

**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 THIRD SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**

**December 13, 2020**

**4:50 PM GATHER**

**5:00 PM CONTEMPLATIVE  
EUCCHARIST**

**Rector**

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

**Deacon**

The Reverend Cindy Dopp

**Director of Youth & Family Ministries**

Caleb Nelson Amaker

**Director of Music**

Jeff Kempskie

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



To view the **parish calendar online**, go to our homepage [www.stmarks.net](http://www.stmarks.net) and click “Calendar” at the top of the page.

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.



## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**WELCOME**

**LIGHTING THE ALTAR AND WREATH**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

**You come to your people and set them free.**

*A period of silence is observed.*

## **PRAYER OF ADVENT HOPE AND EXPECTATION**

In this Advent of expectation keep us watchful for your action in our lives and kindle hope within us.

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in service, that the path we follow might lead us from a babe in a stable to a glimpse of your Kingdom (or Kin-dom).

Stir us, Holy One, so that we might remember that we choose our path. We can play the shepherd or the innkeeper. Give us courage and keep us accountable.

Inspire us with the light of your presence to care for the most vulnerable among us.  
**Amen.**

## **CONFESSION**

**God of all love and mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your love in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love and serve you in those we meet. Amen.**

God forgives you; forgive yourself and go in peace. Amen

## **THE COLLECT**

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son; grant that those who proclaim your word may so guide our feet into the way of peace, that we may stand with confidence before him when he comes in his glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Light and our Redeemer.**

**Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **THE GOSPEL John 1:6-8,19-28**

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

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of Jesus.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**SERMON**

The Reverend Justi Schunior

## AFFIRMATION

**We believe in God the Creator, through whom every being in heaven and on earth has life.**

**We believe in God the Son, who walks with us and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who lives in our hearts through faith and strengthens us with the power to be God's hands in the world.**

**We believe in one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen**

*A period of silence is observed.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray to the Holy one, offering all of ourselves in the hope that our connection to you and others brings us faith and hope.

Holy One, we give you thanks that you open our hearts to your presence among us. Help us to see your loving-kindness at work in the world. Emanuel, God with us,  
**Make us one.**

Holy One, we give you thanks for bringing us into this community. We ask you to fill us with your Spirit that others may come to know you in us. Emanuel, God with us,  
**Make us one.**

Holy One, we give you thanks that you help us be gentle, honest, generous, and compassionate. We ask that you continue to entrust us to walk our path with joy and love for your Creation. Emanuel, God with us,  
**Make us one.**

Holy One, we give you thanks that in you we find wholeness. Help us to be in balance with you, with your Creation, with each other, and with ourselves, that we may know the purpose for which we were created when you knit us in our mothers' wombs. Emanuel, God with us,  
**Make us one.**

Holy One, we give you thanks that, in these strange times, you have continued to affix us to our beloved community. We ask that you continue to care for us and our relations with each other. Emanuel, God with us,  
**Make us one.**

Holy One, we ask that you help us find peace and comfort and, when our time on this earth is ended, that we may go peacefully, without regrets, into your presence, where, at last, we may all be one. Emanuel, God with us,  
**Make us one.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The people may add their own prayers either silently, aloud, or in the comments.*

Let us pray together.

**Holy One: in this time of anxiety, we yearn for your presence among us. In this season of Advent, help us and walk with us along the path of life. Help us hear the ancient story and the old songs that tell how you came to be known to us. Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of God be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **VESTRY GREETING**

## **CLERGY GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **ELECTRONIC OFFERING**

*To support the work of the church, make an [online gift](#) now or learn about the [other ways to give](#).*

*Pledges to support the church in the future and online gifts can also be made through the St. Mark's website [stmarks.net](http://stmarks.net) by choosing "Donate or Pledge" at the top.*

## **FESTIVAL FUND**

*Each year at St. Marks we receive donations to decorate our worship space, remember/honor/be thankful for people in our lives, and give money to a designated non-profit. This year it will be Everyone Home DC. [Please fill out the form and donate](#). After donating, you may send the names of those you wish to remember, honor, or give thanks to to [bulletin@stmarks.net](mailto:bulletin@stmarks.net). Please provide no more than four names and send it in **by December 15th**.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love as Christ loves us.

*We lift an offertory plate acknowledging the online giving  
and checks that have been mailed into the office this week.*

*We are so grateful for your ongoing support.*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

It is the joy of our salvation, God of the universe, to give you thanks through Jesus Christ. You said, 'Let there be light'; there was light. Your light shines on in our darkness. For you the earth has brought forth life in all its forms.

You send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and to guide, to warn and to revive your Church. Therefore, with all your witnesses who surround us on every side, countless as heaven's stars, we praise you for our creation with loving and with joyful hearts, as we sing:

**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!**

Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son; On that night before he died he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.



After supper, he took the cup, and gave you thanks. He gave it to them and said: Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you, shed for all, to forgive sin; do this to remember me.

Therefore with this bread and wine we recall your goodness to us. God of the past and present, we your people remember your Son. We thank you for his cross and resurrection; we take courage from his ascension; we look for his coming in glory and in him we give ourselves to you.

With thanksgiving and hope we say:

**Glory to you, Lord Christ;  
your death we show forth;  
your resurrection we proclaim;  
your coming we await; Amen!**

Send your Holy Spirit, that we who receive Christ's body may indeed be the body of Christ, and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine. Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite. Called to suffer, give us hope in our grief. Heavenly one, make all things new; you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first, to whom we bring our songs of everlasting praise.

Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Throughout this section of the season of Advent, we are using  
the traditional translation of the Lord's Prayer.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Video by Hayley Gray-Hoehn

**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 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.**

*Let us now observe one minute of silence.*

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Alleluia, Christ our Passover has sacrificed for us!  
**Therefore let us keep the feast! 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**

*If you have bread and wine in your home you are welcome to consume it now. If you would like us to deliver a blessed communion wafer to you, please contact [Michele@stmarks.net](mailto:Michele@stmarks.net)*

## **MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Together, let us pray.

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. In his living, dying and rising, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always.  
**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**



## Schedule of Advent & Christmas Services

|           |         |         |   |
|-----------|---------|---------|---|
| Wednesday | Dec. 16 | 7 PM    | Carols & Cheer <i>Live Stream &amp; Zoom Meeting</i>  |
| Sunday    | Dec. 20 | 10 AM   | Advent 4 Service <i>Live Stream</i>                   |
| Sunday    | Dec. 20 | 5 PM    | Advent 4 Service <i>Zoom Meeting</i>                  |
| Thursday  | Dec. 24 | 4 PM    | Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist <i>Live Stream</i> |
| Thursday  | Dec. 24 | 9:45 PM | Prelude Music and Carol Singing <i>Live Stream</i>    |
| Thursday  | Dec. 24 | 10 PM   | Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist <i>Live Stream</i>   |
| Friday    | Dec. 25 | 10 AM   | Christmas Day Holy Eucharist <i>Live Stream</i>       |
| Saturday  | Dec. 26 | 11 AM   | Christmas Pageant redux <i>Zoom Meeting</i>           |
| Sunday    | Dec. 27 | 10 AM   | Christmas Lessons & Carols <i>Live Stream</i>         |



## Welcome Newcomers!

We hope you feel a sense of connection as we share this time together online. There are many other opportunities to get involved with St. Mark's, even remotely.

If you are a newcomer and want us to get to know you better, please fill out [this form](#). If you have questions, you can also contact the staff listed on the last page.

We will be happy to help you in any way we can.



## Worship Participants

**Presider & Preacher**

The Reverend Justi Schunior



## Liturgy Request

At St. Mark's, we plan the liturgy periodically. If you have a suggestion for the liturgy, please contact [michele@stmarks.net](mailto:michele@stmarks.net).

## Acknowledgements & Permissions

Prayers of the People, edited by Randy Marks and Nat White; Affirmation, adapted from Grace Cathedral; Eucharistic prayer: Alternative Great Thanksgiving D, post-communion prayer and collects for Advent, adapted from A New Zealand Prayer Book; Blessing, Lament of the Gathered from EOW page 71 by Joe Hubbard.

## **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

### ***Anglican Communion***

Pray for the Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury)  
The Rt Revd Timothy Thornton - Bishop to the Forces and Bishop to the Falkland Islands

### ***Parish Prayer List***

Louise Abbot • Collie Agle • Ben Alquiros • William Aycock  
Bernard • John Barton • Robert Baugh • Sean Bishop  
Pamela Blumgart • Joseph Boone • Fairfield Butt  
Norman Choiniere • Kathrine Ebert • Taylor Emerson  
Jean Eveleth • Elizabeth Fowler • Gale Johnson • Matt Jones  
Jocelyn Kovalenko • Carol Lewis • Phyllis Love • Barbara Marks  
Nat Marks • Jane Miller • Don Mosher  
Joan Pierotti • Rick Rutherford • Mary Welker • Nell Whitman

### ***In Recognition***

of Preston Brooks, for his completion of four years of service in the U.S. Marines

### ***Parishioners and Family Members serving in the military***

Chase Allen Ammon • Clint Billings • Jason Earnest

*Please send any names you would like to add to [bulletin@stmarks.net](mailto:bulletin@stmarks.net).*

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill

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## Office Directory

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| The Reverend Michele H. Morgan, Rector                     | michele@stmarks.net           |
| The Reverend Cindy Dopp, Deacon                            | cindy@stmarks.net             |
| The Reverend R. Justice Schunior, Pastoral Associate       | pastoralassistant@stmarks.net |
| Jeff Kempskie, Director of Music                           | jeff@stmarks.net              |
| Caleb Nelson Amaker, Director of Youth & Family Ministries | youthdirector@stmarks.net     |
| Patricia Braley, Finance Manager                           | patricia@stmarks.net          |
| James Rostron, Parish Administrator                        | parishadmin@stmarks.net       |
| Kerry Court, Boys & Girls Choir Director                   | bgcdirector@stmarks.net       |
| Katherine Philipson, Bulletin Coordinator                  | bulletin@stmarks.net          |
| The Reverend Patricia Catalano, Adjunct Priest             | adjunct@stmarks.net           |
| The Reverend Joe Hubbard, Seminarian                       | seminarian@stmarks.net        |

## The Vestry

|               |  |                          |
|---------------|--|--------------------------|
| Senior Warden | Ryan Baugh   | seniorwarden@stmarks.net |
| Junior Warden | Jim Pittman  | juniorwarden@stmarks.net |
| Class of '21  | Christina Herman, Brandon Dunn Knight, & Amber Macdonald |                          |
| Class of '22  | Andrew Stafford, Shay Waye, & Kit Arrington              |                          |
| Class of '23  | Brent Bickley, Linell Grundman, & Fritz Henn             |                          |
| Officers      | John Edwards, <i>Treasurer</i>                           |                          |
|               | Kim Bayliss, <i>Register</i>                             |                          |
|               | Mary Thuell, <i>Counsel</i>                              |                          |

## Diocesan Delegates

Peter Nye      Caitlin Frazier      Sandy Padgett