

**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 FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS
December 29, 2019**

**5:00 PM CONTEMPLATIVE
EUCHARIST**

Rector

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

Deacon

The Reverend Cindy Dopp

Interim Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Caleb Nelson Amaker

Guest Organist

John Widmann

Cell Phones – Please silence cell phones and other electronic devices any time you are in the Nave.

Hearing Assist – Set your hearing aid to the 'T' setting or see an usher for a headset.

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



To view the **parish calendar online**, go to our homepage www.stmarks.net and click "Calendar" at the top of the page. **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 22, 2019

Attendance:	251
Pledge & Plate collection:	\$37,863.70

About the Refugee Madonna, *through the hand of Tracy Council*

The plight of displaced persons all over the globe is very much on my mind and heart--not least of all the families and children separated and detained at our Southern border. I designed this icon casting Mary and Jesus as refugees, fleeing Herod's genocide. The inscription is from Jesus, teaching us that when we care for any who are poor, hungry and displaced we also care for God our Creator and all that is holy on this earth.



Sunday Worship Schedule

- 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

OPENING SENTENCES

I bring you good news of great joy!
A Savior has been born to you! Alleluia!
Unto us a child is born!
The child is a gift! Alleluia!

A period of silence is observed.

BIDDING PRAYER

Dear People of the Incarnate God: as we hear again the story of God's loving purposes from the beginning of creation, may we find that peace is born among us, embodied in frail flesh like our own. With hope in the power of that miracle, we pray that this child Jesus, whose birth we celebrate awakens in us a longing and a will to heal our broken and hurting world. We pray that the peace proclaimed by angels to the shepherds in the field will be realized in every place of war and on every violent street, at every border and in the capital of every nation.

Come now, O God of love. Reconcile your people and make us one body.

The people sit.

THE FIRST LESSON *The Creation* by James Weldon Johnson (adapted)

And God stepped out on space, and looked around and said: I'm lonely—I'll make me a world. And far as the eye of God could see darkness covered everything, blacker than a hundred midnights down in a cypress swamp.

Then God smiled, and the light broke, and the darkness rolled up on one side, and the light stood shining on the other, and God said: That's good! Then God reached out and took the light in God's hands, and God rolled the light around until the sun was made; and set that sun a-blazing in the heavens. And the light that was left from making the sun God gathered it up in a shining ball and flung it against the darkness, spangling the night with the moon and stars. Then down between the darkness and the light God hurled the world; and God said: That's good!

Then Godself stepped down—and the sun was on God's right hand, and the moon was on the left; the stars were clustered about God's head, and the earth was under God's feet. And God walked, and where God trod God's footsteps hollowed the valleys out and bulged the mountains up.

God stopped and looked and saw that the earth was hot and barren. So God stepped over to the edge of the world and spat out the seven seas—God batted her eyes, and the

lightnings flashed—She clapped her hands, and the thunders rolled—and the waters above the earth came down, the cooling waters came down.

Then the green grass sprouted, and the little red flowers blossomed, the pine tree pointed his finger to the sky, and the oak spread out his arms, the lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the ground, and the rivers ran down to the sea; And God smiled again, and the rainbow appeared, and curled itself around her shoulder.

Then God raised his arm and he waved his hand over the sea and over the land, and she said: Bring forth! Bring forth! And quicker than God could drop his hand, fishes and fowls and beasts and birds swam the rivers and the seas, roamed the forests and the woods, and split the air with their wings. And God said: That's good!

Then God walked around, and God looked around on all that she had made. He looked at his sun, and she looked at her moon, and she looked at her little stars; He looked on his world with all its living things, and God said: I'm lonely still.

Then God sat down—on the side of a hill where she could think; by a deep, wide river he sat down; with her head in her hands, God thought and thought, till he thought: I'll make me a man! Up from the bed of the river God scooped the clay; and by the bank of the river she knelt her down; and there the great God Almighty Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky, Who flung the stars to the most far corner of the night, Who rounded the earth in the middle of his hand; this great God, like a mother bending over her baby, knelt down in the dust toiling over a lump of clay till he shaped it in his own image;

Then into it he blew the breath of life, and human became a living soul.

Amen. Amen.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

THE SECOND LESSON Isaiah 7:10-15

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

THE THIRD LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

THE FOURTH LESSON Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

THE GOSPEL John 1:1-18

The Gospel of Jesus, according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of Jesus.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY

The Reverend Cindy Dopp

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

THE PEACE

May the peace of God be always with you!
And also with you.

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 always with us.

God has been born among us!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Incarnate One

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right and joyful to give our thankful praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. Glory to you for ever and ever. At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, God, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his love, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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!

And so, God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said:

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

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said:

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

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

God of our Ancestors: Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God who was born of Mary and who is present in our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

AMEN!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us,
Therefore let us keep the feast; alleluia, 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

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, and renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you, God's children.

Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing of God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with us now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!
Christ is born in us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please join us for light refreshments after the service.



Liturgy Request: At St. Mark's, we plan the liturgy periodically. If you would like more information on how we do this as a community, please contact Rector Michele Morgan at michele@stmarks.net.

Acknowledgements: The Collect, Prayers for an Inclusive Church by Steven Shakespeare (adapted), Blessing, The Book of Common Prayer of the Anglican Church of New Zealand, adapted. The Creed: Scott Lipscomb. Eucharistic Prayer & Dismissal, The Book of Common Prayer. Post-communion prayer, Enriching Our Worship, volume 1, adapted. Prayers of the People: Common Worship of the Church of England.

Liturgical Leaders and Worship Participants

*If you're interested in serving in the liturgy in any of the following roles, we'd love to talk to you!
For more information, contact our Rector, Michele Morgan, at michele@stmarks.net.*

Verger

Jennifer Cate





Epiphany Sermon Series: Care For Creation

Preaching Series by
The Reverends Michele Morgan & Patricia Catalano

January 12 Ecology and Creation

The Reverend Michele Morgan

January 19 Creation and Contemplation Pt. 1

Ecology of Oikos

The Reverend Patricia Catalano

January 26 Creation and the Family

The Reverend Michele Morgan

February 2 Creation and Contemplation Pt. 2:

Our Crucified Earth

The Reverend Patricia Catalano

February 9 Creation and the Incarnation

The Reverend Michele Morgan

February 16 Creation and Conversation

The Reverend Michele Morgan

February 23 Bishop Visitation

The Right Reverend Mariann Budde

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill

301 A Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

202-543-0053 (phone)
202-546-3695 (fax)
www.stmarks.net

Office Directory

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan, Rector	michele@stmarks.net
The Reverend Cindy Dopp, Deacon	cindy@stmarks.net
Jeff Kempskie, Director of Music	jeff@stmarks.net
Caleb Nelson Amaker, Interim Director of Youth & Family Ministries	youthdirector@stmarks.net
Patricia Braley, Finance Manager	patricia@stmarks.net
James Rostron, Parish Administrator	parishadmin@stmarks.net
Katherine Philipson, Bulletin Coordinator	bulletin@stmarks.net
The Reverend Patricia Catalano, Adjunct Priest	adjunct@stmarks.net
Joe Hubbard, Seminarian	seminarian@stmarks.net

The Vestry

Senior Warden	Ryan Baugh	seniorwarden@stmarks.net
Junior Warden	Jim Pittman	juniorwarden@stmarks.net
Class of '20	Tracy Councill, Jim Brooks, & Alix Pereira	
Class of '21	Christina Herman, Brandon Dunn Knight, & Amber Macdonald	
Class of '22	Andrew Stafford, Shay Waye, & Kit Arrington	
Officers	John Edwards, <i>Treasurer</i>	
	Kim Bayliss, <i>Register</i>	
	Rosemary Harold, <i>Counsel</i>	

Diocesan Delegates

Cecilia Monahan Caitlin Frazier Peter Nye

Cycle of Prayer

In the Diocese of Washington

St. John's Church, Georgetown
St. John's Preschool, Georgetown
St. John's Church, Lafayette Square
St. John's Church, Norwood
St. John's Church, Olney
St. John's Episcopal School, Olney

Anglican Communion

Pray for Gahini (Rwanda) The Rt Revd Alexis Bilindabagabo
Gahini (Rwanda) The Rt Revd Manasseh Gahima
Gambia (West Africa) The Rt Revd James Allen Yaw Odico

*In an effort to keep the prayer list up-to-date, we recently restarted the list.
Please send any names you would like to add to bulletin@stmarks.net.*

Parish Prayer List

Ben Alquiros • William Aycock • Pamela Blumgart
Mickey Bolek • Joseph Boone • Taylor Emerson • Elizabeth Fowler
Alice Gunderson • Carol Lewis • Nat Marks
Linda Wade • Mary Welker • Nell Whitman

Parishioners and Family Members serving in the military

Chase Allen Ammon • Clint Billings • Preston Brooks • Jason Earnest

Notes:

Notes:

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 29, 2019

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

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.