WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 28, 2025

10:00 AM LESSONS & CAROLS WITH HOLY EUCHARIST

Rector

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

Associate Rector

The Reverend Caitlin Frazier

Pastoral Associate

The Reverend Patricia Catalano

Seminarian

Rebekah Taylor

Interim Director of Music

Michael McCarthy

Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Director

Lisa Ramish

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.

Childcare – The Nursery is closed today to allow our teachers time with their loved ones.

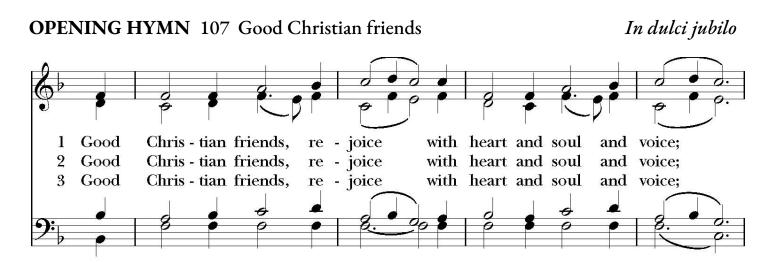
Restrooms are available in the foyer, with more downstairs.

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.

* * *

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE





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!

BIDDING PRAYER

Dear People of the Incarnate God: as we hear again the story of God's loving purposes from the beginning of creation, may we find that peace is born among us, embodied in frail flesh like our own. With hope in the power of that miracle, we pray that this child Jesus, whose birth we celebrate, awakens in us a longing and a will to heal our broken and hurting world. We pray that the peace proclaimed by angels to the shepherds in the field will be realized in every place of war, on every violent street, at every border, and in the capital of every nation.

Come now, O God of love. Reconcile your people and make us one body. Amen.

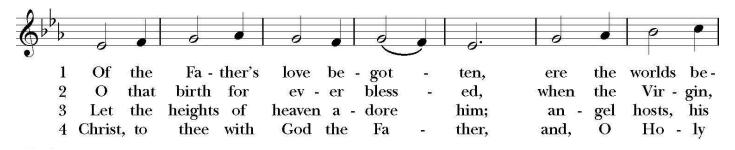
THE FIRST LESSON Genesis 3 (Adapted with a new ending by Nadia Boltz-Weber)

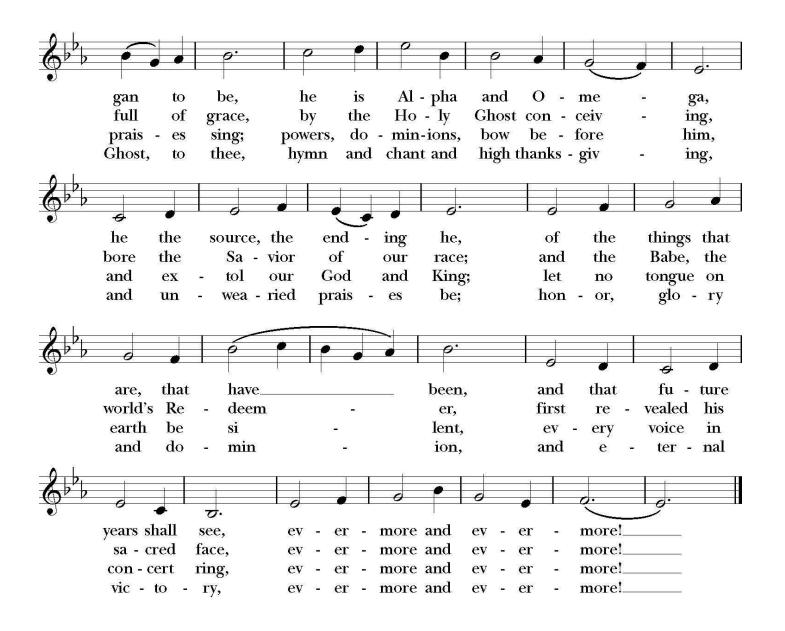
They heard the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the garden's trees. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

Who told you were naked? Who told you that you have to lie to be loved? Who told you your body is not beautiful and worthy to be loved? Who told you that you must manipulate everything in your life to get what you need? Who told you that God cannot forgive, that you or anyone else is not redeemable? Who told you that what you have done (good or bad) is actually who you are? Who told you that? My money is on the snake. And he's a damned liar. Always has been. So if that snake starts talking blasphemy, don't listen. God wants more for you. And always has. Amen.

HYMN 82 Of the Father's love begotten, vv. 1-3

Divinum mysterium





THE SECOND LESSON Isaiah 7:10-15

Again, the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.



THE THIRD LESSON Genesis 22:15-18

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves because you have obeyed my voice."



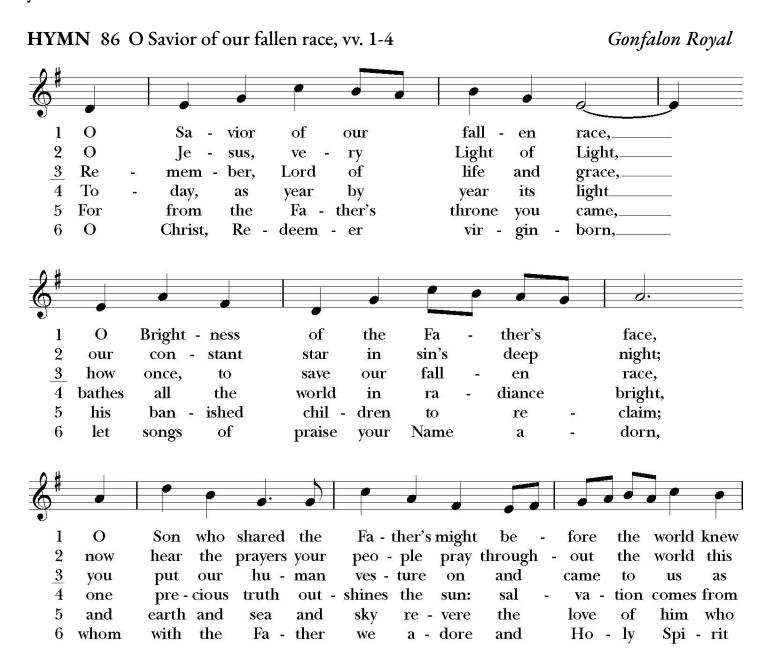
"Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!" is Latin for "Therefore, glory to God in the highest!"

THE FOURTH LESSON Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'



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(After stanza 6)
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THE GOSPEL Luke 2:15-21

The Gospel of Jesus, according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of Jesus.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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.

Food offerings may be brought forward to the baskets under the altar at this time.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY SOLO Once in Royal David's City Words by Cecil F. Alexander Music by Henry J. Gaunlett, arr. Richard Walters

Lou Bayard, soloist

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth, our Savior holy. Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew; He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us He knew. And He feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him thro' His own redeeming love; For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above. And he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

PRESENTATION HYMN 96 Angels we have heard on high, vv. 1 & 4 Gloria we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night, An - gels Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer? Come Beth-le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing; to him whom the an - gels a - bove; See in a man - ger laid praise



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

God is always with us.

God has been born among us!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Incarnate One

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right and joyful to give our thankful praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. Glory to you for ever and ever. At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

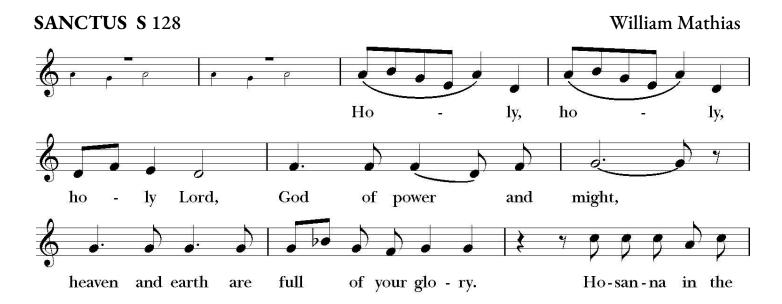
From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

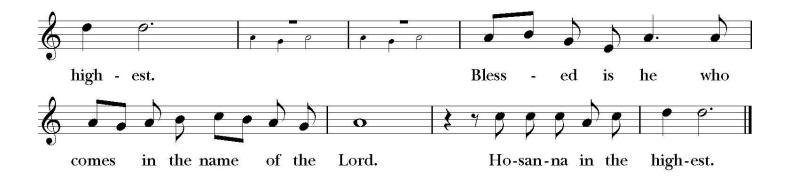
Have mercy, God, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his love, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:





And so, God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

God of our Ancestors: Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca, Leah Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God who was born of Mary and who is present in our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal.

Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

Amen!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

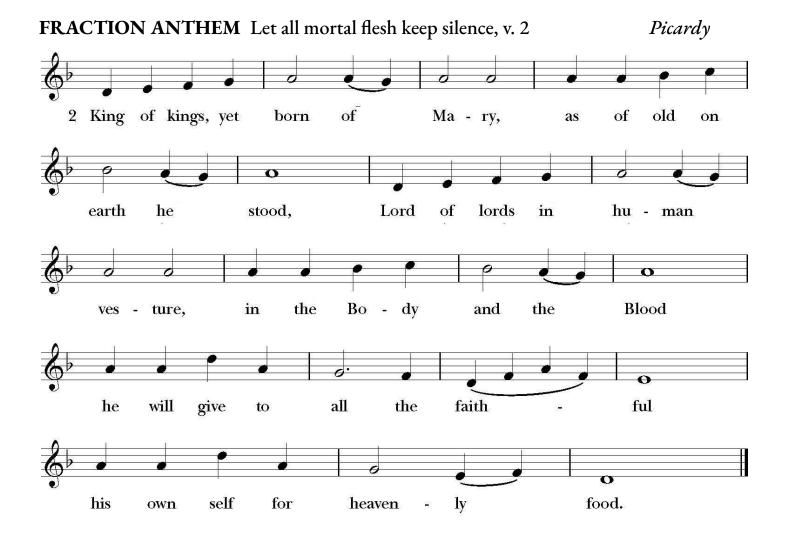
And now, as Jesus taught us, let us pray:

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 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 put out your hands to help guide the cup to your lips, and drink.

If you do not wish to receive the wine, please cross your hands over your chest. Please refrain from intincting (dipping) the host (the bread) into the wine.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Mary Had a Baby

African American Spiritual, arr. Richard Walters

Lou Bayard, soloist

Mary had a baby, my Lord.

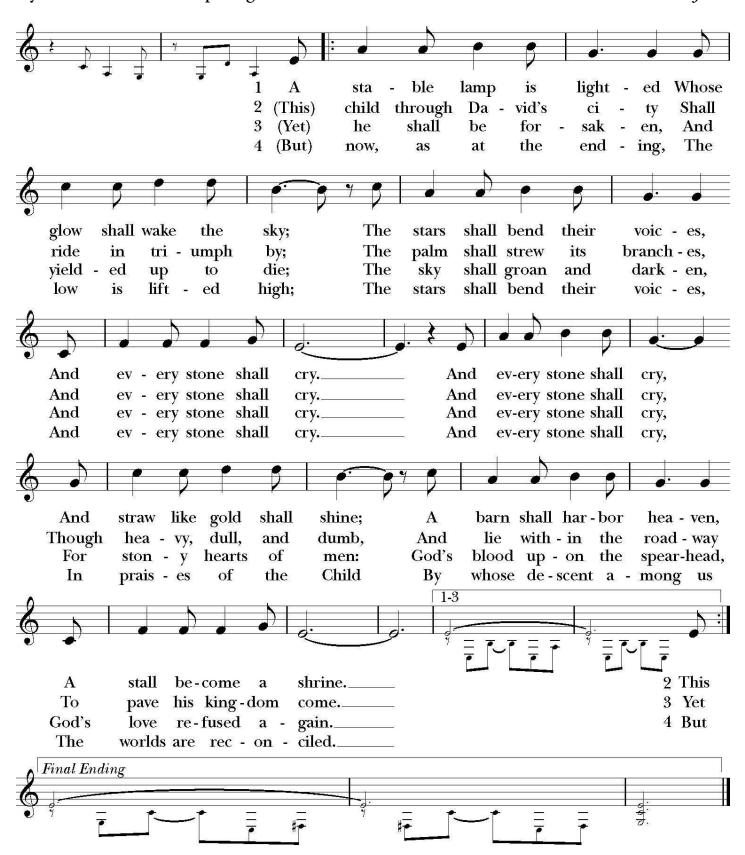
What did she call him, my Lord? Mary had a baby, he was called King Jesus.

Where was he born, my Lord? Mary had a baby, born in a stable.

Laid him in a manger, my Lord.

Hymn 104 A stable lamp is lighted

Andújar

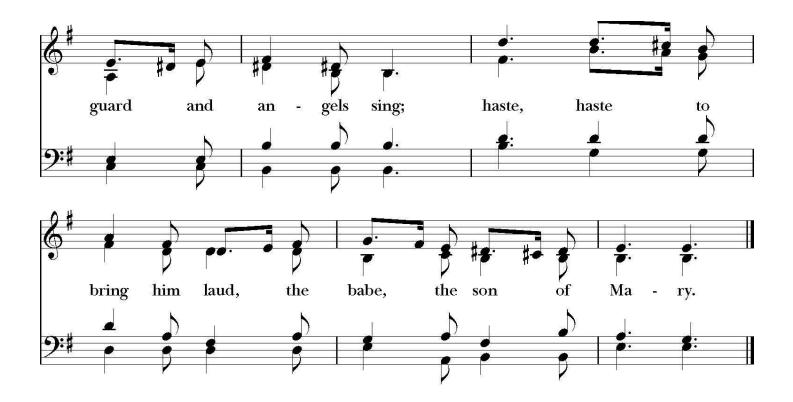


POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray,

Loving God, we thank you for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, and renewed; we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.





THE BLESSING

May the Creator, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you, God's children.

Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one thing, earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

Amen.

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!

POSTLUDE

Liturgical Leaders and Worship Participants

Presider The Reverend Michele Morgan

Interim Director of Music Mike McCarthy
Soloist Lou Bayard
Verger Michael Knipe

Readers Christina Herman, Gwen Dillard, Nancy Lucas, Danielle Collins

Greeters Mike Novy and Bill Jordan
Altar Guild Josie Jordan, Katherine Rogers

Eucharistic Minister David Deutsch

Bread & Wine Kenn Allen and Maureen Shea

Video Director Rosemary Harold

Technical Director Chris Berendes/Eva Dee

* * *

Chrismons The ornaments on the trees beside the chancel steps are called Chrismons and symbolize Jesus's life and ministry. They were a gift to St. Mark's over 50 years ago from Jeanie Anderson, Mary Cooper's mother, who made all of them herself, and they have been used in the church every year since. The word Chrismon is an abbreviation of "Christ's Monogram". The ornaments are used in many denominations, especially in Lutheran churches. They are supposed to be white and gold and are traditionally made from donated household items, although there are some available commercially that utilize colors and synthetic ingredients.

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.

Acknowledgements & Permissions

The Collect, Prayers for an Inclusive Church by Steven Shakespeare (adapted), Blessing, The Book of Common Prayer of the Anglican Church of New Zealand, adapted. The Creed: Scott Lipscomb. Eucharistic Prayer & Dismissal, The Book of Common Prayer. Post-communion prayer, Enriching Our Worship, volume 1, adapted. Prayers of the People: Common Worship of the Church of England. | Good Christian friends, rejoice. Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Of the Father's love begotten. Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt. Music: Divinum mysterium, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. Piae Cantiones, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956). Away in a Manger. Words: Anonymous. Music: James R. Murray (1841-1905); arr. Edythe Ethelynn Woodruff (b. 1970). Used by permission. On this day earth shall ring. Words: Piae Cantiones, 1582; tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929). Music: Personent bodie, melody from Piae Cantiones, 1582; harm. Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934) Copyright: Words: G. Schirmer, Inc. Reprinted by permission. Music: By permission of Oxford University Press. O Savior of our fallen race. Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Gilbert E. Doan (b. 1930). Music: Gonfalon Royal, Percy Carter Buck (1871-1947). Words: Copyright © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission. Music: By permission of Oxford University Press. Once in Royal David's City. Words by Cecil F. Alexander (1848). Music by Henry J. Gaunlett (1848), arr. Richard Walters, © 1992 Hal Leonard Corporation. Angels we have heard on high. Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: Gloria, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958). Sanctus. Music: William Mathias (1934-1992), © 1976 Oxford University Press. Let all mortal flesh keep silence. Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885). Music: *Picardy*, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from Chansons populaires des Provinces de France, 1860; harm. after The English Hymnal, 1906. Mary Had a Baby. Words & Music: African American Spiritual, arr. Richard Walters, © 2005 Hal Leonard Corporation. A stable lamp is lighted. Words: Richard Wilbur (b. 1921), © 1961, Richard Wilbur. Reprinted from his volume, Advice to a Prophet and Other Poems by permission of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. Music: Andújar, David Hurd (b. 1950), © 1984, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. What child is this, who, laid to rest. Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: Greensleeves, English melody; harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871. All selections: All rights reserved. Reprinted and livestreamed under OneLicense.net A-718991.

Cycle of Prayer

In the Diocese of Washington

Christ Church King & Queen Parish, Chaptico
Christ Church, Clinton
Christ Church Durham Parish, Nanjemoy
Christ Church, Georgetown
Christ Church Port Tobacco Parish, La Plata
Christ Church, Rockville
Christ Church, Kensington
Christ Church, Washington Parish
Christ Church Wayside, Newport

Anglican Communion

The Anglican Church of Canada

Parish Prayer List

Louise Abbot • Ben Alquiros • Nora Alquiros • Pam Baugh • Jackie Blondin
Jackie Boddie • Joseph Boone • Suzanne Burnette • Charlotte Clymer
Tracy Councill • Martin and Mary De Nys • Charley Donnelly • Dottie & Rudy
Pete Eveleth • Eddie Garnett • Jack Guza • Barbara Harvey • Michael Henely
Darnell Hill • Judith Holt • Jack Howell • Gale Johnson • Julia Jones • Shadi Khoury Hatcher
Byrd Kincheloe • Pat Latin • Marwan Ibrahim Maadi • Lila Marks
Nat Marks • Taylor Emerson Marks Walton Moody • Fred Muller (and family)
Mariza Oliveira • Bob Pearson • James & Wanda Pittman • Susan Puhala (and family) Malik
Robinson Jr • T.H. Salmon Jon Sand • Ben Schaibly • Stephanie Seely
Elin Whitney Smith • Martha Kincheloe Spain • Deb Sullivan • Anthony Sullivan
Yasser & Jawaher Toshtash • David Thacker • Stephanie Toth
Mateo Martinez-Vega & Family • Stephen Wolf • Geoffrey Wood • Tom Zarek

Parishioners and Family Members Serving in the Military

Chase Allen Ammon • Clint Billings • Jason Earnest • Noah Landen Ensign Andrew Loevinger • Lt. Tyler Gray-Hoehn • 1st Lt. Colin Gray-Hoehn

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

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Washington, DC 20003

202-543-0053 www.stmarks.net

Office Directory

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The Vestry

Jim Brooks	srwarden@stmarks.net	
Martha Huizenga	juniorwarden@stmarks.net	
C	,	
Travis Beaty, Meg Platt & Todd Thorpe		
Elizabeth Becker, Kristina Keenan & Doug Padgett		
Mary Ellison, Ben F	lowers, Katherine White	
	Martha Huizenga Travis Beaty, Meg Pi Elizabeth Becker, K	

Officers

Doug Ammon, Treasurer Nick Simons, Risk Manager

Roy Phillips, Asst. Treasurer Randy Marks, Clerk,

Frank Nickerson, Assistant Treasurer for Ryan Baugh, Assistant Clerk

Special Gifts & Bequests Rosemary Harold, Vestry Counsel

Diocesan Delegates

J.R. Randall (2027), Mary Neznek (2027), Jan Lipscomb (2028), Randy Marks (2026

The upcoming Vestry Meetings will be held on January 6th 7:00 PM via Zoom and in-person. If you have questions, contact the Vestry Clerk at clerk@stmarks.

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. After completing, please remove this page and place it in the offering plate or give it to a greeter.

I attended:	10 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols	
	O	n December 28, 2025
Name		
E-mail		
Zip Code		
I am interested in le	earning more about:	
	BECOMING A MEMBER	
	Volunteer during Worship (Usher, Lay Server, Altar Guild,	Read, etc.)
	Baptism (child, adult)	
	Music (choir, lessons)	
	Children/youth classes & programs including Sunday Scho	ol
	Adult classes	
	Social Justice/Service	
	Environmental issues	
	Getting married at St. Mark's	
	Senior programs/activities	
	Yoga classes	
	Dance classes	
	St. Mark's Players (theatrical productions)	
Would you like to b	be contacted by a clergyperson? Yes No	
You can stay up to d	late on St. Mark's news by signing up online for the weekly eGospel	

Thank you for visiting St. Mark's today. Go in peace and return often!

newsletter at <u>www.stmarks.net/contact-us/</u> or scan the QR code. If you'd like to join the St.

Mark's egroup to interact with other parishioners, please contact Chris Berendes

(christophberendes@gmail.com)

