

**WELCOME TO
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
✠
CAPITOL HILL**

ST. MARK'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mark's is an open community, welcoming people wherever they are on their faith journey. We celebrate the gifts of God that empower us to engage boldly in the struggles of life and to care for others with love, justice, and compassion.



**THE 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 16, 2018**

**5:00 PM CONTEMPLATIVE
EUCCHARIST**

Preacher & Presider
The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

Cell Phones – Please turn off your cell phone or other electronic devices at any time you are in the Nave.

Hearing – Infrared headsets providing amplified sound are in the tract racks by the doors, or ask an usher.

Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church ✠ Capitol Hill



The Parish Calendar is Online at www.stmarks.net/connect/calendar

Restrooms and water fountains are available in the foyer and on the lower level.

Lost & Found is managed by our Parish Administrator. Please contact James (202-543-0053, ext. 306) to see if your item has been found or to turn in an item.

December 9, 2018

Attendance:	319
Pledge & Plate collection:	\$13,035.53

The Advent/Christmas Wreath, which was given to St. Mark's by Scilla Adams in loving memory of her father, Colonel Neil Ramsay, was hand-forged by Richard A. Martin, a metal sculpture in Alexandria, Virginia. This work is made of steel with solid-link chains and hammered drip pans, painted black and measuring three feet in diameter, with a cross hanging beneath the central candle



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our Christmas Eve and Day Schedule can be found on page 11.

9:00 am Holy Eucharist (*Family Eucharist is celebrated the second Sunday of most months*)

9:00 am Children's Chapel (*not offered when Family Eucharist is celebrated at 9:00 am*)

10:00 am Sermon Seminar

11:15 am Holy Eucharist

5:00 pm Contemplative Eucharist

We formally begin the worship service with the Prelude, a musical offering designed to bring us together for worship that allows for quiet reflection before the service begins. Please respect this time by refraining from conversations in the Nave as much as possible. While greeting each other is important, we ask that you do so outside the Nave or near the doors so that others can have quiet time.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

LIGHTING THE ALTAR AND WREATH CANDLES

The congregation is invited to observe silence as the wreath and altar candles are lit.

INSTALLATION OF THE ICON

Each week, we are installing an icon written by Tracy Councill. They will remain on the Rood Screen during Advent. Tracy invites you to share your thoughts and reflections on the season of Advent on the blue and cream cards attached to the walls on either side of the nave.

God, who reveals your love throughout creation and calls us to reflect that love in our own lives: We bless this icon of Julian of Norwich in the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity.

May it indeed be a blessing to us, reminding us to seek you in each moment of our lives. Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

A voice cries out: In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

A period of silence is observed.

COLLECT

God be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray:

God for whom we wait and watch, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son; may we listen when a prophet speaks your word, and obey. Give us courage to speak the truth—even to the point of suffering. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

The people sit.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

The people stand as able.

THE GOSPEL Luke 3:7-18

The Gospel of Jesus according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance.

Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I

baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of Jesus.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people sit.

HOMILY

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

AFFIRMATION

We believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Sarah, Rebecca, and Rachel, who welcomes the stranger, journeys with us through life, and leads us to new beginnings.

We believe in the God of Moses, who frees us from oppression, who guides us through the deserts in our lives, and helps us find refuge in the wilderness.

We believe in the God of the prophets, who calls for justice in our land and cares for the poor.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who brings the Gospel to us, who is God's unconditional love for everyone.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who forms and molds us into God's image, who sends us out to serve God and the whole creation, who moves us to act with love and hope.

A period of silence is observed.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, as we enter this season of preparation and begin a new church year, we cry out from the wilderness of our confusion.

Jesus's limitless love and John's prophetic sight call us to find a path through the darkness that engulfs us. Inspire us to make your church a beacon of light in a dark and lonely world, that we may speak the truth of your love with boldness and courage. God, in our darkness,

Light our way.

John's voice crying in the wilderness calls us to build a society that cares for everyone. Inspire us and the leaders of this nation to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and John, to overturn the power that creates suffering, and to put to death the false saviors of anger and tribalism. God, in our darkness,

Light our way.

Elizabeth, pregnant with John, proclaimed the power of Jesus still in Mary's womb. Remind us to care for your creation, still pregnant with so many possibilities, and yet threatened by our negligence. God, in our darkness,

Light our way.

Mary's song calls us to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things. Instill in us the faith, courage, and wisdom to be your hands in this city, feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, and healing the sick. God, in our darkness,

Light our way.

In Mary's pregnant expectation, we find hope. Draw all those who have died closer to your peace and love, and comfort all who mourn for loved ones lost. God, in our darkness,

Light our way.

The people are invited to offer prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud, at this time. You may choose to conclude by saying, "this is my prayer," to which the congregation will respond: "Amen."

Together let us pray:

Creator, you give us light. Jesus our brother, you show us how to care for all. Holy Spirit, you give us the faith and power to work to create your kingdom. Using these gifts, let us shine forth your light and love in all we do.

Amen.

CONFESSION

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned. I will confess my sins to the Holy One, I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

Silence

God forgives and heals us.

We need your healing, merciful God: give us true repentance. Some sins are plain to us; some escape us, some we cannot face. Forgive us; set us free to hear your word to us; set us free to serve you.

God forgives you. Forgive others; forgive yourself.

Silence

Through Christ, God has put away our sin: let us approach our God in peace.
Amen.

THE PEACE

And so: may the peace of the Incarnate One be always with you!
And also with you.

All, one with another, exchange a sign of peace.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please limit announcements to one minute or less.

GREETING

ELECTRONIC OFFERING

*Text "stmarks20003" to 73256 to give to St. Mark's using text messaging.
There may be a slight delay and then you will receive a reply text which will guide
you through the initial set up.*



THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

God is present here.

God is always with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Holy One.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we proclaim:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory;
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;
Hosanna in the highest!

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

He yearned to draw all the world to himself, yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice:

Incarnate God, reveal yourself to us that we might reflect your loving light.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with Mary, Mark, Elizabeth, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

AMEN.

Please note that during the season of Advent, we will pray with the contemporary translation of the Lord's Prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as Jesus taught us, let us pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us,
Therefore let us keep the feast!
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil,
But with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth; Alleluia!

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We recognize this as God's table set before us and for all and this bread and wine as God's food for us and for all. Therefore whoever we are, from wherever we have come, and whatever we believe,
All are welcome and invited to receive. Amen!

THE COMMUNION

Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available; please make your needs known to the minister.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Blessed be God who calls us together,

Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

Praise to God who is revealed in love.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

Accept our thanks for all you have done. Our hands were empty, and you have filled them.

Amen.

THE BLESSING

Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And now, the Blessing of the One, Holy, and undivided Trinity be with you this day and always.

Amen!

DISMISSAL

Send us out, O God, with tenderheartedness, to touch an ordinary everyday world with the promise of your holiness.

May we carry your love out to the world!

POSTLUDE TBD



Liturgical Leaders and Worship Participants

Verger

Jennifer Cate



*Following the service, please join us for Holy Happy Hour,
at which we share conversation, food and drink.*

Schedule of Christmas Services

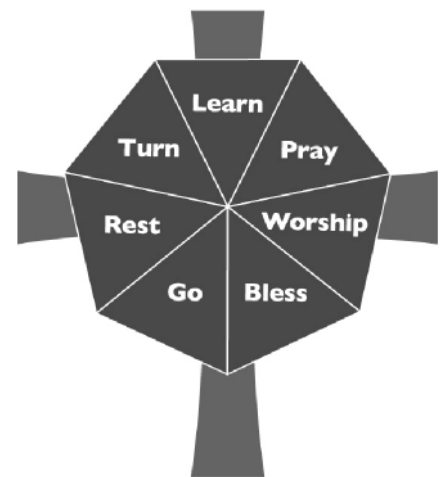
Sunday, December 23	9 AM	Advent IV Eucharist
	11:15 AM	Advent IV Eucharist
	5 PM	Advent IV Eucharist
Monday, December 24	4 PM	Christmas Eve Pageant & Holy Eucharist
	10 PM	Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist
Tuesday, December 25	10 AM	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist
Sunday, December 30	10 AM	Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist
	5 PM	Holy Eucharist



Season of Epiphany Sermon Series: Following the Way of Love

A Preaching Series by the Reverends Michele Morgan and Scott Lipscomb

January 6th	Introduction to the Way of Love
January 13th	Turn
January 20th	Rest
January 27th	Learn
February 3rd	Go
February 10th	Pray
February 17th	Bless
February 24th	Worship
March 3rd	Following the Way of Love



THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

The deep roots of our Christian tradition offer us a path to grow more deeply with Jesus Christ at the center of our lives so that we can bear witness to his way of love in and for the world. For centuries, monastic communities have shaped their lives around rhythms and disciplines for following Jesus together. Such a pattern is known as a “Rule of Life.” *The Way of Love: Practices for Jesus-Centered Life* was developed by our Presiding Bishop, the Right Reverend Michael Curry, to outline a Rule for the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. Throughout the season of Epiphany, the Reverends Michele Morgan and Scott Lipscomb will lead a preaching series reflecting on Bishop Curry’s proposed rule to ask how we can apply Jesus’s wisdom to our lives today.

The Advent Vestments and Hangings, made by Tracy Councill and Doris Burton, were a gift of the St. Mark's Arts Council in 2002. The design themes are from Isaiah. One chasuble, taken from the prophecies about a new Jerusalem, is intended to suggest anyone/everyone's journey as lit by the Star of Bethlehem. The other chasuble represents the Jesse Tree: a dead stump putting forth living branches that become a home for the spirit of God.

The chalice veil repeats the Jesse Tree image and incorporates the star/cross from the chasuble. The presider's stole introduces the theme of swords made into plowshares, here represented by a disused sword overtaken by morning glory vines, which symbolize love. The pulpit falls illustrate four images of the Peaceable Kingdom: a child playing around the adder's den; the lion and lamb together; swords turning into plowshares; and justice for all people.

Two stoles and the bread cover, woven by Doris Burton, are reminiscent of the homespun fabrics commonplace in the Holy Land. They include pink threads to acknowledge Advent III, Gaudete Sunday.



Liturgy Request

At St. Mark's, we frequently change the liturgy (the language we use during our worship service). Our goal is to use language that reflects our common effort to put into words our relationship with God. In order to keep the liturgy truly alive and life giving, we need your input. Please feel free to contact the clergy at any time to discuss the liturgy and how the words we say affect you.

Acknowledgements

The Collect, Confession, Blessing, and Post-Communion Prayer: *The Book of Common Prayer* of the Anglican Church of New Zealand, adapted. The Creed: Andreas Wagner, adapted. Eucharistic Prayer, *Enriching Our Worship*, volume 1, adapted. Prayers of the People: Tracy Councill, Randy Marks, and Scott Lipscomb. Dismissal: Ann Weems.

Notes:

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill



301 A Street, SE
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202-543-0053 (phone)
202-546-3695 (fax)
www.stmarks.net

Office Directory

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan, Rector	michele@stmarks.net
The Reverend Scott Lipscomb, Assistant Rector	scott@stmarks.net
The Reverend Cindy Dopp, Deacon	cindy@stmarks.net
Jeff Kempskie, Director of Music	jeff@stmarks.net
Caroline McReynolds-Adams, Director of Youth & Family Ministries	caroline@stmarks.net
Patricia Braley, Finance Manager	patricia@stmarks.net
James Rostron, Parish Administrator	parishadmin@stmarks.net
Katherine Philipson, Bulletin Coordinator	bulletin@stmarks.net
Marcelo Martinez, Boys & Girls Choir Director	bgcdirector@stmarks.net

Adjunct Clergy: The Reverend Patricia Catalano

The Vestry

Senior Warden	Nora Howell seniorwarden@stmarks.net
Junior Warden	Kenn Allen juniorwarden@stmarks.net
Class of '19	Stephanie Deutsch, Thia Hamilton, Beth Mahood
Class of '20	Tracy Councill, Jim Brooks, Alix Pereira
Class of '21	Christina Herman, Brandon Dunn Knight, Amber Macdonald
Officers	Martha Huizenga, <i>Treasurer</i> Mary Anderson Cooper, <i>Register</i> Rosemary Harold, <i>Counsel</i>

Diocesan Delegates

Cecilia Monahan Jim Steed Peter Nye

Cycle of Prayer

In the Diocese of Washington

St. Thomas' Church, DC
St. Thomas' Church, P.G. County, and the Chapel of the Incarnation

Anglican Communion

(Rwanda) The Rt Revd Augustin Ahimana

Parish Prayer List

Robin Blair • Pamela Blumgart • Joseph Boone • J. Richard Brown • Jack Burton
Tony Cogswell Milan Das • Mary Ellison • David Glaze • Gideon Johnson • Bill Jones
Lina Marks • Nat Marks • Taylor Emerson Marks • Jim Meek • Rick Rutherford
Carol Roman • Chryl Smith • Fred Taylor Linda Wade

Parishioners and Family Members serving in the military

Vincent Alcazar • Burr Barton
Clint Billings • P. J. Boehm • Micheal Boone • Preston Brooks • Todd Daniels
Gregory DuBow • Stephen Dannenmaier • Jason Earnest • Benjamin Keltz
Kurt Hansen • Joshua Russo



Welcome Guests!

We'd like to get to know you better!

We invite you to fill out this page, tear it off, and drop it into the offering plate or hand it to one of the greeters as you leave. Please take the rest of this service bulletin with you, so that you can refer to the service schedule, and office directory.

We hope you feel at home with us. If you have questions, please speak with the clergy or one of the greeters after the service. You can also call the office at any time and we will be happy to help you in any way we can.

Thank you for visiting St. Mark's today.

Go in peace and return often!

After completing, please remove this page and place in the offering plate or give to a greeter.

I attended: _____ 9 am Holy Eucharist
 _____ 10 am Sermon Seminar
 _____ 11:15 am Holy Eucharist
 _____ 5 pm Contemplative Eucharist
 _____ Special (wedding, funeral, etc.)

On December 16, 2018

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone No. _____

Zip Code _____

I am interested in learning more about:

- _____ Volunteering during Worship (Usher, Lay Server, Altar Guild, etc.)
- _____ Baptism (child, adult)
- _____ Getting married at St. Mark's
- _____ Music (choir, lessons)
- _____ Children/youth classes & programs
- _____ Adult classes
- _____ Senior programs/activities
- _____ Outreach/community service
- _____ Environmental issues
- _____ Yoga classes
- _____ Dance classes
- _____ St. Mark's Players (theatrical productions)

Would you like to be contacted by a clergyperson? _____ Yes _____ No

Newcomers! Join us the *first Sunday* of each month in Baxter Hall on the main level 10:45 - 11:15.

You can stay up to date on St. Mark's news by signing up online for the weekly Gospel e-newsletter at www.stmarks.net/contact-us/. If you'd like to join the St. Mark's Yahoo group, please contact Raiford Gaffney at rgaffneydc@gmail.com and ask to be added.