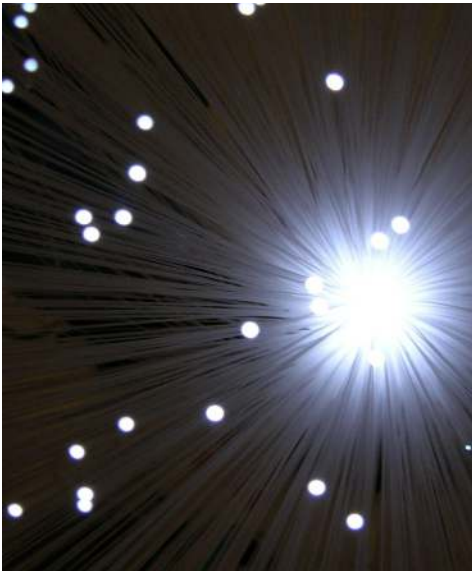


**WELCOME TO
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
✠
CAPITOL HILL**

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 18, 2022

**5:00 PM CONTEMPLATIVE
EUCCHARIST**

Rector

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

Assistant Rector

The Reverend Christopher Phillips

Deacon

The Reverend Thom Sinclair

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**, please visit our homepage www.stmarks.net and click "Calendar" at the top of the page.

Masks are optional at St. Mark's and you may continue to wear them during the service.

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

☩ ☩ ☩

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING SENTENCES

Keep awake!

You know not when God comes.

Keep awake!

God is coming.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

You are invited to hold silence.

THE FIRST READING Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

The people stand as able.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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

HOMILY

Joel Martinez

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

The people stand as able.

AFFIRMATION

Let us affirm our faith together:

We believe in God the Creator,

By whom every person in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,

who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,

who strengthens us with power from on high.

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

You are invited to hold silence.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gracious God, as we move through Advent, we pray that your holy and Universal Church may be awake and alert to your call to be agents of your love in the world. In all your Love
Hear our prayer

We pray for those who hold positions of authority. May they be ever watchful for the signs and symptoms of this hurting world, being open to prophetic voices of our time, so that decisions of peace, love, and reconciliation are made. In all your Love
Hear our prayer

We pray for the welfare of the world, that your light may shine in those places that are overshadowed by darkness and fear. In all your Love
Hear our prayer

We pray for the St. Mark's Community, that we may have an awareness of your presence in our lives and take what we learn in this place and use it to be Christ's healing hands in the world. In all your Love
Hear our prayer

We pray for those burdened by suffering, grief, or lack of purpose: That they may know the soothing balm of your compassion. In all your Love
Hear our prayer

Let us pray for those in our lives and for others.

*All may now offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud, ending with
"This is my prayer" to which all will respond "Amen."*

Together let us pray.

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess how we have missed the mark of God at the center of our lives and of our truest selves.

A period of silence is observed.

**All Holy and loving God,
we have dwelt in darkness
and preferred it to the light;
we have been proud of our accomplishments
and despaired over our shortcomings.
Smooth down the mountains of our pride,
and lift up the valleys of our doubts.
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives
that we might find our way to you again.**

ABSOLUTION

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

MISSION MOMENT Navajoland

THE PEACE

The peace of God be with you!
And also with you.

VESTRY GREETING

WELCOME

ELECTRONIC OFFERING

Please consider supporting the work of the church. You may make an online gift, or learn about the other ways to give, by visiting the St. Mark's website, stmarks.net, and choosing "Donate or Pledge" at the top.

Gifts to St. Marks can also be made by texting "stmarks20003" to 73256, or by visiting the QR code.

Thank you for your generous support of our collective work.



OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us put into action the generosity that comes from your faith

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

O come, Emanuel, into our longing hearts.

We open ourselves to You

As we gather around this table

In expectation and hope.

We embrace all that is holy 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.

In this season of waiting, of shorter, darker days, and of preparation for Christmas, we hear of the coming of Jesus. We hear from the prophets of God's dream for the world. From Isaiah, we hear of a time when peace will take the place of war. From Verna Dozier, in our own day, we hear of a world of justice, freedom and forgiveness, of God's dream for the way our world could be.

We hear from Jesus of the coming of the Son of Man, and we are warned to be ready for change, to be awake. We wonder what this can mean now as we grope in the tattered remains of our faltering hopes for a better world.

And we light our Advent candles, as of old, savoring tradition even as we yearn for change. Our tradition reminds us of Jesus, and how, on the night before he died, he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

We remember how, after supper, he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you; this is my blood poured out for you and for everyone. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

In our hope for a new vision, we pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit, this bread and wine may be the body and blood of Christ for us and so strengthen us to be change agents. May Jesus come to us still as God’s power in our humanity. May we in our own day, seek and be inspired by the prophets. Move in us to translate your dream into reality, to fire our hearts and minds and wills to love and serve you in the world. **AMEN.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

As Christ teaches 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 FRACTION

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is 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 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

St. Mark's receives communion "in the round" as a symbol of our strong belief in the power of community. Please remain socially distanced from others for COVID protection.

You will be offered bread by a celebrant, which you may consume as usual. Please remain in place until the presider dismisses the group.

If you are uncomfortable receiving and consuming the host while standing close to others, please remain seated until the last circle has finished and then come forward to receive from the clergy.

*Please join us in the eating of the bread,
knowing this act of community is a full communion.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Together.

All God of all grace, may we live in expectation and hope, and may the gifts we have received at this table remind us not only of the gift of Christ, but of your steady presence among us, that we may act faithfully in response to your love. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to serve God through loving in the world.

We go in hope and faith and gratitude. Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠

Liturgical Leaders and Worship Participants

Presider	The Reverend Michele Morgan
Preacher	Joel Martinez
Verger	Michael Bloomfield

Acknowledgements & Permissions

Opening Sentences and Confession: adapted from First Sunday of Advent Prayers and Litanies, ©2015. The Collect Anglican Church of Canada adapted. Absolution St. John's Minneapolis. The Affirmation: Common Worship The Church of England. The Eucharistic prayer: written by Susan Flanders, adapted by St. Mark's. Post-Communion prayer, written by Susan & Bill Flanders. Blessing: Book of Occasional Services. The Prayers of the People: Prayers of the People (POP): Andrew Arakawa.



The Blue Hangings on the pulpit, lectern, and altar were designed by Tracy Council and fabricated by Tracy and Doris Burton. The set was given by the Arts Council and dedicated in December 2005. The pulpit fall has four images relating to Advent allowing a change for each Sunday. The fabric for the fall, markers, veil, one stole, and two chasubles is hand-dyed Dupioni silk. The second stole and the bread cover were hand-woven by Doris Burton, representing the homespun fabrics of biblical times. That stole includes rose threads for Gaudete Sunday (3rd Advent).

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.

The Wooden Cross: Hanging over the central altar, the wooden cross, constructed of rough pine boards joined with dowels and stained in dark mahogany with a polyurethane finish, this stark and simple "old rugged cross," dedicated on November 22, 1992, was intended for use on non-festive occasions. It was designed and made by Bill Dannenmaier.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill

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Judith Rautenberg, Children's Choir Director	judith@stmarks.net
Katherine Philipson, Bulletin Coordinator	bulletin@stmarks.net
Joel Martinez, Seminarian	seminarian@stmarks.net

The Vestry

Senior Warden	Louise Walsh	louise @stmarks.net
Junior Warden	David Wellman	juniorwarden@stmarks.net
Class of '23	Brent Bickley, Fritz Henn, and Edna Boone	
Class of '24	Christoph Berendes, Katherine Buchanan and Jeb Ory	
Class of '25	Harrison Donnelly, Jan Lipscomb, and Nick Rogers	
Officers	Randy Marks, <i>Treasurer</i>	
	Bill Jordan, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i>	
	Shay Waye, <i>Register</i>	

Diocesan Delegates

Tom Getman, Mary Neznok and Ruth Roman

Cycle of Prayer

In the Diocese of Washington

Church of St. Stephen and the Incarnation /San Esteban 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 The Anglican Church of Korea

Parish Prayer List

Louise Abbot • Betsy Agle • Ben Alquiros • Nora Alquiros • Pamela Blumgart
Joseph Boone • Fairfield Butt • Alexander Casadonte • Aldena Clifford
Shadi Khoury • Martin De Nys • Mary De Nys • Charley Donnelly
Pete Eveleth • Michele Huycke • Elizabeth Long • Nat Marks
Taylor Emerson Marks • Steve Marshall • Pam Burton Moore
David Peterson • Joan Pierotti • Janet Vail • Betty Wellman
Eleanor Whitman • Joel Wilson • Margaret Wood • May Yazawa • Tom Zarek

Parishioners and Family Members Serving in the Military

Chase Allen Ammon • Clint Billings • Jason Earnest

*In order to keep the prayer list updated, we begin anew semi-annually.
If you would like to request to add a name, please email the
Bulletin Coordinator at bulletin@stmarks.net*



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!

I attended: _____ 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
_____ Sermon Seminar
_____ 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
_____ 5 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist
_____ Special (wedding, funeral, etc.) on December 18, 2022

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 eGospel newsletter at www.stmarks.net/contact-us/. If you'd like to join the St. Mark's egroup to interact with other parishioners, please contact Raiford Gaffney (rgaffneydc@gmail.com).