

**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 FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

December 20, 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 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.

God of all hope and joy, open our hearts in welcome, that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Light.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

The Gospel of Jesus according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of Jesus.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Reverend Cindy Dopp

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 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. 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 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!

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

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

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 Michele H. Morgan



Liturgy Request

At St. Mark's, we plan the liturgy periodically. If you have a suggestion for the liturgy, please contact 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

Church of St. Stephen and the Incarnation /San Estaban y La Encarnación, DC
St. Thomas' Church, DC
St. Thomas' Church, P.G. County, and the Chapel of the Incarnation
Christmas Day (December 25)

Anglican Communion

Pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion,
including the Mothers' Union around the world.

Parish Prayer List

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

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.

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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