



## Welcome to St. Marks's Episcopal Church

*All are welcome, all are honored, all are embraced, all are loved.*

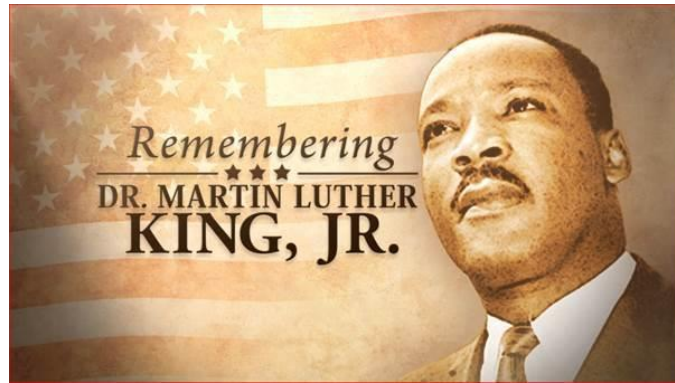
### The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 14, 2024

10:00 a.m.

*St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
A house of prayer for all people in the historic Radcliffeboro neighborhood  
of Charleston, South Carolina*

The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina  
The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, Interim Rector  
Loretta Haskell, Organist & Choirmaster



### **Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

*Today's service of Holy Eucharist pays tribute to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the eve of the federal holiday honoring his life and legacy.*

Martin Luther King, Jr., was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta. As the son and grandson of Baptist preachers, he was steeped in the Black Church tradition. Following graduation from Morehouse College in 1948, King entered Crozer Theological Seminary, having been ordained the previous year into the ministry of the National Baptist Church. He graduated from Crozer in 1951 and received a doctorate in theology from Boston University in 1955.

In 1954, King became pastor of a church in Montgomery, Alabama. There, Black indignation at inhumane treatment on segregated buses culminated in December 1955, with the arrest of Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her seat to a white man. King was catapulted into national prominence as the leader of the Montgomery bus boycott. He became increasingly the articulate prophet, who could not only rally the Black masses, but could also move the consciences of Whites. King founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to spearhead nonviolent mass demonstrations against racism. Many confrontations followed, most notably in Birmingham and Selma, Alabama, and in Chicago. King's campaigns were instrumental to the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, 1965, and 1968. King then turned his attention to economic empowerment of the poor and to opposition to the Vietnam War, contending that racism, poverty, and militarism were interrelated. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his commitment to non-violent social change.

King lived in constant danger: his home was dynamited, he was almost fatally stabbed, and he was harassed by death threats. He was even jailed thirty times, but through it all he was sustained by his deep faith. In 1957, he received, late at night, a vicious telephone threat. Alone in his kitchen he wept and prayed. He relates that he heard the Lord speaking to him and saying, "Martin Luther, stand up for righteousness, stand up for justice," and promising never to leave him alone— "No, never alone." King refers to his vision as his "Mountain-Top Experience."

After preaching at Washington National Cathedral on March 31, 1968, King went to Memphis in support of sanitation workers in their struggle for better wages. There, he proclaimed that he had been "to the mountain-top" and had seen "the Promised Land," and that he knew that one day he and his people would be "free at last." On the following day, April 4, he was cut down by an assassin's bullet. —*Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2018*



*The 1982 Hymnal, referred to as **Hymnal** and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, referred to as **LEVAS** are found in your pew. **WLP** designates the music comes from the publication *Wonder, Love and Praise*. If **BCP** appears, that is a reference to the red Book of Common Prayer, also found in your pew.*

## Opening Proclamation

*Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*

**CHORAL INTROIT**

Soon and Very Soon

Andre Crouch

**OPENING HYMN**

Ye Servants of God

**Hymnal 535**

## A LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Celebrant says*

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

*People*      ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now, and for ever. Amen.***

*The Celebrant says.*

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.***

*The following is sung, all standing.*

## THE GLORIA

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People:*** *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## THE COLLECT FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your Church, following the example of your prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may strive to secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## THE LESSONS

*Please be seated.*

### FIRST READING – 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

***People:*** *Thanks be to God.*

## PSALM 139:1-5, 12-17

- 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 *You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.***
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 *You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.***
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 12 *For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.***
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- 14 *My body was not hidden from you, \*  
while I was being made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.***
- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;  
all of them were written in your book; \*  
they were fashioned day by day,  
when as yet there was none of them.
- 16 *How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \*  
how great is the sum of them!***
- 17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; \*  
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

## SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

**LEVAS 136**

**GOSPEL: John 1:43-51**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

*People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**TRANSITION SONG**

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

Song by Taizé

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
In the Lord I'll rejoice.  
Look to God, do not be afraid,  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.*

**THE HOMILY**

The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Shaffer

**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 – Bid by Intercessor**

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Holy God, today we remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s struggle for equality, justice, and dignity for African Americans that inspired so many other reform movements that seek to highlight the plight of the oppressed in society.

We pray that all of those in civil and religious authority be reminded that we all have been created in your image, and that there is an intrinsic dignity in each of us that calls for uplifting every man and woman, young and old.

We pray that your Holy Spirit remind us all that you show no partiality with regards to nationality, race, ethnicity, or gender, and to do so is to go against your great commandment of love toward one another.

We pray that the church will not be complicit of injustice by being silent, but that it can rise up with a prophetic voice that speaks truth to power and advances the values of your Kingdom.

We pray these things in the name of our blessed redeemer, Jesus Christ.

***People: Hear us, we pray.***

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People: Hear us, we pray.***

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy.

***People: Hear us, we pray.***



Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all.

***People: Hear us, we pray.***

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People: Hear us, we pray.***

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

***People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

***People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

***People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

***People: That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

***People: That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed eternal rest.

***People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Let us pray for our own needs and the needs of others either aloud or in our hearts.

(Intercessor offers prayers of behalf of the Beloved Community)

***The Celebrant adds a  
Concluding Collect.***

Celebrant: Loving God, as we venture forth to be women and men of service, go before us as our Guide. Renew us with the spirit of service and sacrificial love exemplified in the life of Dr. King. May we be vessels of hope and justice in a world filled with countless forms of violence and injustice. May we never stand on the sidelines as we witness injustice but walk with eyes open to the needs of our communities, with ears open to the needs of our world, and with hands open in helpful service to our neighbors. Almighty God, by your heavenly grace, make us instruments of your love and peace. In Jesus name we pray. ***Amen.***

*The Celebrant says.*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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 your Son 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.*

## **ABSOLUTION**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

## **THE PEACE**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People: And also with you.*

## **SONG**

Surely the Presence of the Lord is In This Place

*Sung by all.*

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.  
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.  
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,  
I see glory on each face.  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The Offertory Sentence.*

## **OFFERTORY**

Take My Hand, Precious Lord

Tommy Dorsey

## **HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION**

*Sung to the tune of Hymnal #400*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

## Holy Communion- Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People: And also with you.***

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant:

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

***People: 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.

***People: 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.

***People: Have mercy, Lord, 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.

***People: By his blood, 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:



Celebrant:

And so, Father, 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 many 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,  
***People: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of 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.

***People: 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.**

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

*People and Celebrant sing*

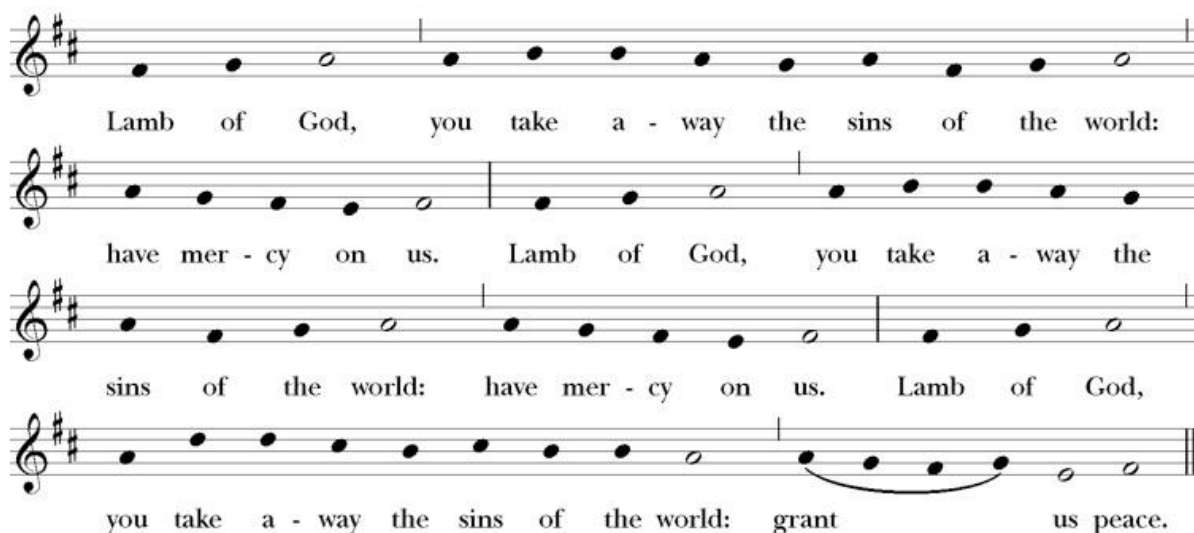
***Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debt, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.***

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

### Angus Dei



## INVITATION

Celebrant     The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*At St. Mark's Episcopal Church, all desiring a deepening and reaffirming relationship with Christ are invited to come forward for Holy Communion or for a blessing. This is the table not of the Church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love God. Come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ who invites you to be fed and blessed here. For He knows you by name and calls you by name.*

*Communion will be offered in two kinds. The wine may be received by either sipping the chalice or dipping your wafer in the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest when the chalice reaches you at the altar rail. Communion in one kind (in bread only) is a perfectly valid way to receive the sacrament. Gluten free hosts are available upon request at the communion rail. For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. If you would like to have communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.*

## **MUSIC AT COMMUNION**

This is My Body  
We Shall Overcome

**LEVAS 155**  
**LEVAS 227**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

*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.*

## **THE BLESSING**

### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

**LEVAS 1**

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun  
Of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over away that with tears has been watered;  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by thy might,  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee,  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.

James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

### **THE DISMISSAL**

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God*

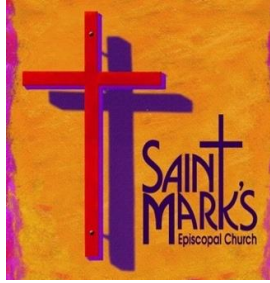
### **CLOSING HYMN**

Thank You, Lord

*Sung by all*

*Thank You, Lord (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.  
You've Been So Good (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.  
You've Been My Friend (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.*

***The worship is over. Now the service begins.***



*All are welcome, all are honored, all are embraced, all are loved.*

**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:**

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, *Celebrant & Preacher*  
Sharon Crossley *Crucifer & Eucharistic Minister*  
Minerva King & Lisa Van Bergen, *Lectors*  
Angela Hare & Kristin Wallace, *Altar Guild*  
Vicki Williams, *Usher*

*The flowers are given by Walter Boags  
in Thanksgiving for the life and ministry of  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



***A little about Eucharistic Prayer C used during this season.***

Eucharistic Prayer C, found beginning on page 369 of the Book of Common Prayer, is perhaps the most unusual of the Eucharistic prayers in our tradition, with a strong emphasis on creation.

The prayer draws heavily from the biblical books of Genesis, Exodus, 1 Chronicles, the Letter to the Hebrews and the Acts of the Apostles. It tells the story of creation and our Old Testament ancestors more fully than the other Eucharistic prayers. What makes Prayer C especially popular is the line about the enormity of God in creation: “*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.*” That line has earned it the nickname “The Star Wars Prayer” among many clergy.



The prayer has an Eastern Orthodox flavor with more congregational responses than any of our other Eucharistic prayers. It also has a slightly different, but significant, difference in the order of the prayer. It is unique among our Eucharistic prayers by invoking the words of sanctification (or epiclesis) upon the bread and wine before the story is told of the Last Supper. In the other Eucharistic prayers, the words, “*Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit...*” come after the story of the Last Supper. But in Prayer C, those words come immediately before the story. This order harkens back to prayer books in the English and Scottish churches before 1775. The prayer ends with a reminder that Jesus Christ is the “*great High priest*”, which echoes Hebrews 4:14 and make this prayer the “highest” of our Eucharistic Prayers.

Prayer C was written by Howard E. Galley, Jr., who was the primary editor of the 1979 revision of the prayer book and worked for Morehouse Publishing, the publishing arm of the Episcopal Church. He wrote a number of books on liturgy and died in 1993.

### **Announcements**



#### ***Plan on Marching in the Parade with St. Mark's Episcopal Church tomorrow!***

The 2024 Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in Charleston will be held on Monday, January 15, 2024, and St. Mark's Episcopal Church will participate. Those participating will gather at Burke High School at 9:30 AM and the parade will begin at 10:30 AM. It is suggested that you park your car at the Citadel Stadium and walk to gathering location at Burke High School. The parade route starts at Burke High School and ends at Mother Emanuel AME Charleston, SC. The route is not long, less than 2 miles, flat, mostly down Rutledge Avenue and Calhoun Street, so even senior citizens, who have no acute disabilities, can walk the route fairly easily. This year all participating parishes will walk together as the delegation of The Episcopal Church of South Carolina. So ***please***, step up to the plate and march with St. Mark's **tomorrow**. Please call Fr. Michael on his cell to let him know if you are planning to participate. (843) 830-1220. *Let's let everyone know who we are and what we stand for!*

#### **St. Mark's Annual Parish Meeting – Sunday, January 28, 2024**

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Parish of St. Mark's Episcopal Church will take place following worship service on Sunday, January 28, 2024, beginning at approximately 11:30 PM. The meeting will take place in the Sanctuary of the church. See “Notice of Annual Meeting” for further information. Nominations for vestry or convention delegate/alternate must be received in writing, sent to Sr. Warden Alphonso Grayson and/or Fr. Michael, to be received no later than 5:00 PM, Wednesday, January 17, 2024.



***Bishop Ruth to visit St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Next Sunday, January 21, 2024***

Canon law requires every diocesan bishop to visit every congregation in his or her diocese at least once every three years. The canonical purposes of a visitation are for the bishop to examine the condition of the congregation, oversee the clergy, preach, confirm, preside at the eucharist, and examine parochial records.

Each year since her election, our Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley has made an official visitation to St. Mark's Episcopal Church. As one of our diocese historic African American parishes, Bishop Ruth is committed to our wellbeing and supports efforts underway to grow our parish and strengthen its financial foundation. In furtherance of that commitment, in anticipation of our Annual Meeting scheduled Sunday, January 28, 2024, Bishop Ruth will visit St. Mark's next week on Sunday, January 21, 2024, to worship with us and share with us her vision for our diocese and St. Mark's in 2024 and beyond. ***Please plan on being present for worship with our bishop next Sunday and attending our reception for her following the service.***

**St. Mark's Oyster Roast/Mardi Gras Party** – Sunday, February 4, 2024 – 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
*Please arrange your schedule now to be able to attend, and bring a friend, free of charge!*

**Altar Flower Donations** – Altar Flowers may be donated by signing up for any given Sunday in the Altar Flower Notebook in the church Narthex. Suggested donation is a minimum of \$40.00.

**Free parking** is available during Sunday Worship Services at Ashley Hall School parking lot, located at the corner of Warren and Smith Streets, only one block from St. Mark's Church.

**Parish Office Hours** are every Friday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Other times, contact Fr. Michael at 843-830-1220.

**Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Charleston, South Carolina**  
**Notice of Annual Meeting**

Pursuant to Canon 6, sections 1 & 2 of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina Constitution, Canons and Rules of Order, *notice is hereby given* of the 2024 Annual Meeting of membership of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Charleston, to be held at 11:30 AM on **Sunday, January 28, 2024**, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Charleston, SC, 16 Thomas Street, Charleston, SC, 29403

The determination of "Communicants in Good Standing" is made per the provisions of Title I, Canon 17, sections 2 & 3 of Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

Section 2(a) - All members of this Church who have received Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the preceding year are to be considered communicants of this Church.

Sec. 3. All communicants of this Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing.

For year 2023, Michael Shaffer, Interim Rector, certifies for purposes of participation in the 2024 Annual Meeting of the congregation of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Charleston, SC, to be held January 28, 2024, the following individuals to be "Communicants in Good Standing", on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023. Said individuals have full voting rights at the Annual Meeting and are eligible for election of any office or delegation.

Mrs. Lisa Van Bergen	Mrs. Anita Jefferson
Mrs. Janice O. Blair	Mr. Michael D. Jefferson
Mr. Walter N. Boags	Mrs. Minerva T. King
Mrs. Ruth S. Breland	Ms. Bea Lavelle
Mr. & Mrs. George Bresnihan	Mr. Doug Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. William Bugg	Mrs. Cynthia K. Robertson
Mrs. Lauretta Bumpus	Mr. Walter Smalls, III
Mrs. Pauline Caffey	Ms. Jacqueline Storts
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Crossley	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Turner
Mr. John T. Dash	Ms. Kristin Wallace
Mr. & Mrs. Hillery P. Douglas	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Waters
Mrs. Patricia A. Gates	Mrs. Amy Chase West
Ms. B. Shawan Gillians	Mr. Christopher West
Mr. & Mrs. Alphonso Grayson, Jr	Mrs. Vicki Davis Williams
Mrs. Monica L. Hammonds	Mrs. Margaret Kenney Williams
Ms. Angela Hare	Ms. Samara Hawkins
Ms. Ellen Hardin	
Mr. and Mrs. James Hieserman	
Ms. Stacey Hill	

On January 28, 2024, two (2) new vestry members will be elected to serve one (1) year terms. Current vestry members will continue to serve on vestry until the date of the 2025 Annual Meeting, on which date all members serving on the 2024 vestry will resign. At the 2025 Annual Meeting, an entirely new vestry will be elected in a manner which will allow for election of one-third of the vestry each succeeding year, in conformity with St. Mark's Episcopal Church by-laws. Also, on January 28, 2024, four (4) delegates and two (2) alternates will be elected to attend the 2024 Convention of the Episcopal Church of South Carolina.

Nomination for vestry or convention delegate/alternate must be received in writing, sent to Sr. Warden Alphonso Grayson and/or Fr. Michael, to be received no later than 5:00 PM, Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

## *Welcome to St. Mark's*



*I'm so glad you are here.*

Whether you are visiting Charleston for the first time, have recently moved here, have visited our church before or are doing so for the first time, we hope you will consider making St. Mark's Episcopal Church your spiritual home. Whoever you are and wherever you are in your life journey, we invite you to join our community effort in making the world a better place to live. There are no litmus tests. We don't want to change you. We want to support you as you grow into the person you were born to be.

In the Episcopal Church, we dream and work to foster God's vision of *Beloved Community* where all people may experience dignity and abundant life and see themselves and others as beloved children of God. *Beloved Community* stands on the foundation of recognizing that any person's fundamental identity is God's beloved child. Such innate belovedness compels us to treat every single person on this planet with respect and dignity and to work for justice and peace and end our participation, knowingly or unknowingly, in assumptions or systems which trample on the beloved identity of our neighbors.

We humans cannot exist in isolation. We depend on connection, community, and caring. Simply put, we cannot be without each other. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu explained, "*My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.*" Tutu understood that the potential of human beings working collectively to achieve goals is infinitely greater than the potential of any individual.

We are a community of believers who come to worship, to pray, to love and to be loved, as we work to ease the burdens we share, living in the twenty-first century. We not only welcome but *embrace* a diverse community of people with different ethnic, racial, sexual orientation and social backgrounds, who may have different ways of being their authentic selves in the world. Our focus is to live into right relationship with each other and all creation as followers of Jesus. We are strengthened by our diversity, as we strive for unity, not uniformity.

So, I invite you to join us. Bring your gifts and passions, along with your doubts and your curiosity, but most of all, your hearts and minds. There is a place for everyone in God's church, and we may be the place where you can flourish, just as you are, *God's beloved child*.

Gratefully,  
Michael Shaffer +  
Interim Rector – St. Mark's Episcopal  
[frmichael@saintmarkschurch.com](mailto:frmichael@saintmarkschurch.com)  
Cell: 843-830-1220  
St. Mark's Parish Office: 843-722-0267

