

# The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

*A Festal Celebration of the Holy Eucharist*

*December 24, 2023*



St Mark's  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
love is our tradition



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EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## love is our tradition

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the Holy Eucharist  
December 24, 2023  
Rite 2 Year B**

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Thank you for joining us in worship.  
We are glad you are here.

Please let us know what questions you might have  
And if you would like to be on our mailing list.

520 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard, Richmond VA 23220  
804-358-4771 [stmarksrva.org](http://stmarksrva.org)

### We Love God

St. Mark's is a community of people who believe in the power of God's love as expressed through God's son, Jesus Christ.

### We Love Each Other

Our love for God compels us to love and welcome others with open arms regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or social status.

### We Love Our Community

Our love for God compels us to serve our community by being active in service to those in need.

### We Love Our Faith

We celebrate our God, for each other and for our community through Episcopal worship that keeps us grounded in our faith.

# Prelude

10:00 PM

Toccata on “*Good King Wenceslas*” - Gordon Young

*Prelude on “Silent Night” from Die Natali*, Op. 37 - Samuel Barber

*Ave Maria* - Franz Biebl

The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary, and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee:  
blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Mary said: Behold the handmaiden of the Lord. Do to me according to your word.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee:  
blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee:  
blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

*Antioch* - setting by Hugo Gehrke

*In dulci jubilo*, Op. 28 #51 - Marcel Dupré

*Before the paling of the stars* - Christina Rossetti, Cecilia McDowall

Before the paling of the stars,  
Before the winter morn,  
Before the earliest cock crow,  
Jesus Crist was born:  
Born in a stable,  
Cradled in a manger,  
In the world his hands had made  
Born a stranger.

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Priest and king lay fast asleep  
In Jerusalem;  
Young and old lay fast asleep  
In crowded Bethlehem;  
Saint and angel, ox and ass,  
Kept a watch together  
Before the Christmas daybreak  
In the winter weather.

Jesus on his mother's breast  
In the stable cold,  
Spotless lamb of God was he,  
Shepherd of the fold:  
Let us kneel with Mary maid,  
With Joseph bent and hoary,  
With saint and angel, ox and ass,  
To hail the King of Glory.

*Now is born the divine Christ child* - French Carol, arr. Fred Bock

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day* - William Sandys, John Gardner

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;  
I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play,  
To call my true love to my dance;  
Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,  
This have I done for my true love

Then was I born of a virgin pure  
Of her I took fleshly substance  
Thus was I knit to man's nature  
To call my true love to my dance.  
Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,  
This have I done for my true love

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was  
So very poor, this was my chance  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass  
To call my true love to my dance.  
Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,  
This have I done for my true love

*(Continues Next Page)*

Then afterwards baptized I was;  
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard from above,  
To call my true love to my dance.  
Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,  
This have I done for my true love

*Gesù Bambino* - Pietro Yon, arr. Karen Smith and David Snyder

*Sure on this shining night, Op. 13 #3* - James Agee, Samuel Barber

Sure on this shining night  
Of starmade shadows round,  
Kindness must watch for me  
This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north.  
All is healed, all is health.  
High summer holds the earth.  
Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night  
I weep for wonder  
Wandering far alone  
Of shadows on the stars.

# The Holy Eucharist

## The Word of God

RED BOOK - 'BCP' Book of Common Prayer

BLUE BOOK - 1982 Hymnal

RED/BLACK BOOK-Lift Every Voice and Sing II

*Incense has been used in worship by Christians since antiquity.*

*The practice is rooted in the earlier traditions of Judaism in the time of the Second Jewish Temple.*

*The smoke of burning incense is a symbol of the prayer of the faithful rising to heaven as written in Psalm 141 (140), verse 2: "Let my prayer be directed as incense in your sight: the lifting up of my hands, as evening sacrifice."*

*In Revelation 5:8, 8:3, incense symbolizes the prayers of the saints in heaven.*

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**Hymn 83** (1982 Hymnal-Blue Book)

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELIS

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from \_\_\_\_\_ God, \_\_\_\_\_ Light from Light e - ter - nal, \_\_\_\_\_  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, \_\_\_\_\_  
\*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, \_\_\_\_\_  
\*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, \_\_\_\_\_

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son \_\_\_\_\_ of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, \_\_\_\_\_ glo - ry in the high - est;  
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

1 come ye, O come— ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 2 lo! he ab - hors— not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
 4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw— nigh to gaze;  
 5 we would em - brace— thee, with love and awe;

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
 born this happy morning;  
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
 Word of the Father,  
 now in flesh appearing;

*Refrain*

## Blessing of the Creche

*Presider:* God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

## Opening Acclamation

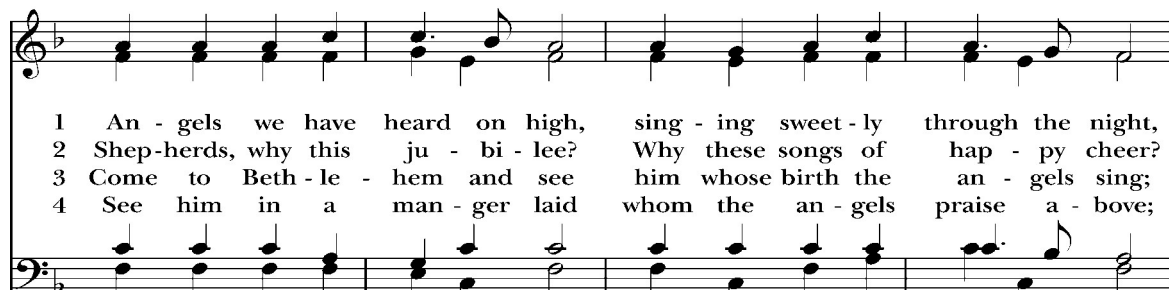
*Presider:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*All:* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. AMEN.

## The Collect for Purity

*All:* 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.

## Gloria in Excelsis



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.



*Refrain*  
Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.



## The Collect

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **AMEN.**

*(Please be seated)*

**A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah**

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

Nick Roberts

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 96**

*Cantate Domino*

Nick Roberts

1 Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

**2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

3 Declare his glory among the nations  
and his wonders among all peoples.

**4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;  
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

*(Continued Next Page)*



## The Lectern

The lectern is the stand from which the Hebrew Scripture (First or Old Testament), the Psalm, and the Epistle (New or Second Testament) are read. It is a visible expression of the significance of Holy Scripture to the life of the church. In colonial churches, the lectern was often incorporated as the middle level of a multi-tiered pulpit.

**6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

**8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;  
bring offerings and come into his courts.**

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

**10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King!  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."**

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes,  
when he comes to judge the earth.**

13 He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with his truth.

**A Reading from the Letter to Titus**

*Titus 2:11-14*

Mickie Jones

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn 87 (Blue Book)

Hark! The herald Angels sing

Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!



## The Pulpit

The pulpit is reserved for the sermon suggesting the important role of reflecting on scripture. The canopy is designed to reflect sound and comes from the time when that was the means of amplification to the congregation.

### The Gospel

*Luke 2:1-20*

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke

**All: Glory to you, Lord Christ**

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.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you Lord Christ**

*(Please be seated)*

### The Sermon

The Rev. Benjamin R. Badgett



## The Baptismal Font

Through the sacrament of baptism we become members of Christ's family – the church. The presence of the baptismal font in the church is a reminder of our own baptism and the commitments that we made or that were made on our behalf.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### The Nicene Creed

**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** *(Please stand or kneel as you are able)*

Yumi Strite

*Intercessor:* God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word in our flesh. May your word of compassion and reconciliation resound in us and through us.

*Silence*

God of love

**All: Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, angels proclaimed the peace of your unconquered Sun of righteousness. Strengthen all who work for peace and justice.

*Silence*

God of love

**All: Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, you came to us in a child, cradled in a borrowed bed of straw, as there was no room in the inn. Open our hearts to the needs of those without shelter and those who are hungry.

*Silence*

God of love

**All: Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, shepherds and outcasts heard your good news. Give us grace to spread your gospel of joy and liberation.

*Silence*

God of love

**All: Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, we rejoice at the coming of this time of re-creation. Be with those who travel, enrich our rejoicing, and strengthen the bonds between us.

*Silence*

God of love

**All: Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, people throughout the world are celebrating Christ's birth. Unite us in one family, that we may shine with the one light, that scatters all our darkness.

*Silence*

God of love

**All: Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, your living Word leaped down, shedding light on all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Give strength and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Keith, Tamara, Betty, Phillip, Lisette, Margie and her family, Becky, Robin, Carole, Mike, Steve, Ethel, Margaret, Phyllis, Juetta, Marsha, Diane, David, Samantha, Bill, Doris, Malynda, Wayne, Clair, Ginny, Debbie, Ronnie, Judy, Bev and Larry, Caroline, the Tracy Family, Bianca, Shelby, the Hardison family, Nicholas, the Sonant family, the Fiedler family, the Lord and Walton family, Richard, Alice, Garry, Wayne and Sue, Marsha and David, Teagan and the Kuehnle family, Will, Robin, Denise, Gloria, William, Henry, Rick, Gene, Karen, Rick, Amy, the Henderson family, Mary-Margaret, Kristy, Martha, Carolyn, Randi, Nancy, Marion, Hollis, and Donna.

*Silence*

God of love

**All: Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, heaven and earth embrace and in your true child you give us power to be your children. Fulfill in your love all who have gone before us in the faith. May we, like them, remain faithful to the mystery of the Word made flesh and live in your eternal light.

*Silence*

God of love

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Hear these prayers we bring to you, and fulfill your purposes in us, in the name of Jesus, your incarnate Word. **AMEN.**

**The Peace** *(Please stand as you are able)*

*Presider:* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

*(All greet one another in the name of the Lord.)*

*(Please be seated)*

**Announcements and News of the Church Community**



## The Altar or Holy Table

The altar is a table, usually in the sanctuary which is the space that is generally behind the altar rail, on which the bread and wine used for the eucharist (or Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper) service are consecrated.

## The Holy Communion

***The Christmas loose offering will be given to the Anna Julia Cooper School.***

AJC is an independent, faith-based school providing full tuition scholarships to K - 8th grade students of limited resources in Richmond's East End. Their mission is to love, educate, and uplift their students and graduates so that they may realize their God-given gifts.

### Invitation to Holy Communion

#### Offertory

*Still, Still, Still*

arr. Norman Luboff

Still, still, still  
 One can hear the falling snow  
 For all is hushed  
 The world is sleeping  
 Holy Star its vigil keeping  
 Still, still, still  
 One can hear the falling snow

Sleep, sleep, sleep  
 'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth  
 The night is peaceful all around you  
 Close your eyes  
 Let sleep surround you  
 Sleep, sleep, sleep  
 'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth

Dream, dream, dream  
 Of the joyous day to come  
 While guardian angels without number  
 Watch you as you sweetly slumber  
 Dream, dream, dream  
 Of the joyous day to come



SCAN ME TO DONATE





## The Communion Vessels

The Eucharist (from the Greek meaning Thanksgiving), or Holy Communion, is a sacrament at the center of Episcopal worship. A sacrament is “an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace” in the words of *The Book of Common Prayer*. The vessels used are a chalice for wine, a paten for bread (or “host”), and a flagon for additional wine. They are placed on a square white linen cloth called the corporal.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### At the Presentation, Doxology

*Old 100th*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.*

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts.

*All:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All:* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Presider:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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

Powell

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*(Please stand or kneel are you are able)*

*Presider:* We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**All: We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;**

*Presider:* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Mark and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Presider:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*All:* **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,  
forever and ever. AMEN.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*Presider:* Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us,

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

## Fraction Anthem, Agnus Dei

Powell

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

*Presider:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**The Holy Communion:** *ALL are welcome to share in Communion.*

### **Holy Communion**

Come forward as the ushers direct you. When you arrive at the rail you may put out your hands to receive the bread/wafer. You may then either consume it, dip it lightly into the chalice, or take a sip of wine from the chalice. If you prefer a blessing only - cross your arms across your chest.

If you have any mobility concerns please alert the usher  
and the clergy will bring communion to you.

*O magnum mysterium*

Morten Lauridsen

O great mystery,  
and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the newborn Lord,  
lying in a manger!  
O blessed virgin, whose womb  
was worthy to bear  
the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!

### **“Silent Night” by Candlelight**

We invite you to receive a candle from our ushers as you return to your seat after Communion. Following the post communion prayer, the sanctuary lights will be dimmed in preparation for our candlelight singing of “Silent Night.” Ushers and worship leaders will share the flame from the center aisle. Please kneel or remain seated as you prefer.

### **Post Communion**

Prayer Book of Common Prayer page 365

*Presider:* Let us pray.

**All:** 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.**

### **Candle lighting**

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

**The Blessing** *(Please stand as you are able)*

*Presider:* May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of God's holiness.

**All: AMEN.**

*Presider:* May God, who sent angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

**All: AMEN.**

*Presider:* May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you peace and favor.

**All: AMEN.**

*Presider:* And may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

**All: AMEN.**

*Please extinguish and return your candle at the end of the service to the ushers positioned at the doorways.*

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn 100 (Blue Book)

Joy to the world!

Antioch

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 3 far as the curse is found, far  
 4. and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,



## The Ambry

The ambry is a cupboard located in the St. Mary Chapel which is at the right of the narthex (front entry of the church). It is used for reserving the consecrated hosts for communion in home or hospital visits for those who cannot attend Sunday worship and, in some Anglican Churches, to store the oil of chrism used for anointing. A light burns near it to indicate that it contains the sacrament.

### The Dismissal

Book of Common Prayer page 366

*Deacon:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Alleluia, Alleluia.

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### Postlude

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*, BWV 729

J. S. Bach

*The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.*

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***RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN*** by placing it on one of the tables at the side or front entrance.

***Please Join Us for Our Christmas Day 10:30 AM Service.***

***Please Remember in Your Prayers This Week:***

Parishioners: Keith MacKay, Tamara Orr, Betty Leviner, Phillip Jones, Lisette Johnson, Margie Costas and family, Becky Lee, Robin Goodman, Carole Shahda, Mike Oliver, Steve Row, Ethel Kutteroff, Margaret Franklin, Phyllis Iverson, Juetta Iverson, Marsha Iverson, Diane Hoover, David Christiana, Samantha Ridley, Bill Piercy, and Doris Enroughty.

Our extended family and friends: Malynda Irby, Wayne Purintun, Clair, Ginny Jones, Debbie Kaufman, Ronnie, Judy Conkle, Bev and Larry Green, Caroline, the Tracy Family, Bianca Constance, Shelby, the Hardison family, Nicholas, the Sonant family, the Fiedler family, the Lord and Walton family, Richard Wallace, Alice, Garry Land, Wayne and Sue, Marsha and David, Teagan and the Kuehnle family, Will, Robin, Denise Early, Gloria Wiley, William Higgins, Henry Pegram, Rick, Gene Shelton, Karen Sokohl, Rick McGeorge, Amy Burks, the Henderson family, Mary-Margaret, Kristy Rose, Martha, Carolyn Campbell, Randi Smith, Nancy Strite, Marion Broome, Hollis Daniels, and Donna Raubenstine.



The Christmas Flowers Are Given To the Glory of God:

*In Memory of John McTier*

*By Rob McTier*

*In Memory of Kate Bishop Pevsner and*

*Her daughter Abby Bishop*

*By Canby Osdene*

*In Memory of Our Parents and*

*In Celebration of Our Children and Grandchildren*

*By Pam and Bill Piercy*

*In Honor of Our College Students:*

*Kumiko, Ellie, Elizabeth, Meredith, Max, & Yumi*

*By Karen Hardison and Amy Strite.*

*In Memory of Charles and Mabel Wittel*

*By Elaine Wittel*

*In Memory of George, George and Elizabeth Wyatt,*

*And Francis and Betty Collier*

*By Malinda and George Collier*

*In Memory of My Friend Nancy Munson*

*By Nora Thompson*

*In Loving Memory of Edna M.*

*and Edgar B. Wentworth*

*By Marlene Sehen and Beth Wentworth*

**Musicians:**

Vicky Hamrick, *Oboe*  
Raymond Breakall, *Percussion*  
Konstantin N. Rega, *Piano*  
Jessica Voutsinas, *Soprano*  
Sanford Eberly, *Baritone*  
Rob McTier, *Tenor*  
The St. Mark's Chancel Choir

**Our Service Assistants:**

*Presider:* The Rev. Charles "Buck" Aiken

*Celebrant/Preacher:* The Rev. Benjamin R. Badgett

*Assisting Priest:*

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Kye Price

*Vergers:* Elizabeth Kyser, Paul Shane, Douglas D'Urso

*Acolytes:* Yumi Strite, Ryn Kennedy

*Readers:*

*Old Testament:* Nick Roberts

*New Testament:* Mickie Jones

*Intercessor:* Yumi Strite

*Chalicer:* Ryn Kennedy

*Ushers:* Steve Clark, Mary Clark, Dan Hartman, Howard Pugh

*Altar Guild:* Ivy Burnes, Sanford Eberly, Liz Smith, Mary Clark, and all members.

*Christmas Decorations, Flowers, Trees, Greenery, and Nativity:*

Douglas D'Urso, Sanford Eberly, Laura Hicks, Edward Moyer,  
Pam Piercy, Liz Smith, Ralph Stanley, Sandy Steele, Peter Walker,  
Elaine Wittel, Richard Yuk

*A special thanks to everyone who donated greenery and to the Christmas Flowers Fund.*

**PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Benjamin R. Badgett, Rector	rector@stmarksrva.org
The Rev. Charles D. Aiken, Jr., Associate Rector	buckaiken4@gmail.com
The Rev. Dr. Sarah Kye Price, Priest Affiliate	office@stmarksrva.org
Malinda Collier, Director of Lay Ministry/Formation	dre@stmarksrva.org
Amos Goldie, Minister of Music	office@stmarksrva.org
Steve Barnes, Parish Administrator	office@stmarksrva.org
Cassandra Price, Nursery	office@stmarksrva.org

**Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday 11-4**  
**Pastoral Emergencies 804-385-6821 OR 804-304-5062**

**THE VESTRY**

**2023:** Shannon Heady, **Education Team Liaison**  
Jamie Francis, **Stewardship Team Liaison**  
Don Kyser, **Outreach and Justice/Advocacy Team Liaison**

**2024:** Karen Franklin, **Pastoral Care Team Liaison**  
Rob McTier, **Worship Team Liaison**  
Mickie Jones, Sr. Warden, **Parish Life Team Liaison**

**2025:** Blair McDuff, **Evangelism Team Liaison**  
Scott Pennington, Jr. Warden, **Property Team Liaison**  
Paul Shane, **Finance Team Liaison**

*Ex-officio*

**Treasurer:** Suzanne Long                      **Register:** Phoebe Davis

**ST. MARK'S TRUSTEES:**

Harold Wright      Beth Wentworth      Bill Martin

**MINISTRY TEAMS AND CHAIRS:**

**Director of Lay Ministry and Formation,** Malinda Collier

**Gathered Ministry:**

Karen Hardison, **Worship**                      Becky Adams, **Pastoral Care**  
Beth Wentworth, **Education**                      Fred Crowley, **Parish Life**

**Sent Ministry:**

Ed Street, **Outreach**                      Suzanne Long, **Evangelism**  
Penny Adams, **Justice and Advocacy**

**Shared Ministry:**

Suzanne Long, Interim-**Finance**                      Wes Kaufman & Dee Whitlow, **Audit**  
Howard Pugh, **Stewardship**                      Brent Graves, **Property**  
Mickie Jones, **Vestry**                      Pam Piercy, **Personnel**

*To contact anyone listed above, please send an email to office@stmarksrva.org*

***All are Welcome Here***

*Diverse, Urban, Eucharist Centered, Service-Oriented*

**Thank you for joining us.**

Please let us know how we may encourage you to serve the Lord with us by filling out the “Welcome” card found in the rack in front of you and placing it in the Offering Plate.

You may also speak to any clergy or greeters following the worship service.

Founded in 1866 to serve the working people of Richmond, St. Mark’s Church is an active member of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, 110 West Franklin Street, Richmond, VA, 23220, 804-643-8451, and the Anglican Communion.

The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia  
The Rt. Rev. Gayle Elizabeth Harris, Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia



**St Mark's**

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**love is our tradition**

**520 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard, Richmond VA 23220**

**804-358-4771**

**stmarksrva.org**