

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.



**CHRISTMAS I
DECEMBER 31, 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

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To view the **parish calendar online**, please visit our homepage www.stmarks.net and click “Calendar” at the top of the page.

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

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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 acknowledgement 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 together for meaningful, mutual healing.

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THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING SENTENCES

I bring you good news of great joy!
A Savior has been born to you! Alleluia!

Unto us a child is born!
The child is a gift! Alleluia!

He is Christ the Lord! Alleluia!
We worship and adore him! Alleluia!

A period of silence is observed.

THE COLLECT

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

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; 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.

THE READING Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed.

THE GOSPEL John 1:1-18

The Gospel of Jesus according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of Jesus.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY

The Reverend Michele Morgan

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

THE AFFIRMATION

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.

A period of silence is observed.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray:

Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless: Jesus, Savior,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep:

Jesus, Savior,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed:

Jesus, Savior,

Hear our prayer.

Jesus, becoming a healer, grant healing to a world in warfare.

Jesus, Savior,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern:
Jesus, Savior,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you: Jesus, Savior,

Hear our prayer.

*The people are invited to offer prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings,
either silently or aloud, at this time.*

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit, hear our prayer, receive our praises, and fill our lives. Amen.

THE PEACE

May the peace of God, born among us, 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

Offer unto God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows unto the Most High.

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 filled 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.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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 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

Let us pray:

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

**When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost,
to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations,
to bring Peace/שָׁלוֹם / سلام among the people, to make music in the heart.
And the Blessing of God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with us now and forever.
Amen.**

DISMISSAL

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!
Christ is born in us! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



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 Associate Rector Christopher Phillips, Christopher@stmarks.net*

Preacher & Presider	The Reverend Michele Morgan
Verger	TBD

Liturgy Request: At St. Mark's, we plan the liturgy periodically. If you would like to join in one of our Community Liturgy Planning sessions, please contact our Rector at michele@stmarks.net

Acknowledgements The Opening Sentences: Common Worship, *The Church of England*. Collect: Randy Marks and Christopher Phillips. Prayers of the People: The Reverend Devon Anderson, *Women's UnCommon Prayer* (2000). Post-communion prayer: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006). Blessing: Based Henri -Fredrick Amiel's writings. Eucharistic Prayer: Enriching our Worship *Church Publishing*. The Peace, Confession, Absolutions and Apostle's Creed *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979. Invitation to Common, Common Usage St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The Dismissal: (adapted) *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979.



The Chrismon Trees in the baptistry were made in 1970 and donated to St. Mark's by Jeanie Anderson and Alys Smith of Chapin, SC, Mary Cooper's mother and godmother. They have helped to decorate the church during the Christmas season every year since. Chrismon trees are normally evergreens, which represent eternal life. The lights and ornaments are white, the liturgical color for the season. The ornaments depict ancient symbols of Jesus' ministry, such as the descending dove, the shepherd's crook, chalices and fishing boats. Originated by Lutheran churches, Chrismon trees are now used in churches of many denominations.

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 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.

Cycle of Prayer

In the Diocese of Washington

Church of the Epiphany, DC
Welcome Table and Street Church, Church of the Epiphany, DC
Epiphany Church, Forestville
All in Monastic Orders

Anglican Communion

Pray for Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Parish Prayer List

Louise Abbot • Baby Ansel • 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

Please send any names you would like to add to bulletin@stmarks.net.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill

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Office Directory

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Katherine Philipson, Bulletin Coordinator	bulletin@stmarks.net
Lydia Arnts, 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 7pm on 1/23/24 (Hybrid)



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 it in the offering plate or give it to a greeter.

I attended: _____ 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist
_____ Sermon Seminar
_____ 4 p.m. Pageant and Family Service Holy Eucharist
_____ 5 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist
_____ Special (wedding, funeral, etc.)

On December 31, 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).