

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

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THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6th, 2020

Worship Service available online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6brsjHWfTsl&feature=youtu.be>

Before the service, let us silently speak to God.

During the service, may God speak to us.

After the service, let us joyously speak to our friends.

Prelude: *Prelude on 'Picardy'* Craig Phillips

Advent Prayer & Lighting of the Advent Wreath Melissa Brookes & Ella Brookes-Knetz

Hymn: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* Hymnal 76

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Acclamation BCP 355

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People: *His mercy endures for ever.*

Collect of Purity BCP 355

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.

Trisagion S-101

Setting: John Rutter (b. 1945)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Collect for the Day

BCP 211

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.*

Congregation: Collect for St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Gracious God, through your Fatherly goodness, make St. Mark's a Christian community united to serve others; enrich our life in Christ, that we might celebrate and share Christ's love; and send your Holy Spirit to give us strength and courage to proclaim the Good News of your love through word and deed. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (Isaiah 40:1-11)

Reader: Dr. Jon Campbell

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. *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 85

Peter A. Madpak, Cantor

Refrain

Lord, make us turn to you, show us your face, and
we shall be saved.

Verses

1. Lord, we are present here, show us your kindness and love,
O speak your word of peace unto your people.
2. Lord, let salvation rain, shower down your justice and peace,
the earth shall bring forth truth, the skies your love.
3. See, Lord, we look to you, you alone can bring us to life,
O walk before us to light our pathways.

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter (2 Peter 3:8-15a)

Reader: Lunetta Knowlton

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. *Thanks be to God*

Hymn: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Hymnal 56 v.3-4

The Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark

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 the Lord

Praise to thee, Lord Christ

The Sermon

The Rev. Maggie Sullivan

Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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

People may stand or kneel for the prayers.

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake. That we might be ready for your coming and eager to pray. O God, you are the potter, and we are the clay, the work of your hand.

We pray for the church, that you might form us and mold us into the church you would have us be.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In your time O Lord, the valley shall be lifted up, the mountains and hills shall be made low, and the rough places will become a plain. We pray for our nation and all the nations, that your peace will be manifest in every corner of the earth. *Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.*

In your kingdom, O Lord, you bring unending comfort. You feed your flock like a shepherd and gather the lambs into your arms. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and all those in distress of any kind; that you will heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Your great works of redemption, O God, span the ages, we pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthday and anniversaries; that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sigh might fleet away.
Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your Son to be born of our sister Mary; and his name was Emmanuel, God be with us. We thank you for your present with us and we pray that you might be always present with those who we love and no longer see.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come among us, O God, and hear our prayers, so that when your son Jesus comes among us, with great might and in manger mild, we might recognize his face and voice and come to adore him. *Amen*

Confession

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

The Peace:

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: *And also with you.*

Announcements (see end of bulletin)

Anthem: *How Long?* Mark A. Miller

THE HOLY COMMUNION THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

Celebrant: 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 God thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Proper Preface of the day said by Celebrant

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:

Sanctus

S-125

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

The people stand or kneel (if able).

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.*

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.

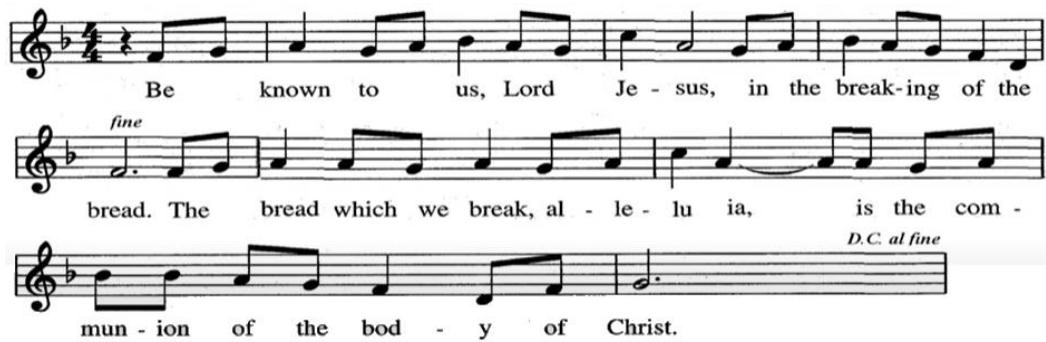
The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia*

Fraction Anthem: Be Known to Us

Hymnal S-171



Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread. The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

Anthem: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

arr. Stephen Cleobury

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

Hymn: *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Hymnal 65

Dismissal:

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude: Postlude on 'Winchester New'

Christopher Tambling



SPECIAL EVENTS:

Preschool Silent Auction. Preview items beginning November 29th. Items will be continually added to the auction, So please check back for new items. Online auction opened on Wednesday, December 2nd, and **bidding closes Sunday, December 6th at 7:45pm.** www.biddingowl.com/stmarkspreschool

Join us online at www.stmarksvenice.org for a **Virtual Advent Lessons and Carols**. The Story told in Scripture and Song. **Available for viewing Wednesday, December 9th, 2020.**

The Longest Night: A Blue Christmas Service -- Join us for this in-person service of prayer, reflection, and healing especially for those who may be struggling during the holidays. **Wednesday December 16, 2020 at 6:30** in the Sanctuary. Reservations are not necessary, but masks are required, and social distancing will be observed.

HOLIDAY CHEER - Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 3:00pm. Come join us for a joyous Christmas celebration! The First Brass of Sarasota and Peter Madpak will share some favorite Christmas carols and songs of the season. Expect a visit from a favorite Saint and treats as well! We'll light the tree and share a special time together. Some chairs are available to sit in the labyrinth, or move out to the lawn, in the park across the street, or even your car. Social distancing and masks are required.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Christmas Eve Service for Children December 24, 2020 at 3:30 outdoors on the Labyrinth. Bring the young ones and young at heart to this celebration of Holy Eucharist with storytelling. Some chairs will be available, or you may bring your own. All adults and children over 2 are required to wear masks. Reservations will NOT be required. All attending must sign in with contact number and verify that they have not been exposed to or been ill with COVID-19 for the past 14 days, and currently feel well

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020 at 5:30 pm AND 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary with Music. Celebration of Holy Eucharist. Seating will be limited, and reservations will be required. All adults and children over 2 are required to wear masks. Reservation will open on Dec. 15th. Register online or call the office. There will be separate reservations for each service be certain to register for the time you wish to worship on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day, December 25, 2020 at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary. Celebration of Holy Eucharist. Seating will be limited, and reservations will be required. All adults and children over 2 are required to wear masks. Reservation will open on Dec. 15th. Register online or call the office.

WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS:

“In-person” Worship - Sundays at 9:00 am. Seating is limited. Please register to reserve your seat on our website: <https://stmarksvenice.com/services> or by calling the office. Registration opens Tuesday for the following Sunday's service. For more details, please contact the office.

“In-person” Outside Worship - Saturdays 4:30 pm. Join us outside on the labyrinth for the Saturday Evening Eucharist Service. No reservation are required, we will ask you to sign in when you attend. Mask and social distancing will be the norm. We will have outdoor chairs available or you can bring your own chair. Contact the office with questions.

Coffee Hour, Sundays at 10:00 am. Grab your cup of coffee and join us for some fellowship via [Zoom meetings](https://www.zoom.us). Sit at your own table and enjoy the weekly conversation about this and that! For more information on Zoom or for help starting Zoom, please contact the church office or check out www.zoom.us. Zoom is an easy video/audio conferencing application. You can join with audio only from any regular telephone.

Drive-Through Communion – Sundays at 11 a.m. – Noon. You are invited to receive Holy Communion from the safety of your car. While this is an unusual approach, we do long to share the blessing of Holy Eucharist as part of our Sunday celebration of prayer and thanksgiving. Please enter the parking lot behind Gray Hall via Riviera Street.

Men’s Morning Fellowship – Tuesdays at 10 am. Weekly opportunity for Men's fellowship. Normally during the pandemic, the meetings have been held online **via Zoom**. Please contact the church office for the Zoom meeting details.

Morning Prayer under the Oaks on Mondays and Wednesdays, at 9:30 am. We now have chairs available or you can still bring your own chair, mask are required. We have leaflets available or you may bring your own BCP.

Wired Word Bible Study – Wednesdays at 10:30 am. Weekly Bible study for Adults [via Zoom](#). Lessons are based on the week's news that usually spark stimulating discussions. Please contact the office for the Zoom meeting details.

St. Mark's Book Circle. Next meeting December 15th at 10:00 am in Gray Hall. December's book is A New Song, by Jan Karon. This group normally meets the third Tuesday each month, with summer vacation May-September.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

St. Mark's will welcome our new rector, January 13th, 2021. The Rev. Michael Rau comes to St. Mark's with extensive experience and training in youth ministry as well as five years of experience as Rector of Holy Nativity Episcopal Church in Pennsylvania and experience as Associate Rector in St. Mark's Episcopal Church in New Canaan, Connecticut. He is a graduate of General Seminary in New York City. During the ten years prior to entering seminary he worked in various positions of increasing responsibility in the Montgomery County Office of Domestic Relations in Pennsylvania.

Fr. Michael's wife, Melissa, works as a consultant to various churches around the country and recently began working as Chief of Staff at Bexley Seabury Seminary, a digital seminary 'without walls. Fr. Michael and Melissa are very proud of their three children – Talie, a sophomore at Boston Conservatory of Music; Kiersten, a tenth-grade student; Peyton, an eighth-grade student, and Francis, the family dog!

As part of the announcement at St. Mark's Senior Warden, Michael Knowlton, mentioned the guiding hand of God as the critically important component in place throughout the entire transition process. He then specifically thanked the vestry, the search committee, church staff and numerous church volunteers who have worked so hard and accomplished so much during this uniquely difficult and challenging time.

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INTERCESSIONS: For the universal Church; for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury; the Anglican Communion; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Dabney, our Bishop; Julio, Bishop of our Companion Diocese; for St. Mark's Clergy; for a resolution to the conflict in the Middle East; for civilian workers; for military chaplains; our service personnel, their families; victims of terror and abuse everywhere; for all those suffering due to disasters of nature.

THE SICK: Jean Alfano, Chad Alley, Milt Barnes, John Barr, Emma Bentley, Sue Bickenton, Joyce Bishop, Patricia Blow, Barbara & Ed Boucher, Barry Briggs, Gibb Brownlie, Genevieve Brussee, Scott Buckley, Dick Bull, Betty Caldwell, Jackson Carmichael, Kayce Caswell, Loretta Cunningham, Donne Cutting, Janie Davis, Ron Davis, Carole Doll, Connie Dowry, Shari Duval, John Eichman, Rodney Eller, Evelyn Eisenhower, Chris Emmons, Mack Emmons, Judy Epperson, Robert Evans, Ouida Felker, Clint Ferrazzo, Dan Flatt, Lyn Ford, Bob Fritche, Flora Garsten, Michael Gavin, Lynda Geyer, Jason Goss, Betty Graves, Jennifer Grieger, Joshua Griffin, Douglas Griffith, Anne Grubb, Steve Grupp, Tracy Hagar, Meredith and Allan Hardman, Woody Harvey, Sue Hatch, Penny Heleman, Kristin Hickey, Hobey Hinchman, Christina Hines, Linda Hintz peter, Natalie Holcroft, Linda Hopkins, Madeline Horvath, Linda Hubbard, Matt Hulbert, John Hussey, Nancy Hussey, Eleanor Jean, Jennifer, Forrest Jerome, Jill, Joshua Johns, Karen & Steven Kabatski, Molly Kehoe, Robert Kench, Janine Kiddle, Sarah Kipp, Kirstin Knotph, Lee Krumbacher, Mary Kyrzos, Charles Lakowsky, Pat Lauth, Jennifer & Jack Lauless, Joyce Leithauser, Leslie Livinghouse, E. Melvin Lloyd, Bill Luckfield, Scott Macintosh, Anita Marshall, Paul Marshall, Michael Mayo, Willa McCafferty, Victor Mankiewicz, Kim Medvedis, Melissa McCoy, Barbara Minor, Andrea Montgomery, Elizabeth Moser, Pam Motte, Mark Nettesheim, Elizabeth Ord, Rachel Parrish, Lucy Patterson, Deb & Holly Ranieri, Eli Rider, Dori Reiley, Tom Ritzel, Sarah and Aaron Royster, Lora Rzepka, Barbara Sammons, Cynthia Schein, Linda Seerey-Lester, David Sherwood, Liz Shetterly, Helen Sica, David Simmons, Jeff Slang, Doug Small, Rich Smith, Lisa Spears, Nan Stortz, Mike Strasburger, Nancy Tabor, Molly Taylor, Marvin Thomas, Sally Thomas, Harris H. Tibbetts, Jr., Peter Tibbetts, Chrissy Todd, David Todd, Len Van Zinderen, Jim Walker, Eddie Ward, Christopher Warnock, Connie Waymer, Ann Weaver, Bernie Welker, John White, Lisa Whole, Bob Williams, Kathryn Williams, Kourtney Williams, Hubert Willis, Randy Willis, Robert Wills, Jan Wolf, Mark Woodward, Ann Worrall, those in nursing homes and our parish homebound.

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The Sanctuary Candle is Given in Thanksgiving for our Anniversary
by Hubert and Barbara Willis