

**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 17, 2023

**Despite wrongdoing,
holding fast to the promise**

**9:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST
& LAYING ON OF HANDS**

10:00 AM SERMON SEMINAR

**11:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST
& LAYING ON OF HANDS**

Rector

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

Associate Rector

The Reverend Christopher Phillips

Pastoral Associate

The Reverend Patricia Catalano

Deacon

The Reverend Thom Sinclair

Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Caleb Nelson Amaker

Director of Music

Jeff Kempkie

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.

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



Land Acknowledgement We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the peoples on whose traditional territory we are located, specifically the Piscataway and Nacotchtank (Anacostan) peoples. We make this acknowledgment mindful of the traumatic events and the ongoing forces of systemic racism and oppression that forced native peoples from their lands. We continue our commitment to learning, growing, and finding a new way forward for meaningful, mutual healing.



A Note from the Advent 3 Liturgy Group

Despite wrongdoing, holding fast to the promise: From the wilderness of our lives, we long for a savior. On the third Sunday of Advent, we notice the anxiety and worry we experience as the days grow shorter and darkness descends. John the Baptist warns us that the coming of Jesus will burst upon us and transform us - *God entering human time and space*. But are we ready to receive Him? Despite our inadequacies and faults, can we, like his mother Mary, accept a new way to be? Can we find the way through the wilderness to hope and joy? We want to make a faithful response to “make straight the way of the Lord”. We are here to sense, from signs and prophecy, that one is coming to rescue us from the mess we have collectively made.

Linda, Matt, Penny, Nadine



Cover Image: Painting by Penny Farley - She describes the art: “This mixed media study captures the images of light and water, prevalent in John’s gospel. The sun can be setting on a turbulent day, or rising in a hopeful new day as we hold fast to our faith and expectation of better times for ourselves and our world.”

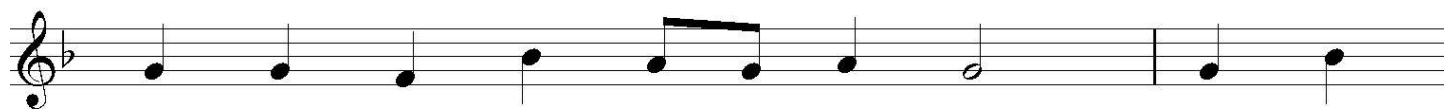
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE

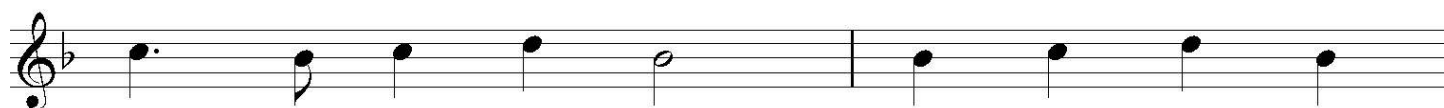
Eva-Dee Beech, piano

OPENING HYMN 54 Savior of the nations, come

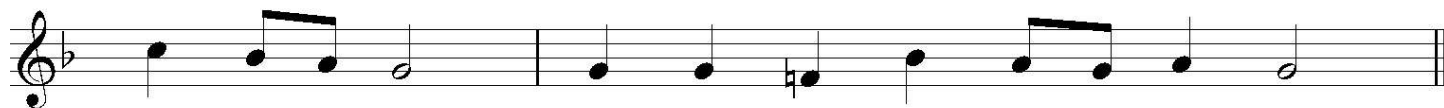
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

OPENING SENTENCES

Those who sowed in tears
Shall reap with songs of joy!

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Holy Spirit is upon you!
And also upon you!

Let us pray:

Ever-present, loving, and generous God, who created us vulnerable, free to choose, and searching for a savior, give us the courage to hold fast to your example. Forgive us when we go astray in this confusing and brutal world. Amen.

(9:00) Children wishing to participate in Children's Chapel may follow the leader at this time.

The Advent candles are lighted

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

together let us say

We light three candles today to symbolize the light that is coming. We are not the light, but we can testify to the light. May our lives reflect the hope that the light brings us.

The people sit.

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.

SOLO Something's Coming, from *West Side Story*

Words by Stephen Sondheim
Music by Leonard Bernstein

Nicholas Simons, soloist

*Could be, who knows? There's something due any day.
I would know right away, soon as it shows.
It may come cannonballing down through the sky,
Gleam in its eye, bright as a rose.*

*Who knows? It's only just out of reach,
Down the block, on a beach, under a tree.
I got a feeling there's a miracle due,
Gonna come true, coming to me!*

*Could it be? Yes, it could.
Something's coming, something good, if I can wait
Something's coming, I don't know what it is
But it is gonna be great.*

*With a click, with a shock.
Phone'll jingle, door will knock. Open the latch.
Something's coming, don't know when but it's soon;
Catch the moon, one-handed catch.*

*Around the corner, or whistling down the river.
Come on, deliver to me.*

*Will it be? Yes, it will.
Maybe just by holding still it'll be there.
Come on, something, come on in, don't be shy
Meet a guy, pull up a chair.*

The air is humming and something great is coming.

*Who knows? It's only just out of reach.
Down the block, on a beach,
Maybe tonight, maybe tonight...
Maybe tonight, maybe tonight...*

THE SECOND READING *The Dream of God*, by Verna J. Dozier

Kingdom-of-God thinking calls us to risk. We always see through a glass darkly, and that is what faith is about. I will live by the best I can discern today. Tomorrow I may find out I was wrong. Since I do not live by being right, I am not destroyed by being wrong. The God revealed in Jesus who I call the Christ is a God whose forgiveness goes ahead of me, and whose love sustains me and the whole created world. That God bursts all the definitions of our small minds, all the limitations of our timid efforts, all the boundaries of our institutions.

THE GOSPEL John 1:6-8, 19-27

The Gospel of Jesus, according to Matthew



Glo - ry 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 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.”

The Gospel of Jesus.



Praise to — you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Reverend Thom Sinclair

The sermon for the 9 AM service will be delivered after the service during sermon seminar.

The people stand as able.

AFFIRMATION

Let us affirm our faith together:

We believe that God has created us.

We believe that God is born among us.

We believe that God will always sustain us.

We believe that God calls us to bring peace, justice, and compassion into this world.

We believe that in the end of all things, God's love shall prevail. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Written by Nadine Hathaway

Gracious God, we pray that we walk courageously in the life we have been given.
Help us to learn to:

Realize our faithfulness in small things so as we wake, we draw strength even when there is little to show for our efforts.

We are saved by Hope.

To respond to the needs of others, and protect others in sacrificing our lives in love.

We are saved by Faith.

To connect our heart energy, draw strength, and manage our own reactivity when we are faced with adversity.

We are saved by Love.

To ask for your grace and for courage in learning how to persevere when life gets difficult.

We are saved by Hope.

To console us when we rediscover our strengths and vulnerabilities, that we honor what it costs us to do what seems effortless to others.

We are saved by Faith.

To bless us in our search for meaning and strengthen our resolve to keep looking for you as our guide; that the reason we cannot stop looking and striving tells us why we are here.

We are saved by Love.

Even when my world grows small, I will persevere in life affirming acts and tend to my soul with gentleness and grace.

We are saved by Faith.

When a spiritual beckoning draws us toward a destiny, the choice is ours to make, even as we feel drawn by a presence or an energy not our own. Help us to remain faithful.

We are saved by Hope.

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

Together, let us pray:

May we live through the power and the grace of God at work. Saved by hope, saved by Faith, saved by Love.

Amen.

CONFESSION

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Merciful God,
We have sinned
in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong we have done
and in the good we have not done.
We have sinned in ignorance:
we have sinned in weakness:
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry.
We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.

Christ is the living water, cleansing, refreshing, making all things new. God forgives us.
Be at peace. Amen.

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

Hold fast to God's promise with Thanksgiving and love.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM My King Is Comin' Soon Words & Music by Kyle Pederson

Chancel Choir; Lou Bayard, soloist

Soloist: *When is my king a-comin'? Lord hear my cry.*

The king is comin', my king is comin' soon.

Soloist: *Lord, I am tired, and heavy is my burden.*

I'm down in the valley, starin' at the mountain.

You split the mighty waters of the Red Sea;

Lord, will you split the rising waters all around me?

*Well, he showed up for Moses, and he showed up for Daniel, and he showed up for David
when he fought Goliath.*

Soloist: *The world is weary and heavy with its hunger,*

We wait on your promise no matter how much longer.

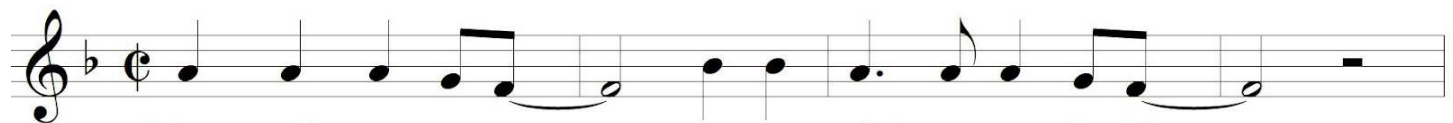
A child will be comin', the prophets all have spoken;

Freeing the captives and healing all that's broken.

*When is my king a-comin'? He will come. When are you comin', Lord? My king is comin' so
soon!*

PRESENTATION HYMN LEVAS 14 Soon and Very Soon, vv. 1-2

Andrae Crouch



1. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
2. No more cry - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
3. No more dy - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
4. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____



Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
No more cry - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
No more dy - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____

Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King,
 No more cry - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King,
 No more dy - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King,
 Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King,

_____ Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, _____ we're goin' to see the King!

1. 2. _____ 3. 4. _____
 Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu -

jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Words by Bill and Susan Flanders
 Adapted by Peter Mosley

God, you are with us.
You are always with us.

May we open our hearts.
To know your presence.

With thanksgiving,
And in deepest honor.

Therefore, with people of every nation, tribe, and language, with the whole Church throughout the ages, we bring ourselves and all that we are, joyfully giving thanks and singing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and
 earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Holy God, we honor you in whom our lives are founded and in whom our futures lie. We remember and honor also the human searching over the centuries that has perceived your presence in life, and your meaning for all of life. Above all we honor Jesus, our Christ, whose life and death reveal to us, his resurrection, the full nature of your being and the potential nature of ours.

Through the cold and dark of winter, we have heard Jesus' teachings, the many ways he calls us to live fully. As the first disciples might have done as they gathered at table together, we remember his teachings, and his call:

To be salt of the earth, light of the world;
 To be reconciled, one with another;
 To love even our enemies;
 Called away from worrying and being anxious; he calls us to trust in God and he did.

We often find it hard to listen, hard to follow Jesus' teaching, and we often fall short. But even as God showed Jesus in the fullness of his potential, we share in that potential as God's beloved. As we strive to live into this fullness, we remember how the night before his arrest and execution, Jesus and his close friends gathered for their weekly Sabbath supper. Following tradition, Jesus lit the Sabbath candles and offered the first blessing:
 Blessed are you, Oh God, who bless us with your presence and call us to kindle the light of love within and among us.

Then he took a cup of wine and offered the Blessing: Blessed are You, O God, Creator of the fruit of the vine. Then he said: "Whenever you celebrate the Sabbath meal and bless the wine, remember, I will be present among you."

Next, he took the bread and blessed it, saying Blessed are You, O God, who brings forth bread from the earth. He broke open the loaf and gave everyone a piece, saying: “Whenever you take and eat the bread, remember the sustaining power of our belonging to each other even when we are apart.”

After supper, Jesus knelt before each of his students, and with water and a towel, he washed their feet. When all were washed, he said: “I have set you an example: you are to do as I have done to you.” “Love one another, as I have loved you.” May these gifts of wine, bread, and love and courage that we are about to receive strengthen us to answer Jesus’ call.

God, beyond holiness, as we do what Jesus once did, let your Spirit move among us to settle on this bread and this wine. And let that same Spirit stir our hearts to be alive to what is sacred in these symbols of wine and bread. May they open us to your guidance and to your love for us, for all humankind, and all life on this earth. This is our hope, our common will, and the expression of our love and trust in Jesus, our Christ.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

alternate form, *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

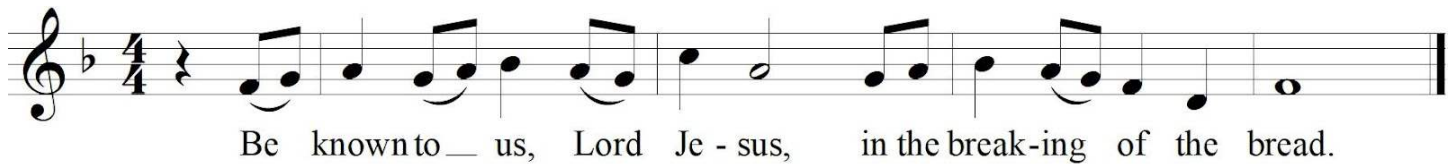
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-Maker, Pain Bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth
With the bread we need for today, feed us,
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Choir first time, then congregation.



Soloist: *The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the Body of Christ.*

All repeat Refrain.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We recognize this as God's table and this bread and wine as God's food for us all.

Therefore, whoever we are, from wherever we have come, and whatever we believe or do not 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.

You will be offered bread by a celebrant, and invited to drink from the common cup.

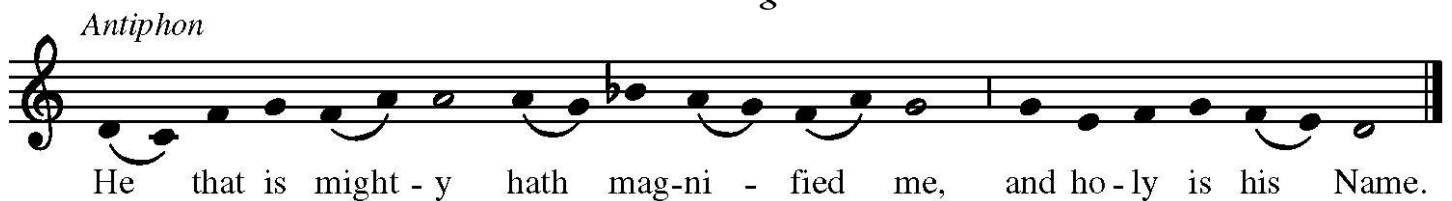
Please refrain from intincting (dipping) the host (the bread) into the wine.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

S 393 Magnificat

Bruce E. Ford

All Sing.



*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for He has looked with favor on His humble servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed,
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His Name.*

*He has mercy on those who fear Him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich He has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of His servant Israel
for He has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise He made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever. **Antiphon***

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen, Alleluia. **Antiphon***

SOLO Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child Traditional Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan
Charmian Crawford, soloist

*Sometimes I feel like a motherless child a long ways from home.
Sometimes I feel like I'm almos' gone a long ways from home.*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Together:

**Gracious God, as we leave this circle which sustains us with love and support, help us
to live your message in the world. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN 527 Singing Songs of Expectation

Ton-y-Botel

1 Sing - ing songs of ex - pec - ta - tion, on - ward
 2 One the light of God's own pres - ence, o'er his
 3 One the strain the lips of thou - sands lift as

goes the pil - grim band, through the night of
 ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the
 from the heart of one; one the con - flict,

doubt and sor - row, march - ing to the prom - ised land.
 gloom and ter - ror, bright - ening all the path we tread:
 one the per - il, one the march in God be - gun:

Clear be - fore us through the dark - ness gleams and
 one the ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the
 one the glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the

burns the guid - ing light: trust - ing God we
 faith which nev - er tires, one the ear - nest
 far e - ter - nal shore, where the one al -

march to - geth - er step - ping fear - less through the night.
 look - ing for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
 might - y Fa - ther reigns in love for ev - er - more.

THE BLESSING

Life is short, and we have but little time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Give us courage and guide us as we go forth to do the work you have given us to do in a new and better way.

Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

Eva-Dee Beech, piano



Sermon Seminar at 10:00 am

Announcements

Please limit announcements to one minute or less.

The Sermon

The Reverend Thom Sinclair

Sermon Seminar Guidelines:

1. Is what I have to say relevant to the sermon?
2. Is it meaningful? Will others care?
3. Can I make it short?
4. Will I later regret having said it?
5. Has anyone else said it?

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 Assistant Rector Christopher Phillips at
assistantrector@stmarks.net.*

Presider	The Reverends Patricia Catalano and Michele H. Morgan
Preacher	The Reverend Thom Sinclair
Pianist	Eva-Dee Beech
Deacon Intern	Annemarie Quigley
Bread	TBD, 9:00; Matt Dodge, 11:15
Readers	Worship Task Force 9:00; Worship Task Force 11:15
Acolytes	TBD, 9:00; Jason Campbell, 11:15
Altar Guild	Kim Bayliss, 9:00; Mary Cooper, 11:15
Laying on of Hands	Josie Jordan, 9:00; Stephanie Deutsch & Seth Ismail, 11:15
Video Director	Victor Creef-Meza
Technical Director	Chris Berendes
Verger	David Deutsch, 9:00; Raiford Gaffney, 11:15



The Blue Hangings on the pulpit, lectern, and altar were designed by Tracy Councill 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, 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 Star above the altar is a gift from Joya Cox, its creator. It is an icosahedron, a figure with 20 plane surfaces, each of which also serves as the base of a pyramid. The star was originally commissioned to mark the Epiphany, the Christian feast day commemorating the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, and Jesus Christ's physical manifestation to the world. The imagery of a star, with its light distant but still visible, is appropriate for Advent, and as result is now displayed during the season of Advent and during Epiphanytide.



Acknowledgments & Permissions Opening Sentences, the Collect, Advent Candle Lighting: The Advent 3 Planning Team. The Second Reading: *The Dream of God*, Verna Dozier, p. 144. The Affirmation: The Reverend Scott Lipscomb (adapted). Prayers of the People: Nadine Hathaway, inspired by *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Mariann Budde. Confession and Absolution: *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, adapted. Eucharistic Prayer: Bill and Susan Flanders, adapted by Peter Mosley. Invitation to communion: St Marks Common usage. Post-Communion prayer: The Advent 3 Planning Team. Blessing: Based on Henri-Fredrick Amiel's writings. | *Savior of the nations, come*. Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938). Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpus (1560?-1616). Copyright: Words: Sts. 3-4 © 1982, James Waring McCrady. *Gospel Responses*: Music: Jeff Kempskie. *Something's Coming*. Words: Stephen Sondheim. Music: Leonard Bernstein, © 1967 Amberson Holdings LLC and Stephen Sondheim. This arrangement © 2007 Amberson Holdings LLC and Stephen Sondheim- Leonard Bernstein Music Publishing Company LLC. Permission requested. *My King Is Comin' Soon*. Words & Music: Kyle Pederson (b. 1971), © 2021 by Galaxy Music Corporation, a division of ECS Publishing Group. *Soon, Very Soon*. Words: Andrae Crouch (b. 1942). Music: Andrae Crouch. Copyright: © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music/ASCAP. *The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus*, Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright: Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc. *The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover*. Music: From *Missa orbis factor*; Plainsong, Tonus Peregrinus; arr. David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright: Copyright © 1979 GIA Publications, Inc. *The Song of Mary Magnificat*. Music: Plainsong, Tone 1; adapt. Bruce E. Ford (b. 1947); acc. James McGregor (b. 1930). Copyright: Setting: © 1985 Bruce E. Ford. Accompaniment: © 1984 James McGregor. *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*. Words & Music: Traditional Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan, © Hal Leonard. *Singing songs of expectation*. Words: Bernard Severin Ingemann (1789-1862) tr. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924), alt. Music: *Ton-y Botel*, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944). All selections: Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-718991. All rights reserved.

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Caleb Nelson Amaker, Director of Youth & Family Ministries	youthdirector@stmarks.net
Michael Gravlee, Parish Administrator for Building and Facilities	parishadmin@stmarks.net
Annick Milde, Parish Administrator for Finance	pfa@stmarks.net
Judith Rautenberg, Children's Choir Director	judith@stmarks.net
Katherine Philipson, Bulletin Coordinator	bulletin@stmarks.net
Lydia Arnsts, Seminarian	seminarian@stmarks.net

The Vestry

Senior Warden	Jim Brooks	srwarden@stmarks.net
Junior Warden	David Wellman	juniorwarden@stmarks.net
Class of '24	Christoph Berendes, Katherine Buchanan, and Jeb Ory	
Class of '25	Harrison Donnelly, Jan Lipscomb, and Nick Rogers	
Class of '26	Travis Beaty, Meg Platt, and Todd Thorpe	
Officers	Randy Marks, <i>Treasurer</i>	
	Bill Jordan, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i>	
	Shay Waye, <i>Clerk</i>	
	Martha Huizenga, <i>Manciple</i>	
	Rosemary Harold, <i>Vestry Counsel</i>	

Diocesan Delegates

Tom Getman (2025), and Mary Neznec (2024)

The upcoming Vestry Meetings are held on these dates. Contact Michele for the link if you want to join us: Tuesday 7 pm on 12/19, (Hybrid) 1/23/24 (Hybrid)

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 Papua New Guinea

Parish Prayer List

Louise Abbot • Ben Alquiros • Nora Alquiros • Eileen Blumenthal
Pamela Blumgart • Joseph Boone • Greg Burton • Alexander Casadonte
Presiding Bishop Michael Curry • Shadi Khoury • Martin De Nys Mary De Nys
Charley Donnelly • Pete Eveleth • Candance Golladay • Gale Johnson
Pat Latin • Nat Marks • Taylor Emerson Marks • Kate McFadden • Mac McLaughlin
Rector Michele Morgan • Pam Burton Moore • David Peterson • Sylvia Peterson
James and Wanda Pittman • Deb Sullivan • Olga, Tony & Anthony Sullivan
Eleanor Whitman • Joel Wilson • Rita Wolfinger • Geoffrey Wood • May Yazawa • Tom Zarek

Additional Prayers

*Pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestinian or Israeli, but pray rather for ourselves,
that we might not divide them in our prayers, yet
keep them both together in our hearts.*

(The Reverend. Sari Ateek, Rector of St. John's Norwood Episcopal Church in Bethesda
and a Palestinian American.)

Parishioners and Family Members Serving in the Military

Chase Allen Ammon • Clint Billings • Jason Earnest • Noah Landen

*If you would like to request to add or remove a name, please email the Bulletin Coordinator
at bulletin@stmarks.net*

St. Mark's Annual Stewardship Appeal 2024



St. Mark's depends on donations to sustain its programs and facilities. The annual church operating budget is based on the sum of these pledges, and the number of programs and service and social justice activities that St. Mark's is able to offer depends directly on our collective generosity.

Amount of your Pledge \$ _____

_____ ANNUAL PLEDGE. I/We pledge to contribute to support the work of the church during the year 2024.

_____ NEWCOMER PLEDGE. I am/We are new this year. I/We pledge to contribute something to support the church during the year 2024.

_____ LEGACY POSSIBILITY. Please send information about how to include St. Mark's in my/our will or estate plan.

_____ LEGACY. I/We have already included St. Mark's in my/our estate plan.

Name: _____

Additional names (if pledging as a household):

Address: _____

Apt.: _____

City/State: _____

Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile /Work/Home

To make a pledge online, please visit <https://www.stmarks.net/get-involved/donate-pledge/>

About Our New Way To Plan Worship

Today's service is the latest creation of our "Ongoing Project for Lay Participation in Worship Planning." This new approach began in January – March 2023 as a "Pilot Project" in Shared Ministry with designing 6 unique services, 4 in Epiphany and 2 in Lent. Each team has been led by a different lay leader and 3-4 lay members who have met via Zoom to plan a new service, in collaboration with our clergy, preacher and Music Director. With the Advent 1, 2 and 3 services, the project will have created 9 new Sunday Services and lay teams in 2023 involving c. 30 new lay worship planners. A testament to Shared Ministry at St. Mark's!

Please fill out the Questionnaire attached so we can receive your opinions. If interested in joining a future team, please contact our Steering Committee: Betsy Athey atheylloyd@comcast.net; Nadine Hathaway nadinehathaway@verizon.net; Louise Walsh ldwalsh@earthlink.net

Name optional _____ I/we have attended St. Mark's since: _____

I/we attended the 9 a.m. _____ 11:15 _____ or the 5 p.m. _____ service

Overall, did you like _____ not like _____ the service today?

Did our theme mean anything to you in Advent?

What parts did you appreciate? For example, contemporary readings, specific prayers, the Affirmation, the Collect, certain musical pieces, etc. What parts did not appeal to you?

Other comments are most welcome:

Would you be interested in being part of a liturgy planning team in the future?

(Please print)

Thank you.

Please tear this page off and turn it into the basket or to a planning team member.

Linda Ewald, Nadine Hathaway, Penny Farley and Matt Dodge.



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 a.m. Holy Eucharist
_____ Sermon Seminar
_____ 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
_____ 5 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist
_____ Special (wedding, funeral, etc.)

On December 17, 2023

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone No. _____

Zip Code _____

I am interested in learning more about:

- _____ BECOMING A MEMBER
- _____ 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).