

WE SEEK TO UNITE ALL PEOPLE WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER IN CHRIST THROUGH WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, EDUCATION, AND SERVICE

Welcome! We are glad you are here.

Prelude: Medley of Today's Hymns

Choral Call to Worship: Christ Is Coming! Prepare the Way.....E. V. Bonnemere

Processional Hymn 444: Blessed Be the God of Israel.....Thornbury

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

The Collect of the Day

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

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?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.

8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
 righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
 and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
 and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
 and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn 65: Prepare the Way.....Bereden Vag

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Response 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.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
Response ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Homily (Please be seated)

Fr. RJ

THE NICENE CREED (Please Stand as You Are Able)

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People Advent I

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Let us lift up our voices to God in strength, saying “Be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.”

Together as your Church, we long to see your face. Speak to us, Lord, as we walk through

the wilderness listening for the sound of your voice. Give our leaders patience, wisdom, and a heart for your will: For Michael, our presiding bishop; Anne, our bishop; and RJ, our priest.

In your mercy, **be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.**

We pray for all who govern, especially Joseph Biden, our president, and for the Congress and courts of this land. Guide the leaders of the nations as they work for the welfare of their people and the good of all.

In your mercy, **be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.**

Awaken us to the suffering of people near us and those far from us. Call forth in us a spirit of generosity and kindness. Equip us to respond to their needs. Arouse in us a sense of urgency to demonstrate your Good News in our lives and voice it, that all may hear. Make us messengers of your love.

In your mercy, **be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.**

We ask you to comfort those who have lost hope, who struggle with anxiety about the future, who live in fear. Bring healing to those for whom we now pray: Vonda, Henry, Jim, Jane, and Ron. Remembering especially Hilda and Wilmer, we pray for those who have died, that their memories be blessings in our lives.

In your mercy, **be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.**

Silence

The celebrant adds a concluding collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Please remain in your place and greet one another with a non-contact greeting.

PARISH NOTICES

PRAYER FOR BIRTHDAYS

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ANNIVERSARIES

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, we thank you for those among us whose lives together are a sign of Christ's love to the world, and we thank you especially this day for those who are celebrating their anniversaries. Grant that their wills may be so knit

together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. In Christ's name we pray. *Amen.*

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord.....Isa.40:1-4,9/James Moore

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The celebrant adds a proper preface

The Celebrant proceeds

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

S-130. Franz Schubert

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, (x2)
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. (x2)
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. (x2)

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; 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 shed for you and for many 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.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

COMMUNION *All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion.*

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

To Be Said By Those Online and Other Choosing Not to Receive the Sacrament

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of Your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I present to You my soul and body with the earnest wish that they may always be united to You. And since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I pray that You come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to You and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate You from me. May I live and die in Your love. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members**

**of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

Recessional Hymn 76: On Jordan's Bank

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

ALTAR GUILD DEDICATIONS

In Memory of Hilda Peavey – Barrie and Marilyn Thorp
In Memory of Wilmer D. Cowgill – John and Tory Willoughby

BOB'S MUSIC NOTES

"Blessed be..." were uttered by the father of John the Baptist as he beheld the divine infant. Beloved English divine Michael Perry wrote the text based on the Song of Zechariah which we know as the "Benedictus." Perry wrote some 300 hymns, the most famous of which is "Calypso Carol," for which he wrote both words and music. We may sing it later this month. Basil Harwood has three of his musical settings in our book. This is the first time we've used this hymn. Don't let its unfamiliarity discourage you.

"Prepare the Way" boasts an engaging Advent text, Scandinavian throughout with words by Finnish Bishop Franzen and a rather jolly folk tune from Sweden.

"On Jordan's Bank" is a "must" for any Advent service. Author Coffin (b. 1676) was Rector at the University of Paris and upheld the faith despite criticism. He is not to be confused with Wm. Sloane

Coffin, chaplain at Yale and minister of the Riverside Church. "Winchester New" started life in 1690 and has been harmonized by Monk, famed for "Abide With Me."

The choral selection is by black Catholic composer James Moore Jr who served as a music professor in Ohio for 5 years and then spent the rest of his life as a musician in Vienna. His most famous work is "Taste and See" which we have sung.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 11:
Knitting, 1 p.m.
Book Club, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13:
Evening Prayer, Zoom, at 4 p.m.

Save the Date:

Sunday, December 17:
Christmas Pageant

December Birthdays

2 Dave Thorley
10 Kathy Wise
12 Al Korosi, Pam McCarthy
14 Gary Mull
16 Patrick Watters
24 John Wise
25 Christy Thorley
27 Marilyn Thorp
29 Rebecca Watters

December Anniversaries

13 Wayne and Sandy Paradis
27 Rick and Julie Werren
29 Barrie and Marilyn Thorp

Servers this Sunday, December 10:

Eucharistic Ministers 8:00am: Diana Cornell
Eucharistic Ministers 10:00am: Tom Turner, Carol Hayn
Acolyte: Karen Violand
Ushers: John Willoughby, Gary Mull
Altar Guild: Cindy Brown, Kathy Sloan, Sara Strattan

Servers next Sunday, December 17:

Eucharistic Ministers 8:00am: Sara Strattan
Eucharistic Ministers 10:00am: Derek Gordon, Pam McCarthy
Acolyte: Danny Holihan
Ushers: Richard Crowl, Wayne Paradis
Altar Guild: Cindy Brown, Kathy Sloan, Sara Strattan



St. Mark's New Improved Fire Panel

The new panel on the right doesn't look much different. But after several months of negotiations, mechanical drawings, building permits and over \$10,000 we have a new improved fire alarm panel. After many years of dedicated service the old panel required frequent expensive house calls for technical support. A special thank you to Fr. RJ, the finance committee, and the buildings and grounds team for working through this process.



Now the finance committee has an opportunity for the entire parish to get involved in this significant mandatory capital improvement to our worship home. The finance committee has an initial \$3,000 donation from a family towards the panel cost. We understand at this time of year you receive many requests for financial support from the church and other organizations.

Please consider a special donation to St. Mark's to help defer the unexpected expense of a new fire panel. Please note **Fire Panel** on any contributions.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration,
St. Mark's Finance Committee

PRAYER CONCERNS

Vonda Temelkoff, Henry Aegerter, Jim Weaver, Jane Schutrum, & Ron Brookes

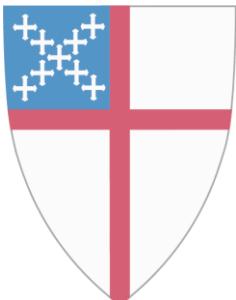
Family and Friends: Jolanda Mull, Dr. Sandy Lopater, Kirk Schuring, Pam Lagodich, & Bill Allen (sister-in-law & friends of the Mulls); Earl Hoot (father of Joe Hoot); Chuck Boone (cousin of Bruce Hixon), Ashley Stockman (friend of Katie & Ryan Kuceyeski); Tim Swihart & Michelle Graber (friends of the Gordons); Larry Aclaska & Judy Heisser-Turner (acquaintance & sister of Bert Heisser); Lee, Theresa, & Addelyn, and Chuck Boone (friends & cousin of the Hixons); Nori Shawk (friend of Brynn Pelger); Heidi Hoekstra (friend of Father RJ); Tracey Davy, Alison, & Johnny Willoughby (friends & grandson of the Willoughbys); Middle East & Heather Armington (request & friend of the Watters); Jane King; Elaine Campbell (friend of the Turners); Sammy (friend of Leslie Redmon); Bob Rownd (friend of John Werren & Anne Coen); Melanie & Trish (friends of Paulette Frech); Pat Walter & family (friend of Barb Whitehouse); Don Martin & Mark Osterhage (classmate & neighbor of the Watters); Alycia Geis (Karen Violand's friend's daughter); Don & Janet Sheatzley-Morgan (husband & sister of Barb Siegfried); DaNay Jackson (friend of Ron Brookes); Allison Cornell-Hood, Jody Serentsis, & Anne Higgins (daughter & friends of Diane Cornell); Finnigan Savage (friend of Pam McCarthy); Lynnda Hoefer & Jimmy Little (friend & son of Sue Little); Yanette Pysher (Vonda Temelkoff's cousin); Tony Donahue (friend of the Boyds); Marc Hostetler (brother of Susan Hostetler); Baby David (acquaintance of the Nadeles).

For those who have died.

For those in the armed forces.

Prayer Chain

St. Mark's has a group of prayer warriors who pray for specific needs of those on the prayer chain. If you would like to place yourself or a loved one on the prayer chain, please contact Bobbi Gordon at ggordon24@sbcglobal.net Please note, prayer requests may be placed on the Prayer Chain, in the Prayer Concerns list appearing here and in the Sunday bulletin, or in both places. Please let Bobbi know your preference. Please update Bobbi or Katie on the status of your friends or family members as to when they may be removed from the prayer lists.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
515 48th St. NW Canton, OH 44709
www.stmarks-canton.org | 330-499-2662

Fr. RJ Johnson: Rjohnson@stmarks-canton.org
Katie: office@stmarks-canton.org