Welcome Home

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

We spread God's word, love like Jesus, enjoy worshipping together, and help our neighbors.

Advent 2, December 7, 2025

Christmas Eve, Wed, Dec 24: 3 PM with Nativity Story & 9:30 PM with Choir
Christmas Day, Thurs, Dec 25 one service at 10 AM with Organ & Cantor
Christmas Lessons & Carols, Sun, Dec 28, at 10 AM – No music at 8AM

Welcome Home

We are glad you are here to join us for worship and to share in the inclusive, reckless, extravagant love of God. Please fill out a Connect Card; join us for refreshments after the service; and visit our website at stmarks-upland.org.

Children & Youth Have a Place Here

Sunday school for children ages 3-12 in the chapel next to the altar at 10AM. Youth Group ministry meets the first Sunday of each month at 11:30 AM in Room 18.

Good News

Workdays: Trees, Dec 7; Altar Guild Dec 13; Stars, Dec 14; Wreaths, Dec 21.
Dec 7: Blessing of Foothill Family Shelter Gifts, St. Nicholas Dinner
Dec 13: TOUCH Ministry Christmas Dinner
Dec 14: Bishop's Visitation, Confirmations, Christmas Dedications Due, Blessing of Toys for TOUCH
Dec 20: Book Club
Dec 20/21: Longest Night (Blue Christmas) Date & time TBD
Dec 28, Christmas Lesson & Carols

Today's Ministers

Music: Band, Gigi G
Readers: (8AM) Cheri C, Larry S (10AM) Rob G, Karin B, Brandon H
Eucharistic Ministers: (8AM) Linda G (10AM) John F, Craig G, Brandon H
Digital Ministry: Kay A, Bob M

Altar Guild: Dr. Jim B, EB S, Larry & Bively S
Sextons: Larry Shade, Rosalyn Foster
Ablution Guild: Rosalyn F
Hospitality: Karin & Dr Jim B

Acknowledgements

Lectionary: Year W by Wil Gafney; Psalm translation, Gafney; Prayers of the People, Confession, Nicene Creed: EOW1; Eucharistic Prayer: Kay Sylvester; Lessons: Genesis 16:7-13 (Hagar); Psalm 71:4-11; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 1:26-38 (Annunciation to Mary – A4B)

Prelude and Welcome (10AM): *Please remain seated.*

Entrance Hymn (10AM): *Please stand as you are able*.
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Veni, veni Emmanuel

Opening Acclamation
Clergy: Blessed be our Loving, Liberating, Life-giving God.
Community: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity
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.

Song of Praise (10 AM)
Here I Am to Worship Tim Hughes

Centering Prayer and the Collect of the Day: *Please be seated.*
God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.
In the season of Advent, we prepare for God's arrival. God came to us as Jesus Christ, and God still arrives in many ways: through prayer, worship, the people we meet, the beauty of creation, our emotions, ideas, and activities; and through the love in our souls. Let us live the questions: "Where will God arrive in my day?" and "How can I let Christ shine through me today?" After the prayer, the community responds: **Amen**.

First Testament
A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, "Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her." The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will so greatly multiply your offspring that

they cannot be counted for multitude." And the angel of the Lord said to her,
"Now you have conceived and shall bear a son;
you shall call him Ishmael,
for the Lord has given heed to your affliction.
He shall be a wild ass of a man,
with his hand against everyone,
and everyone's hand against him;
and he shall live at odds with all his kin."
So she named the Lord who spoke to her, "You are El-roi"; for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?" Therefore, the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Let us say the psalm responsively by half verse, up to the asterisk, alternating between the reader and community beginning with the reader.

4 My God, rescue me, from the hand of the wicked, *
from the clutch of the cruel and the ruthless.
5 For you are my hope, Sovereign, Worthy One, *
my trust, from my youth.
6 Upon you I have leaned from birth; from my mother's belly, you cut me. *
You will I praise for all time.
7 As a portent have I served to many; *
yet you are my strong refuge.
8 My mouth is filled with your praise *
all the day, with your glory.
9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age; *
when my strength is spent, do not forsake me.
10 For my enemies speak about me, *
and those who watch my life take counsel together.
11 They say, "Pursue and seize them, God has forsaken them, *
for there is none to deliver."

New Testament
A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
   did not regard equality with God
   as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
   taking the form of a slave,
   being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
   he humbled himself
   and became obedient to the point of death—
   even death on a cross.
Therefore, God also highly exalted him
   and gave him the name
   that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
   every knee should bend,
   in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
   that Jesus Christ is Lord,
   to the glory of God the Father.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn (10AM) *Please stand as you are able.*
Christ be our light

Gospel: *Please stand as you are able.*
The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this

might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of Our Savior. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon: *At the invitation of the preacher, please be seated.*

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 became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

The Prayers of the People

Clergy: Let us pray for the church and for the world. (Silence.)

Reader: You astounded Mary with her invitation to bear your Son. Surprise us with your delight in us, with your invitation to do your will, with the light of Christ growing with in us. Again and again, **Surprise us, Lord.**

We are your children. Increase the faith in us, day by day, season by season. Empower us to seek and do your will. Cause us to surprise ourselves by opening up our hearts to find that you are always there. Again and again, **Surprise us, Lord.**

We pray that the leaders of all the nations demonstrate wisdom and a heart for the good of their people and peace between neighbors. Again and again, **Surprise us, Lord.**

We pray that the peoples of all the nations realize freedom and an end to hunger and poverty. Enable a spirit of generosity to flow throughout the world especially in the Holy Land and Haiti. Again and again, **Surprise us, Lord.**

We pray for our neighbors with whom we work and live. Surprise us with what can be accomplished when we work together for the common good. Open our eyes to see you in each person we meet. Open our hearts and hands to each need we encounter. Again and again, **Surprise us, Lord.**

We pray for healing for those with troubled spirits, who suffer from addiction, loneliness, and despair. We ask for healing for those who struggle with the consequences of illness or recovering from surgery. Reveal to us how to join in your saving and healing work through the power of your Spirit. Again and again, **Surprise us, Lord.**

We pray for those who have died and now rest in your eternal embrace. May the light of your love surround them and comfort those who grieve

their deaths. Surprise them with the sure hope of the Resurrection. Again and again, **Surprise us, Lord.**

We are your people. Increase the faith in us day by day. Surprise us with your loving, liberating, and life-giving presence. Again and again, **Surprise us, Lord.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Confession and Absolution of Sin: *Please kneel as you are able.*
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Blessing of Life Hallmarks & Milestones: *Please be seated for introductions. At the invitation, please stand as you are able for prayer 50, pg. 830 in the red prayer book.*

The Peace: *Please stand as you are able*
The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**
Everyone's space and sensitivities are respected. When someone offers their elbow, fist, or a peace sign, we respond appropriately.

Announcements: *Please visit our website for the latest weekly newsletter.*
The Good News (stmarks-upland.org)

Offertory: Your contributions make a difference. Thank you for your generosity.
The Offertory is an action and a lifestyle of giving thanks. It is based on the belief that we give out of blessing, not from duty or obligation.
Make an online contribution to St. Mark's by visiting:
https://tinyurl.com/5dsw728s
For Zelle, use give@stmarks-upland.org.

Offertory Anthem (10AM): *Please remain seated.*

Doxology & The Great Thanksgiving: *Please stand as you are able*
All things come of thee, O Lord; **And of thine own have we given thee.**
God dwells in you. **And also in you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to our God**
Let us give our thanks to God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is our joy to give you praise, O God; in the long nights of the winter, when starlight and fire offer warmth and hope, we once more tell the stories that prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Christ. The cry of John to repent, the mighty "yes" of Mary, the encouragement of Elizabeth, the support of Joseph, invite us to imagine that we, too, can bear Christ's peace into the world.
We join our voices with all the world in the song of praise that echoes with the voices of the angels:

Sanctus: Spoken at 8AM; sung at 10AM (*Bethancourt*)
(8AM) **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.**

(10AM) Sing twice
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord,
God of pow'r, of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Sing twice:
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, creator of the infinite stars, that when the time was right, Jesus was born. Whose life shone brightly with your presence; whose words taught us to imagine and build your kingdom; whose touch brought healing; whose compassion fed the multitudes.
On the night before he died, Jesus kept the Passover with his friends. He took the bread, gave you thanks, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."
After supper, Jesus took the cup, gave you thanks, and said to them, "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 sin. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."
Gracious God, send your Spirit to bless these gifts, that they may become your holy food and drink for your holy people, the Body and Blood of Christ, given for the world. With all those in every generation who know your love, speak of your hope, embody your joy, and long for your peace, we offer ourselves to you, our souls and bodies, that your love may shine through us for the sake of the broken world. Nourish us at your table and send us in your name.
Let your grace come to us, O God, in the name of Christ, by the power of your Holy Spirit:
Come to us today and dwell with us forever, God of infinite love and infinite grace. AMEN.

Lord's Prayer: *Spoken at 8AM; Sung at 10AM (Bethancourt)*
Our Father who art in hea-ven, hal-low-ed be thy Name,
thy king-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav'n.
Give us this day our dai-ly bread.
And for-give us our tres-pas-ses as we for-give those who tres-pass against us.
And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion... but de-li-ver us from e-vil.
For thine is the king-dom ... thine is the po-wer ...
thine is the glo-o-ry for ev-er and ev-er ... A-men.

Fraction Anthem
Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

The cups on the outer rim contain non-alcoholic grape juice.

We ask the minister if we desire a gluten-free wafer. We receive the wine in a personal chalice. They are placed in the baskets by the pillars as we return to our seats. To receive a blessing, we cross our arms across our chest. It is the historic position of the church that communion is complete with just one of the elements. We let an usher know if we wish communion to be brought to us. The Bread and the Cup are given with these words: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.** The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn (10 AM)
Glory (Let there be Peace) Matt Maher

Sending Forth of Eucharistic Visitors

Postcommunion Prayer: *Please stand as you are able*
Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing: After the blessing the community responds: **Amen.**

Mission Hymn (10AM)
Light of the World *Laura Daigle*

Dismissal: After the dismissal the community responds: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude (10AM)
The Summons verses 1-3

Please join us in the parish hall for fellowship and light refreshment.

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

Our Mission: To be a place where love and hope abound: we welcome everyone to our worship and communion, we help one another understand God and know Jesus, we nurture our community and the world, and we celebrate diversity and work for social justice.

Our Vision: We will be a faith community that spreads God's word, loves like Jesus, enjoys worshiping together, and helps our neighbors.

Vestry
Class of 2026:
Gail Dean, Fellowship
Kathy Osterkamp, Outreach, Worship
Susan Mackall, Christian Education
Class of 2027:
Paul Stapp, Senior Warden
Lisa Drew, Jr. Warden, Finance
Ed Muehlbacher, Outreach
Class of 2028:
Dale Biggs, Buildings & Grounds
Ginger Rudisill, Membership
EB Stapp, Communications
Marcia Godwin, Treasurer
Carol Morgan, Clerk

Staff and Clergy
Tim Ruzon, Music Director & Organist
Rose Barraza, Office Administrator
The Rev. Sally Monastiere, Assisting Priest
The Very Rev. Keith Yamamoto, Rector

Please be aware that no clergy, staff, or lay leader from St. Mark's will request gift cards or other monetary support through e-mail or text. All financial requests and special appeals go through the Good News or US Postal Service; special requests are made in person.

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