

**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 life's struggles and care for others with love, justice, and compassion.



**THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
A CELTIC EUCHARIST**

January 7, 2024

**5:00 PM 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 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.

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.

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THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING SENTENCES

Breath of God, breath of life, breath of deepest yearning.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Comforter, Disturber, Interpreter,

Come, Holy Spirit.

Friend, Lamplighter, Revealer of truth, Midwife of change.

Come, Holy Spirit.

A period of silence is observed.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord, teach us the silence of humility.

The silence of wisdom.

The silence of love.

The silence that speaks without words.

The silence of faith.

**Lord, teach us to silence our own hearts and minds so that we may listen for the movement of your Holy Spirit and feel your presence in the depths of our beings.
Amen.**

A period of silence is observed.

THE FIRST READING Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether, there were about twelve of them.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL Mark 1:4-11

The Gospel of Jesus according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of Jesus.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Reverend Michele Morgan

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

A CELTIC CREED

Together, let us affirm our faith:

We believe in God above, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon of water and Earth of male and female of cisgender and transgender.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, born of a woman, servant to the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended into the Earth to the place of death. On the third day, he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present, and his kin-dom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, the life giving breath of the church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection, and eternal life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Eternal God, whom our words may cradle but never contain, we thank you for all the sound and silence and color and symbols which, through the centuries, have helped the worship of your Church to be relevant and real.

Here, we pause to remember those who helped us to come to faith by singing songs or telling us stories, by inviting us in when we felt distant, and by praying for us without being asked.

Silence is kept.

We remember the preachers, the readers, the musicians, the leaders, whose sensitivity and skill have helped us to grow in faith and enjoy worshipping you.

Silence is kept.

We remember those who encourage people to raise you outside the sanctuary:
those who teach young people,
those who lead youth group,
those who take prayers and hospitals and schools and in prison.

Silence is kept.

Finally, we pray for ourselves and for those who are closely connected to us:
our family, our friends, and all those in need of our prayer.

Let us pray for our needs and those of others...

Members of the congregation may offer their own prayers at this time.

Together, let us pray:

God, we thank you for always being with us. Open and transform our hearts so that we might connect more deeply with the needs of others and be moved to be your love and care in the world. Help us to keep courage as we learn, share, and give. Amen.

THE PEACE

Christ, the Good Shepherd, bind us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. My siblings, may the Peace of the Lord always be with you.

And also with you.

VESTRY GREETING and 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.



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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, for you made us, and before us, you made the world we inhabit, and before the world, you made the eternal home in which, through Christ, we have a place. All that is spectacular; all that is plain have their origins in you; all that is lovely; all who are loving point to you as their fulfillment. And grateful as we are for the world we know and the universe beyond our ken, we particularly praise you whom eternity cannot contain, for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus. For his life which informs our living, for his compassion which changes our hearts, for his clear speaking that contradicts our confusion, for his disturbing presence, for his innocent suffering, for his fearless dying, his rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise you and follow him. Here also our gratitude rises from the promise of the Holy Spirit, who even yet, even now, confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness. Therefore, we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth as in heaven.

**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.

And now, lest we believe that our praises alone fulfill your purpose, we fall silent and remember him who came because words are not enough. Setting our wisdom, our will, our words aside, emptying our heart, and bringing nothing in our hands, we yearn for the healing, the holding, the accepting, the forgiving, which Christ alone can offer.

Merciful god, send now, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from

the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

Among friends, gathered around a table, Jesus took bread, and broke it, and said, ‘This is my body– broken for you. Take it, all of you, to remember me.’

Later, he took a cup of wine and said, “This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. drink it, all of you, to remember me.’

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

He whom the universe could not contain is present to us in this bread. He who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup. So take the bread and this wine. In them, God comes to us so that we may come to God.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

And now, as Jesus taught us, let us pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread,

And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil,

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever 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, saying together:

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, and encourage many through us. So, God, we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of Earth and citizens of the Commonwealth of Heaven. Amen

THE BLESSING

May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow,
May the soft ones freshen your spirit,
May the sunshine brighten your heart,
May the burden of the day rest lightly upon you
and the blessing of God Almighty, Mother, Child, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

DISMISSAL

Beloved, let us love, not only in word or speech,
but in truth and action.

Go in peace to love and serve our God.

Amen!



Liturgical Leaders and Worship Participants

Presider & Preacher The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

Verger Jennifer Cate



Acknowledgements & Permissions: Opening Sentences, Opening Prayer, Creed, Prayers of the People and the Peace From *Celtic Eucharist Church of the Holy Comforter Kenilworth IL*. Eucharistic prayer, Post-communion prayer, and Blessing from *Eucharist prayer A from Wee Worship Iona community*. Invitation to communion St. Mark's Capitol Hill. Dismissal Enriching Our Worship, Volume 1, adapted.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill

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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 January 23, 2024

Cycle of Prayer

In the Diocese of Washington

Christ Church, Washington Parish

Christ Church Parish, Kensington

Christ Church, Georgetown

Diocesan Ordination Service (Jan 13) and those being ordained Transitional Deacons

Anglican Communion

Pray for The Scottish Episcopal Church

Parish Prayer List

Louise Abbot • Ben Alquiros • Nora Alquiros • Eileen Blumenthal

Pamela Blumgart • Joseph Boone • Greg Burton

Alexander Casadonte • 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*



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 January 7, 2024

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)