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# THE GOOD NEWS

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For Epiphanytide beginning January 10, 2021

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Dear St. Mark's,

Yesterday, the certification proceedings at the US Capitol were marred by violence and death enabled by deception and white supremacy. As we find ourselves between the Feasts of the Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus Christ, I invite us to light candles to remind us of not only of the birth and baptism of Jesus, but also of the truth and power of resurrection life in, by, and through Christ – the one who shows us God's love and grace.

Join the whole Episcopal diocese and denomination in prayer.

Join us on Sunday to renew the promises made at our baptisms:

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*Let us reaffirm each promise with: **I will, with God's help.***

Then at coffee hour, I will host a table for those interested checking in on how we are processing and responding.

The Very Rev. Keith Yamamoto

Rector

## **A 6 Jan 2021 Message to the Diocese from Bishop John Harvey Taylor**

(See the 10 January 2021 Episcopal News for full text. Bold emphasis from the rector.)

My beloveds in Christ:

This is the day we remember the eternal light from the manger. This is a day, like all days, when we cherish the gospel promise that darkness will never overcome the light. This is the day we tell the ancient story of the sojourners from afar who embodied a wisdom beyond political and historical affairs, those who came looking for the Prince of Peace.

As we behold the events in Washington today, let us pray together:

**God of mercy and peace, source of all light and love: Calm every troubled heart in our country as a polarized people grapples with our divisions, resentments, and fears. By your grace, may the conflict in Washington come to a peaceful end. May the lawful work of the United States Congress and the United States Government resume so that the interests and will of the people are respected, with truth and justice for all. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

...Let us pray without ceasing during these days of a lawful, peaceful transition of power, the hallmark of the precious democracy we share in one nation, under God, indivisible.

Yours in Christ's love,

The Rt. Rev. John Harvey Taylor, VII Bishop of Los Angeles

### **WORSHIP**

**Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/95075914700>. Meeting will be opened at 9:30 for participants in the service (lectors, clergy, etc); meeting will be open at 9:50 for parishioners to watch on Zoom. Meeting will be locked at 10:00.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/saintmarksepiscopeparishupland/posts/3706562436077747>

**YouTube:** [https://youtu.be/j2zTol3P5\\_4](https://youtu.be/j2zTol3P5_4)

### **A Word on the Sunday Livestreaming Zoom Worship Experiment**

Since the beginning of quarantine, St. Mark's has used Zoom for mid-week services - mostly because of its accessibility to a wide range of devices and technical expertise. (And it lets us see each other's faces in real time.) As you know, Zoom is a conferencing application made for presentations and meetings, not Episcopal worship. So, unfortunately, audio is underwhelming with anything other than a solo speaker with a good microphone. Mute/Unmute becomes an important skill to know. And lagging is an issue especially with rich complex videos.

If you decide to join us on Zoom, we thank you for coming early – earlier than for our other in-spirit or in-person services. Because we can only live stream from the meeting room and not a breakout room, a late entrant cannot be properly welcomed and ushered in from the back. There is no back - there is only front. Also thank you for learning how to mute/unmute yourself for the service. And going forward, only the designated reader will be heard – others are asked to Mute themselves – so that one voice can be clearly understood. Readers are asked to use their best microphone and be sensitive to background noise.

And because everyone is essentially up front and in the virtual sanctuary, please treat your background like the altar. Think like a member of the Altar, Flower, and Liturgical Arts Guilds. If Ann, Kathy, Christy, or Canon Serena would not approve of a decoration, then please reconsider it. Otherwise, let the Way of Love be your guide.

Your feedback is welcome. Please know that we are learning from our mistakes. And there is plenty of room for growth. The Zoom experiment was initiated to give the music and digital ministries a break over the Christmas and New Year break. We will re-evaluate at the end of the month. Thank you for trying something different for a little while.

### **This Sunday: 10 January 2021 Baptism of Jesus**

Please bring a reminder of your baptism to worship. It could be something religious like a bible or prayer symbol; related to your baptism like a certificate or candle; related to your ministry in the church or world; related to renewed life – it also does not need to be pious/religious. Share in the comments. If you are on Zoom, please bring it into the frame for the Peace for a picture for posting.

### **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 9:00 AM to 9:40AM 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=U1NFY0JlOFJML2pMenVheUdTRlBaQT09>  
Meeting ID: 987 2330 5020. Password: taize

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Into Eternal Life: Samir Mansour**

It is with great care that we inform you of the passing of Samir "Sam" Mansour on December 27, 2020. "He passed peacefully in his sleep at home (his son's house in Monterey, CA). He was fine the night before, no pain or ailments." (Daughter Sue Hensley) He will be buried alongside his late wife at Oak Park cemetery in Claremont. Due to COVID restrictions the service will be immediate family only. Please keep the Mansour family in your prayers.

*Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant to Sam and all our loved ones your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

#### **Into Eternal Life: Anna Davis**

It is with great care that we inform you of the passing of Anna Davis. Anna loved singing in the choir and was one of the "O Antiphon" cantors for Lessons and Carols. She will be buried in the same place as her father in Fresno, CA. She is survived by her husband Marvin of nine years, three brothers, and her mother, Frances Goodwin, 92 years old. Anna passed away on December 26, 2020 due to COVID complications.

*Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Anna. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a child of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.*

#### **Annual Meeting Reports needed**

We are beginning preparations for the Annual Meeting. If your group or committee has a report to be included in the Annual Report, please submit your report to [parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org).

#### **Vestry Candidates and Diocesan Convention Delegates**

Prior to our Annual Meeting it is customary to announce the candidates for vestry positions and the delegates to convention. This year's candidates are Marcia Godwin, Carol Morgan, and Sharon Muehlbacher. Lay Delegates to Diocesan Convention are Kathy Walker, Kimberly Cortner, and Carol Morgan. Biographies are available on our website, to access them, click [here](#).

#### **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).

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

As of 12/12/20 St. Mark's has received 74 pledges for 2021 totaling \$278,044. Out of that the Pledges to the Operating (General) Fund total \$256,564 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.

#### **Ways of Thinking About Tithing**

This year's pledge form included a check box about tithing, this prompted an anonymous question on a pledge card about how to calculate the tithe. Therefore, it seems like a good time to revisit how we might think about tithing. The tithe is first mentioned in Genesis and appears a number of times in the Bible. It meant giving ten percent and appears to have included both income and material goods. The tithe recognizes that all we have comes from God. We might think of it as the original version of "playing it forward," but it can be hard to figure out how to be a joyful giver in the modern world. We aren't giving lambs, oils, and crops to the church or our favorite nonprofit!

A resolution was passed at the 1982 Episcopal Convention affirming the tithe and encouraging leaders and members to strive towards this goal. It is not a mandate and it does not specify how to calculate it. Some people have interpreted it as pre-tax while others find it simplest to look at take-home pay or disposable income. I've known people who calculate it annually and others who add gifts when they receive a bonus or tax refund. New church members often start with regular giving and then look to make progress towards the tithe over time.

There are some creative ways of thinking about tithing. A minister once talked about prayerfully considering how you recognize God in your life and contribute your gifts, not just monetarily ones. This person decided to write the first check each month to the church and regularly thought about how much time and resources were spent each month on things like entertainment, dining out, and gym memberships versus helping others. This sermon was well before 2020, but the gist of the message holds up.

The Iona Community, based in Scotland, has an interesting process for prayerfully giving. Its members meet annually in small groups. One group included a pensioner on a very limited income. The consensus was that he would only volunteer. It helped that he loved participating in protests! Another member of the group reached the conclusion that a tithe had become routine and she would donate any wage above the median income level. This was a huge amount, but she shared with our pilgrimage group that she felt like she was overpaid and had the benefit of a second, modest income from a working spouse. Just as there is diversity in creation, there is diversity in giving.

Marcia Godwin, Vestry Stewardship Liaison

### **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.

### **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.

## **OUTREACH**

Thank you for your support for Foothill Family Shelter, TOUCH, and Haiti. Obviously, support and donations are welcome throughout the year. To begin the New Year, I want to recognize another type of Outreach—The Daughters of the King. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, their mission as Daughters is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to reflect God's love throughout the world. The Daughters' recent outreach projects, have included making hygiene bags for Laundry Love and TOUCH clients, donating Thanksgiving baskets and clothing for the Foothill Family Shelter Family 2 Family Christmas gifts. They are now working to support the founding of a Daughters chapter

at our partner Parish of St. Andre's in Haiti. Perhaps their most important ministry, though, is praying for everyone on the St. Mark's Prayer List. This a daunting challenge, especially during this difficult time. Please support them with your prayers. You may submit your prayer request to [prayer@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:prayer@stmarks-upland.org).

Kay Alexander, Sr. Warden

**Touch Ministries Annual Report**

Date	Food (pounds)	Clothing	Toiletries	Misc. Items	Cards	Cash
TOTALS	288	111	71	78	\$990	\$100

The next TOUCH Ministries food collection will be on Saturday, Jan 16th, from 9 until 11am. Non-perishable food items, cold weather items, and toiletries are needed. Fast food gift cards are always welcome. Many thanks for your support of the outreach. Dave Nalbach (909) 635-4297. Thank you for your generosity.

**Blood Drive, Tuesday February 2, 2021**

St. Mark's will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021. It will be held in the Parish Hall from 10am to 4pm. Sign-ups, American Red Cross website, [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), in the search "stmarks". All set up will be conducted by Red Cross personal and all protocols will be in place. Face masks required. If you need help signing up contact Dale Biggs, Program Leader. Volunteer's needed at the door to help sign people in on our Self Screening forms.

Dale Biggs [bandg@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:bandg@stmarks-upland.org)

**One Body & One Spirit 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.

**YOUTH**

**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

**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

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP**

**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."

**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).

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

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