

**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 SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

December 10, 2023,

5:00 PM HOLY EUCHARIST

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 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.

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.



Our service this evening is part of the arc of Advent -- a season that usually lasts four weeks and takes us from first waiting to the Christmas birth. Too often, we think of this time as events over 2000 years ago. In this service, we've brought Advent into our lives today and discussed faith as a daily choice. We chose readings from contemporary writers Michael Gerson, Joy Harjo, and Rowan Williams to do this.

The late Michael Gerson is well known as a presidential speechwriter, a Washington Post columnist, and a passionate Christian whose faith was the basis of his life. He frequently shared that faith with us in his writings. Joy Harjo is a Native American former US Poet Laureate who writes poetry, music and plays and has won countless awards for her work. She brings a unique spiritual voice to her work. The Most Rev. Rowan Williams retired from his post as Archbishop of Canterbury in 2012. He is an eloquent liberal theologian whose term in that office was marked by his bold stands on social issues and his belief that faith was action. We hope their contemporary language will help you see Advent as a lived-out faith today and provide a meaningful frame for Advent in our daily lives.

Gwen, Karen, Louise, and Martha from the Advent 2 Team

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING SENTENCES

Let us keep Advent in our hearts.

And in our lives.

A period of silence is observed.

A CALL TO ADVENT The Most Reverend Rowan Williams: Former Archbishop of Canterbury
The story of Jesus is not just an epiphany – a revelation of glory and no more – and it's not just a commandment or a set of instructions dropped down from heaven. It is a manifestation of radiant beauty that lands in our world in the form of a profound moral challenge, because it's a showing of active love that dissolves fear.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray:

Lord, give us grace to be present to hear the messages of warning, presented by our precious earth and divided mankind. As we travel through Advent and beyond, give us the strength to listen, see, and love, recognize our commonalities, and see a rebirth in this Advent season. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed.

THE SECOND READING

Michael Gerson

“One of the stranger elements of the strange Nativity narrative is the way an angel addresses Mary: “you who are highly favored”. As a teen mother, pregnant before marriage and destined to give birth among barn animals, she might have been forgiven for regarding this as angelic sarcasm....

The whole Christmas story is pregnant with enigma and violated expectations....

Christmas culminates in the remarkable story of a God who searches for us.

If the Nativity story is true... The implications are remarkable. It means there are no insignificant or pointless lives. It means that the events and choices of an average day can carry eternal significance. ...

If we had been there the night in question, walking the Judean hills, would we have seen and heard the angels? I have no idea. But I do know that the civilization that I inhabit is unimaginable without the birth of the Christ child. I know that billions in the last two millennia have claimed communion with Him, and I have faith that this extraordinary person who knew God’s heart so intimately can be born into our hearts as well.”

A period of silence is observed.

THE THIRD READING

This Morning I Pray For My Enemies
Joy Harjo, American Poet

And whom do I call my enemy?

An enemy must be worthy of engagement.

I turn in the direction of the sun and keep walking.

It’s the heart that asks the questions, and not my furious mind.

The heart is the smaller cousin of the sun.

It sees and knows everything.

It hears the gnashing even as it hears the blessing.

The door to the mind should only open from the heart.

An enemy who gets in, risks the danger of becoming a friend.

THE GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Jesus, according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of

repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of Jesus.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

Annemarie Quigley

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

We are in Advent. Christ stands knocking at the door, and if we open, promises, "I will make all things new...a new heaven and a new earth".

Christ is coming. Wait for Him; watch for Him - the God who is looking for us; prepare ourselves for Him.

Holy one, light our path through Advent

Prepare our hearts for Advent. Take away our pride, our vanity, our ambition, our self-regard. Fill us with compassion, humility, and faith. Make us a new people.

Creator, open our hearts.

Prepare us for Advent in our lives today. show us Christ walking among us - in the immigrant and the outcast; in the neighbor we don't agree with, the politician we feel contempt for; in the pregnant teenager; in the homeless we turn away from; in the sick and the broken. Strengthen us to reach out. Let Advent fill our days, each day.

Redeemer, fill us with your spirit.

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

Let us pray:

Holy one, in this Advent season, we reflect on your transcendent birth into the human condition and your walk beside us through life. Help us to rehear the ancient story and know that story is as new as today. Help us to keep Advent in our hearts and in our lives.

CONFESSION

Let us confess where we have missed the mark against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is observed.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

God Forgives you, Forgive yourself, and Go in Peace, Amen.

MISSION MOMENT

Service and Social Justice Board, Julie Murphy

THE PEACE

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

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have led us and all of creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation 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.**

We are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with his friends. There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God. He broke it into pieces and gave it to them. "This is my body," he said. "Do this, and know that I am with you." **Amen. We are alive in Jesus.**

Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you. He shared it with them, and said "This is my blood, which brings new life. Do this, and know that I am with you." **Amen. We are alive in Jesus.**

And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you, and is alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in him. **Amen. We are alive in Jesus.**

Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us the body and blood of Jesus,

and through this food give us strength to live as your people. **Amen. We are alive in Jesus.**

Help us care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us. Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land we worship you and say:
We praise you. We thank you. We bless you. 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 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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Together.

**Ever present God, we thank you for drawing us to your heart and nourishing us at
your table. You have called us on a journey to a place we do not know. We are not
where we started. We have not reached our destination. We are not sure where we are
or who we are. Be among us, we pray. Calm our fears, save us from discouragement,**

and help us stay on course. Open our hearts to your guidance so that our journey to this unknown place continues as a journey of trust. Amen

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

Let us go forth caring for the world as God cares for us.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

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 Reverend Christopher Phillips
Preacher	Annemarie Quigley
Verger	Michael Bloomfield

✠ ✠ ✠

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 Epiphany 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. As its name indicates, 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 also appropriate for Advent, and as a result is now displayed during the season of Advent as well as during Epiphanytide.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill

301 A Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003

Office Directory

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan, Rector
The Reverend Christopher Phillips, Associate Rector
The Reverend Patricia Catalano, Liturgy & Pastoral Associate
The Reverend Thom Sinclair, Deacon
Annemarie Quigley, Deacon Intern
Jeff Kempkie, Director of Music
Caleb Nelson Amaker, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Michael Gravlee, Parish Administrator for Building and Facilities
Annick Milde, Parish Administrator for Finance
Judith Rautenberg, Children's Choir Director
Katherine Philipson, Bulletin Coordinator
Lydia Arnts, Seminarian

michele@stmarks.net
christopher@stmarks.net
adjunct@stmarks.net
deacon@stmarks.net
annemarie@stmarks.net
jeff@stmarks.net
youthdirector@stmarks.net
parishadmin@stmarks.net
pfa@stmarks.net
judith@stmarks.net
bulletin@stmarks.net
seminarian@stmarks.net

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

The Church of Pakistan (United) • Bathurst, The Anglican Church of Australia • Bauchi, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) • Belize, The Church in the Province of the West Indies • Bendigo, The Anglican Church of Australia • Beni, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo • Benin, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

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

Parishioners and Family Members Serving in the Military

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

From the Advent Planning Team – A questionnaire. December 10, 2023

When our team chose readings and prayers for today's service, we found contemporary writers to fit with the season's overall theme: "Preparing Our Path into Uncertainty." Several words emerged: Anxiety, unease, wonder, and

hope. Our team's subtheme is: "Advent in Our Lives." Please provide some feedback about how this service and theme worked for you.

Name optional _____

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

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

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.

Martha Connor-Donnelly, Gwen Dillard, Karen Falk, Louise Walsh

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 10, 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).