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 the struggles of life and to care for others with love, justice, and compassion.



THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 27, 2020

4:50 PM GATHER

5:00 PM CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

Rector
The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

Deacon
The Reverend Cindy Dopp

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**, go to our homepage www.stmarks.net and click "Calendar" at the top of the page.

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

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THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING MUSIC

OPENING SENTENCES

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

For to us a child is born,
to us a Son is given.

His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest,
And Peace to God's people on earth.

BIDDING PRAYER

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against God until the glorious redemption brought to us by the holy Child Jesus, and let us make this Church Community glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church, and especially for this Church in our country and in this city of Washington. And because God particularly loves them, let us remember in the Creator's name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.
Come now, O God of love. Reconcile your people and make us one body.

THE FIRST LESSON *The Creation* by James Weldon Johnson (adapted)

And God stepped out on space, and looked around and said: I'm lonely—I'll make me a world. And far as the eye of God could see darkness covered everything, blacker than a hundred midnights down in a cypress swamp.

Then God smiled, and the light broke, and the darkness rolled up on one side, and the light stood shining on the other, and God said: That's good! Then God reached out and took the light in God's hands, and God rolled the light around until the sun was made; and set that sun a-blazing in the heavens. And the light that was left from making the sun God gathered it up in a shining ball and flung it against the darkness, spangling the night with the moon and stars. Then down between the darkness and the light God hurled the world; and God said: That's good!

Then Godself stepped down—and the sun was on God's right hand, and the moon was on the left; the stars were clustered about God's head, and the earth was under God's feet. And God walked, and where God trod God's footsteps hollowed the valleys out and bulged the mountains up.

God stopped and looked and saw that the earth was hot and barren. So God stepped over to the edge of the world and spat out the seven seas—God batted her eyes, and the lightnings flashed—She clapped her hands, and the thunders rolled—and the waters above the earth came down, the cooling waters came down.

Then the green grass sprouted, and the little red flowers blossomed, the pine tree pointed his finger to the sky, and the oak spread out his arms, the lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the ground, and the rivers ran down to the sea; And God smiled again, and the rainbow appeared, and curled itself around her shoulder.

Then God raised his arm and he waved his hand over the sea and over the land, and she said: Bring forth! Bring forth! And quicker than God could drop his hand, fishes and fowls and beasts and birds swam the rivers and the seas, roamed the forests and the woods, and split the air with their wings. And God said: That's good!

Then God walked around, and God looked around on all that she had made. He looked at his sun, and she looked at her moon, and she looked at her little stars; He looked on his world with all its living things, and God said: I'm lonely still.

Then God sat down—on the side of a hill where she could think; by a deep, wide river he sat down; with her head in her hands, God thought and thought, till he thought: I'll make me a man! Up from the bed of the river God scooped the clay; and by the bank of the river she kneeled her down; and there the great God Almighty Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky, Who flung the stars to the most far corner of the night, Who rounded the earth in the middle of his hand; this great God, like a mother bending over her baby, kneeled down in the dust toiling over a lump of clay till he shaped it in is his own image;

Then into it he blew the breath of life, and human became a living soul.

Amen. Amen.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

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 Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

THE FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:1–7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

THE FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8–20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 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.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

THE SIXTH READING 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.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

HOMILY The Reverend R. Justice Schunior

CLERGY GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELECTRONIC OFFERING

To support the work of the church, make an online gift now or learn about the other ways to give.

Pledges to support the church in the future and online gifts can also be made through the St. Mark's website stmarks.net by choosing "Donate or Pledge" at the top.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

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:

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 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, 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us,
Therefore let us keep the feast; alleluia, alleluia!

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We recognize this as God's table set before us and for all and this bread and wine as God's food for us and for all. Therefore whoever we are, from wherever we have come, and whatever we believe,
All are welcome and invited to receive. Amen!

THE COMMUNION

Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available; please make your needs known to the minister.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Loving God, we give you thanks 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; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the Father, 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 things 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

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Welcome Newcomers!

We hope you feel a sense of connection as we share this time together online.
There are many other opportunities to get involved with St. Mark's, even remotely.

If you are a newcomer and want us to get to know you better, please fill out this form. If you have questions, you can also contact the staff listed on the last page.
We will be happy to help you in any way we can.

Epiphany Sermon Series: Adding a Voice: Radical Acts of Love

[1]

January 10	Introduction: What does Lending your voice mean?	Michele Morgan
January 17	Listening to the change.	Cindy Dopp
January 24	Seeing the world anew.	Justice Schunior
January 31	Teaching and learning	Joe Hubbard
February 7	In it for the long haul	Patricia Catalano
February 14	Of change and being changed	Michele Morgan

1. Wall of Moms Portland, OR. Source: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jul/21/trump-federal-agents-portland-protests-moms

✠ Service Participants ✠

Officiant & Preacher	The Reverend R. Justice Schunior
Music	David Deutsch

Permissions

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). *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). *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). *Angels, from the realms of glory*. Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879). *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). Copyright: Words: Copyright © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission. Music: By permission of Oxford University Press. *Lo! How a rose e'er blooming*. Words & Music: Traditional German, arr. Mark Hayes © 1999 Alfred Publishing Co. *On this day earth shall ring*. Words: Piae Cantiones, 1582; tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929). Music: *Personent hodie*, 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. *Silent night, holy night*. Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910). *The first Nowell the angel did say*. Meter: Irr. with Refrain. Words: English Carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1841-1901); alt. Refrain harm. and desc. Healey Willan (1880-1968). Copyright: Music: Alternative setting with descant, © 1926, by Oxford University Press, Inc. All selections: All rights reserved. Reprinted and livestreamed under OneLicense.net A-718991.

Cycle of Prayer

In the Diocese of Washington

St. John's Church, Olney
St. John's Episcopal School, Olney
St. John's Church, Zion Parish
St. John's Church, Broad Creek
St. John's Church, Mt. Rainier

Anglican Communion

Pray for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement
His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome
His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople,
New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch
The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches
Bishop Ivan M Abrahams, General Secretary World Methodist Council
The Reverend Chris Ferguson,
General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches

Parish Prayer List

Louise Abbot • Collie Agle • Ben Alquiros • William Aycock
Bernard • John Barton • Robert Baugh • Sean Bishop
Pamela Blumgart • Joseph Boone • Fairfield Butt
Norman Choiniere • Taylor Emerson • Jean Eveleth
Elizabeth Fowler • Gale Johnson • Jocelyn Kovalenko
Carol Lewis • Phyllis Love • Barbara Marks • Nat Marks
The Massey-Padgett Family • Jane Miller • Don Mosher
Joan Pierotti • Rick Rutherford • Mary Welker • Nell Whitman

Parishioners and Family Members serving in the military

Chase Allen Ammon • Clint Billings • Jason Earnest

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

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The Reverend Joe Hubbard, Seminarian	seminarian@stmarks.net

The Vestry

Senior Warden	Ryan Baugh	seniorwarden@stmarks.net
Junior Warden	Jim Pittman	juniorwarden@stmarks.net
Class of '21	Christina Herman, Brandon Dunn Knight, & Amber Macdonald	
Class of '22	Andrew Stafford, Shay Waye, & Kit Arrington	
Class of '23	Brent Bickley, Linell Grundman, & Fritz Henn	
Officers	John Edwards, *Treasurer*	
	Kim Bayliss, *Register*	
	Mary Thuell, *Counsel*	

Diocesan Delegates

Peter Nye Caitlin Frazier Sandy Padgett