



# THE GOOD NEWS

For the Week beginning December 20, 2020

## WORSHIP

**Worship this Sunday 10AM on Facebook Live, You Tube and on our Website!**

<https://www.facebook.com/saintmarksepiscopalparishupland/posts/3653263598074298>

**Call in option: +1.888.958.7272 - wait for prompt to enter code- 428042518 #569446105**

**In-Spirit Worship Readers** Our schedule has moved to our website, [www.stmarks-upland.org](http://www.stmarks-upland.org). Please check the schedule and use the readings and psalms on the lectionary pages found [here](#).

**Watch Last Sunday's Service on YouTube:** Please subscribe to the St. Mark's YouTube page so that we can have access to more editing tools from YouTube. Many thanks to Landon Abernathy.

**Check-In, Bible Study & Prayer** Join us Monday through Thursday from 8:15 to 8:50 am for Prayer and Bible Study - prayer sheets available on the website: <https://www.stmarks-upland.org/morning-prayer/> Meeting ID: 937 8054 5256 <https://zoom.us/j/93780545256>

**Wednesday Evening Taizé Services at 7:30 pm Taizé** Worship, Wednesday, at 7:30 pm on Zoom - join via computer, tablet, or smartphone with this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98723305020?pwd=U1NFY0JlOFJML2pMenVheUdTQlBaQT09>

Meeting ID: 987 2330 5020. Password: taize

## CHRISTMASTIDE AT SAINT MARK'S

**Five (Minutes) at Five (PM)** From Sunday through Wednesday December 21 -23, we invite you to tune into Five at Five. Each evening at 5PM, we will have a five-minute meditation or reading leading up to Blue Christmas (23) and Christmas Eve (24). Available on the church website, YouTube and Facebook.

**A Nighttime Prayer:** Sunday through Wednesday December 20-23 at 10:30 PM. Join us for Compline prayer at the close of the day. Available on the church website, YouTube and Facebook.

**Blue Christmas: The Longest Night, Dec 23 at 5PM** Please join us for a service to remember and name the things and people we lost this year. We come together on this, the longest night of the year to help prepare ourselves to be fully present to Jesus at Christmas. Even if you have missed all of Advent, please come to this service. This service will be via Zoom and broadcasted via Facebook and YouTube.

**Christmas Services Christmas Eve** services will be Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube at 5PM and again at 10:30PM. The later service will include a prelude concert featuring the choir, praise band, and various soloists. Available on the church website, YouTube and Facebook.

**December 25** 10AM Rev. Keith will host Morning Prayer and will tune in for Bishop Diane's Christmas sermon. Join us on Zoom. Pajamas and hot cocoa okay!

<https://zoom.us/j/98049152934?pwd=ZExLQXUweW9SK2E1eIBuVXZZRDlrdz09>, password xmas2020.

**December 27**, the first Sunday of the 12-day Christmas season, Bishop Taylor will be hosting a diocesan Lessons & Carols at 10AM. St. Mark's will not be broadcasting that day.

### **In-Spirit Morning Prayer on Sun, Jan 3, 2021**

Our In-Spirit worship on Sunday, Jan 3, 2021 at 10 am (PST) will be simulcast on Zoom (and maybe YouTube) in addition to being broadcast on Facebook. This will be our celebration of Morning Prayer on the Second Sunday of Christmas and feature music from our Christmas Eve services. We will be commemorating life milestones for the month on January 10.

This way of doing worship will allow the choir and digital ministry team to enjoy some time off following a busy Christmas Eve service. Thank you for your understanding and trying something different. The zoom meeting id is 954 9069 7902

### **Christmas Dedications**

This year, we will be hosting a dedication site online to collect the names of those we love. Similar to our flower offering envelopes, this year's donations will benefit the In-Spirit Worship ministry. The names of those we honor will be added to the credit slides of this year's Christmas Eve In-Spirit services. Please use click on the link above to fill out a form. When donating, use "Christmas Dedication" in the memo line of your offering. Deadline for submissions, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **FAITH-FILLED GENEROSITY**

### **2021 Stewardship Pledge Drive Update**

As of 12/12/20 St. Mark's has received 67 pledges for 2021 totaling \$263,504. Out of that the Pledges to the Operating (General) Fund total \$242,024 and pledges to the Building Fund total \$18,760. Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge for 2021. It is not too late to make a pledge; cards are available in the church office. Please remember that you may adjust your pledge at any time.

## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer is the one prayer in every Episcopal service. It can be presented in many different meaningful ways, forms, and languages. Please be an evangelist and consider inviting individual and groups, members and non-members, Episcopalians, and Christians to present the Lord's Prayer. Please be sure that that the presentation is done with authenticity, integrity, and reverence. Please also consider the safety guidelines of our diocesan, medical and civic leaders. Please contact Andrea Griffin for more information.

### **Celebrating Birthdays, Anniversaries and Other Life Hallmarks due by the 25th**

Are you celebrating a birthday or anniversary next month? Please let us know and send a photo by the 25th of the month before your celebration month. The visual celebration will be on the first Sunday of the month. Send to "blessings@stmarks-upland.org."

### **Bishop's Curry's "Love is the Way" Church-wide Book Study feat. Bishop Taylor on Dec 16**

Bishop John Harvey Taylor reflects on Bishop Curry's popular best seller "Love is the Way." The online church-wide program will offer participants the opportunity to engage across geographical and congregational differences and reflect on the love that binds us together. To take part in the book study series, click [here](#) to register.

### **St. Mark's Book Club meets Third Saturdays from 10 to 12 noon**

The St. Mark's Book Club will be gathering on the third Saturday of the month from 10-12 noon. Please contact any member or Sue Andrews, Coordinator, at [BookClub@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:BookClub@stmarks-upland.org) for more information.

### **Women's Prayer Breakfast Meets Fridays at 11am**

The women's prayer breakfast meets every Friday at 11 am via Zoom. All women are invited to join us. Please contact Kathryn Barbour at [womensprayerbreakfast@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:womensprayerbreakfast@stmarks-upland.org)

### **Pinochle Group meeting Wednesdays 9am to 12noon**

Want to know how to play cards via zoom? Join the Pinochle group. They now play on Wednesdays from 9am to 12 noon. For more information, please contact Chris Watson at [stpeter@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:stpeter@stmarks-upland.org).

### **Calling all Puzzlers**

Have you completed your puzzle? Are you ready to bring it to the church for inclusion in the World's Largest Puzzle? Please call the church office before coming to make sure someone is there to help.

## **OUTREACH**

### **December Outreach**

For December, please remember all of our outreach programs. You can donate to our partnership in Haiti and if you would like to do so in someone's name, Canon Serena Beeks will make a certificate for you. I will be happy to do the same thing for any donations to Foothill Family Shelter. Just let us know.

Thanks,

Kay Alexander, Senior Warden

### **TOUCH Ministries to fill 100 backpacks**

Please help us fill 100 backpacks for TOUCH Ministry this Christmas. The monthly food collection for TOUCH Ministries will be held on Saturday, Dec. 19th, from 9am till 11am in the north parking lot of the church. Nonperishable food items, hygiene items, and fast-food gift cards are needed. Also, with the cold weather coming, jackets, socks, blankets, and gloves are also needed. For more information call Dave Nalbach at (909)635-4297. Thanks for your participation.

### **Nativity Escape Room Available at St. Mark's**

Through the generous donation of an anonymous parishioner, St. Mark's is making available the "Nativity Escape Room: A Printable Experience." Please pick up your color copy at the red lockers by the belltower. Hint #1: Clear the lock combination by pushing the lock up twice. Make the sign of the cross the number of times of the locker number. Then pull the lock down. Hint #2: The St. Mark's icon is a winged blank! And punctuation counts.

### **Youth Group News**

During our time away, we have been meeting online using Zoom and in messages. We are currently meeting via Zoom, please check your messages for dates and times. If you would like to be added to the group, please message Rob Garretson at [youth@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:youth@stmarks-upland.org). Also, please note that all our in-person activities with other groups such as the Deanery, TOUCH, etc. are on hold until further notice. Thanks, and stay safe and healthy,  
Rob Garretson  Director of Youth Ministries

### **Choristers**

Children in grades 3-6, are invited to join Choristers on Tuesday afternoons at 4PM via Zoom for a half hour. If you have a young singer who would like to participate, please email me at [music@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:music@stmarks-upland.org) for the link.

God bless everyone,

Blane Abernathy, Organist and Director of Music

## **FUN-raiser Covid-19 Emergency Appeal**

Join us in giving generously to the One Body & One Spirit Emergency Appeal to help our congregations and ministries most at risk during this crisis. The mailing address for checks made payable to "Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles" is: Bishop John Harvey Taylor c/o the Rev. Michele Racusin, CFO; 840 Echo Park Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90026.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Altar Guild News**

The altar guild is looking for members to assist in set up and clean up for services, once we return to in person worship. The guild is responsible for changing the altar seasonally, as well as preparing the elements for Eucharist on Sunday and clearing the altar after services. The guild welcomes all who would like to learn more about the "behind the scenes" workings of our services. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ann Porter or Kathy Walker at [altarguild@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:altarguild@stmarks-upland.org).

### **We are Praying for You – The Daughters of the King**

Please send your prayer requests to [prayer@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:prayer@stmarks-upland.org). Or contact the clergy or a member of the Daughters of the King who pray both daily individually and together every Sunday before the morning service.

### **Church and Preschool Christmas Vacation Closings**

The Church office and Preschool will be closed from December 21 to January 3. Office and school will reopen on Monday, January 4.

### **Your Contributions Make a Difference, Thank You!**

Please send pledges or donations to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 330 E. 16th Street, Upland, CA 91784. You may wish to set up automatic "bill pay" or "online banking" through your financial institution. Or you may make your donation through [PayPal](#). Donations are being accepted through our email address, [contributions@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:contributions@stmarks-upland.org).

### **Donate through Amazon Smile®**

Support St. Mark's every time you shop on Amazon. Sign up here: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2074628>. Each time you shop you will automatically designate a portion of your total will go to Saint Mark's to assist with our programs.

### **Submissions for the Church Newsletter**

Please send articles and news for "The Good News" to [parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org) by Tuesday.

St. Mark's Episcopal Parish: A Community of Grace

#### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We embrace Christ at the center of our lives, sharing the Gospel with all people and loving ourselves and each other as Christ loves us

E-mail: [parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org)

Web: [www.stmarks-upland.org](http://www.stmarks-upland.org)

Facebook: Saint Mark's Episcopal Parish Upland, CA

Instagram: @stmarksupland

YouTube: Saint Mark's Episcopal Church Upland, CA  
330 E. 16th St., Upland, CA 91784 + (909) 920-5565