9:30am

Parish House Chapel

As a Christian community, fellowship and prayer are among the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Please, observe quietude when entering and exiting the sanctuary for worship so that members may greet one another quietly and also pray and light candles. For those in need of and seeking silence for prayer and reflection, we are opening the Parish House Chapel before each service for prayer. Please observe silence when in the chapel so that this may be a space for those in need of silent prayer and contemplation.

Compline

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays | 7:00pm AZ time

via Zoom

Compline/Evening Prayer is held via [ZOOM](#). Meeting ID: 740-940-1419. Passcode: 514 514. Contact Barbara Press with questions at (847) 651-1396.

Morning Prayer

Wednesdays | 9:30am AZ time

via Zoom

Please join us via [ZOOM](#) to prayerfully start the day. Meeting ID: 740-940-1419. Passcode: 514 514. Contact Barbara Press at (847) 651-1396 for questions.

Bible Study & Coffee Hour

Thursdays | 10:00am

Fellowship Hall

March 12 through April 16 we are studying Catechism: Episcopalian 101. The next book that we will study can be ordered [here](#). We hope that you will join us during our highly engaging studies!

Morning Eucharist

Thursdays | 11:45am

Parish House Chapel

Please join us in a small group setting as we celebrate Holy Eucharist.

Prayer Requests

Updated Weekly

A list of those on our prayer list is posted in the Narthex. Prayers are offered up at Compline, by the Daughters of the King, and in the Sunday Services. Please contact the [Church Office](#) with your requests and updates.

Ministries



Altar Flowers

Donations requested for weekly arrangements

Altar flowers can be dedicated in honor of special life events such as birthdays and anniversaries, in memory of a loved one or as a general thanksgiving. If you would like to donate altar flowers, please sign-up on the flower sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. [Ruby Seyffert](#) will then reach out to you regarding any special requests.

Altar Guild

Saturday, April 11 | 9:30am

Sacristy

Altar Guild members care for the altar, vestments, vessels and linens under the direction of the Rector. They prepare the altar and worship space for services including weekend worship, weddings, funerals and baptisms. Contact [Barbara Press](#) to volunteer or to learn more.

Episcopal Church Men (ECM)

Saturday, April 18 | 8:00am

Birdie's Bar and Grill, 500 S 80th St, Mesa

ECM is for all men at Transfiguration and they socialize and plan upcoming activities at meetings. For questions, please contact John Collins at jartcol98@gmail.com or (480) 406-

3121.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Saturday, April 11 | 10:30am

Fellowship Hall

All women who attend Transfiguration are included in ECW. The group meets the first Saturday of each month to plan their projects and activities with a potluck lunch following the meeting. For questions, contact [Peg Wier](#).

Lord's Soup Kitchen

Wednesday, April 15 | 9:00am

Fellowship Hall Kitchen

Last month this group prepared delicious 15 Bean & Ham Soup that is in the Fellowship Hall freezer. Their dedication continues to bless our community, bringing comfort and kindness with every hearty bowl of soup. Anyone wanting to volunteer for this ministry can join us this month. For questions please call Miriam Waddington at (559) 707-5810.

Stitchery Ministry

Thursday, April 9 | 1:00pm

Parish House

This group meets the second and fourth Thursday each month to knit, crochet, sew and quilt. In addition to giving to our own members in need, the ministry donates prayer shawls and other hand stitched items to hospitals, nursing homes, shelters and other charitable organizations. No previous experience required - the group can help you learn how to knit, crochet, etc. Contact [Linda Jo Johnson](#) if you have questions.

Sunday Morning Ministry

8:00am & 10:00am services

Sanctuary

We are looking for committed individuals to serve in several very important roles during both Sunday services:

- Acolytes
- Chalice Bearers
- Greeters
- Readers
- Digital Ministry (service streaming)
- Offering Counters

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at (480) 986-1145 or email officetransfig@gmail.com.

Trekking on Tuesday

Tuesday, April 14 | 8:30am

Apache Junction Library

Meet at the library and we will walk for about an hour on desert trails behind the library. Please wear sturdy walking shoes and bring a bottle of water. This will be our last trek until fall.

Contact Lynn Graff if you have any questions at 480-201-2939.

Giving



Second Sunday Offering

Sunday, April 12 | 8:00am & 10:00am services

April's collection will be [Lutheran Social Services of SW](#). It helps children and their parents build strong, self-reliant foundations through fun and educational activities designed to support growth and learning.

Online Giving

Pledging and financial gifts to the Church of The Transfiguration can be made using the following methods:

- For credit card or ACH gifts, you can use the QR code on the back of the weekly bulletin or this link: <https://onrealm.org/EpiscopalChurchTransfiguration/Give>
- If you prefer to use Zelle via your banking app, you can find the church via our email address: officetransfig@gmail.com

Planned Giving

Did you know that you can donate to the Transfiguration Endowment Fund today? You don't

have to wait to do this until your Last Will & Testament or Trust is executed. To learn more, please [click here](#) for an informational brochure or contact the [Church Office](#).

Financial Report

Click [here](#) to see the Year End Transfiguration financial report (starting on p. 15). Hard copies are also available in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please contact the Church Office.

Around the Diocese



2026 Annual Bishop's Appeal

Across Arizona, lives are being transformed—youth are growing in faith, leaders are answering God's call, and communities are coming together in powerful ways. And it's all made possible through you.

This year, we invite you to be part of something bigger. To give with purpose. To help strengthen and expand the ministries that are shaping our diocese every day.

So we are inviting you to join us as we Grow in Faith, Give in Love. Your gift helps make the love of God incarnate in our communities and helps Episcopalians weave the Fabric of Faith.

[Donate Today!](#)

Diocesan Publication

Please contact the [church office](#) if you would like to receive the *Arizona Episcopalian*, a free quarterly publication from the Diocese. To sign up for the weekly Diocesan email *E-Pistle* click [here](#).



Who We Are



The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration is an open and affirming Christian community in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.

We acknowledge the living culture of the Salt River Pima and Maricopa people, the traditional custodians of the land we stand on, and pay tribute to the unique role they play in the life of this region.

Clergy and Staff

[Fr. John Caleb Collins](#), Rector

Office (480) 986-1145 or Mobile (480) 980-1981 (call or text)

[Janice Scalzo](#), Office Administrator

Judy Barnhart, Music Director

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am – 1pm

Office Volunteers

Anita Joy

Ruby Seyffert

[Janet Krahn](#) (Sunday Morning Ministry scheduling)

Office volunteers: Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-12noon

Building & Grounds

Darrell White, Sexton

Church Leadership

Executive Committee

[Fr. John Caleb Collins](#), Rector

[Wayne Smith](#), Senior Warden (480) 245-9310

[Doug Wynn](#), Junior Warden

[Tom Kevern](#), Treasurer

Jane Stoneback, Clerk

Ruby Seyffert, Deputy Warden

Janice Scalzo, Office Administrator

Vestry Members

Ron Gurnee

Anita Joy

Janet Krahn

Jo Laslo

Barbara Press

Sharon Smorynski

Social & Digital Ministry

[Thomas Blum](#), Website

[Fr. John Caleb Collins](#), Facebook page

[Mary Hovden](#), Transfiguring Times (please send stories, announcements, photos, etc. to

Mary [here](#))

[Peg Wier](#), Sunday worship service streaming

[Newsletter Sign Up](#)