

**Welcome to
St. Marks's Episcopal Church**

Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope

**The Second Sunday of Lent
March 16, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

Sharing the hope and love of Jesus Christ in a radically inclusive, respectful and loving community, mobilized as His disciples to alleviate suffering, while working for equity, justice, and mercy in every aspect of life. To become God's Beloved Community.

The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina
The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, Interim Rector
The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych, Clergy Associate-Retired
Loretta Haskell, Organist & Choirmaster
Rob Turner, Sr. Warden – Hillery Douglas, Jr. Warden



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

Glory and Gratitude

John Bell

OPENING HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

Hymnal 401

THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE ONE

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People: His mercy endureth for ever.

Celebrant: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Almighty and most merciful father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Celebrant: The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Christ, have mercy on us.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy on us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

(Reader: *A reading from the Book of Genesis*)

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

(Reader: *Here ends the reading.*)

PSALM 27

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 *When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who
stumbled and fell.***
- 3 Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- 4 *And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.***
- 5 One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
- 6 *To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple.***
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe
in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 *Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.***
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
- 10 *Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.***
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, Lord, will I seek.
- 12 *Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.***
- 13 You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 14 *Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the Lord will sustain me.***
- 15 Show me your way, O Lord; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 *Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.***
- 17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the Lord *
in the land of the living!

*18 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the Lord.*

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1

(Reader: *A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians*)

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

(Reader: *Here ends the reading.*)

SEQUENCE HYMN If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee **Hymnal 635**

THE GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

TRANSITION SONG In the Lord I'll be ever thankful **Song by Taizé**

**In the Lord I'll be every thankful.
In the Lord I will 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 SERMON

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.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Ruth, our Bishop, Michael and Jennie our priests, and our seminarian Shawan, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald, our President, Henry, our Governor and William, our mayor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. We invite your personal intercessions at this time, either aloud or in your heart. (Pause, followed by Intercessor Prayers)

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of our Patron St. Mark and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

The Congregation prays in unison:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE

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

People: And with thy Spirit..

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

OFFERTORY God So Loved the World Bill Wolaver

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION Hymnal # 380, verse 3

The Doxology

*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.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION – RITE I - EUCHARISTIC PRAYER I

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: *It is meet and right so to do.*

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.***

Celebrant: All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

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

People and Celebrant sing.

LEVAS 264

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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei

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.

THE INVITATION

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 as you approach the chalice. 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 when approaching the priest. If you would like to have communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Near the Cross
My Jesus, I Love Thee

LEVAS 29
LEVAS 89

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says.

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

All: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath **HYMNAL 429**

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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.

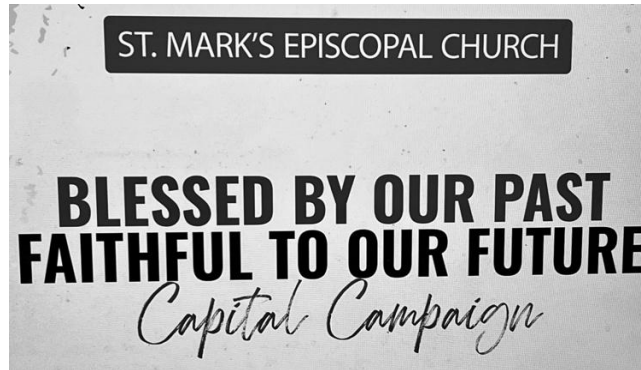
SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych, *Presiding*
The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, *Celebrant & Preaching*
Suzanne Hieserman, *Crucifer & Eucharist Minister*
Minerva King, *Lector*
Ginny Grayson, Patricia Gates, Alphonso Grayson, Dana Beecken, *Altar Guild*
Gin Waters, *Flowers*
Angela Hare & Yvette Douglas, *Ushers*



The Altar adornments are given by Rob and Jean Turner
in memory of Rob's mother
Sandra Turner Hamlin

Announcements



“20 in 40” Lenten Season Campaign for new sound and live steaming systems

On March 12, 2025, the vestry approved the purchase and installation of new audio and live stream systems at St. Mark's. The system will be state of the art and allow us to live fully into the new season of ministry to which we are being called at St. Mark's.

Last week, all parishioners and friends of St. Mark's should have received a letter from Fr. Michael providing background, and the need for St. Mark's to do this work at this time. However, installing these systems in our historic all wood Sanctuary must be done carefully, not to obscure in any way the beauty of our church. Since the church building does not have internet coax cable currently running to it, this will be another additional significant expense, requiring trenching and the running of cable from the Parish House to the church.

As part of the diocese catalytic commitment to the historically disenfranchised parishes, and St. Mark's in particular, our bishop has confirmed with me that should we be successful in our “20 in 40” campaign, that the diocese will contribute at least \$50,000.00 to pay for the installation of these systems.

We need to raise \$30,000.00 among ourselves my friends prior to the end of Lent. Marj Kenney-Williams has generously already donated \$10,000.00, so if we raise the additional \$20,000.00, we can hopefully have new systems in place by the time our bishop officially visits St. Mark's, which I anticipate will be mid-June.

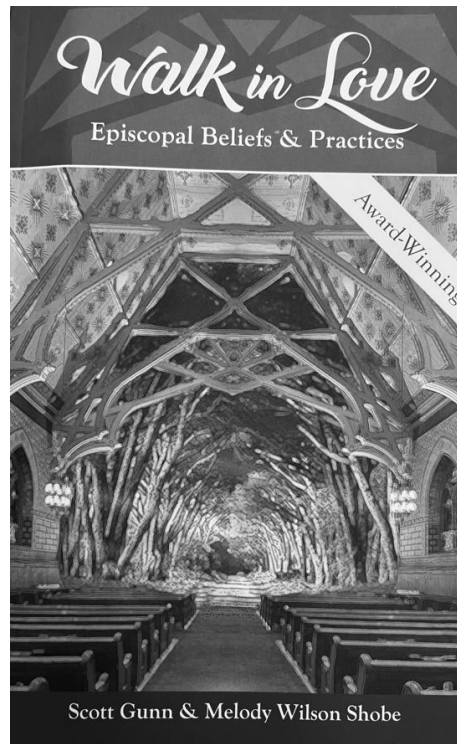
As I stated in my letter, if everyone who pledged to St. Mark's during our 2025 Stewardship Campaign would each contribute \$500, we'd have this accomplished. Of course, that is too simplified, as understandably, some may not be able to afford that amount. But there are others who can afford more! Some may give \$250.00, others may give \$2,500.00, *but you, we, can do this!*

We've already received commitments for approximately \$5,500.00 towards our \$20,000.00 goal. We hope you will contribute before the end of March to this effort, as we need to make a substantial downpayment to materials can be ordered and delivered timely, so that we might complete installation prior to the bishop's visitation. *Please give what you can.* Some may only be able to contribute a few dollars, others thousands of dollars; but we *need everyone to do their part* in order to be successful.

We are doing great things here at the corners of Thomas and Warren Streets in Charleston. As stewards of this sacred place, we owe it to ourselves, those who sacrificed so much for St. Mark's in generations past and to those in generations to come, to live into the vision God has for us. *Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope.*

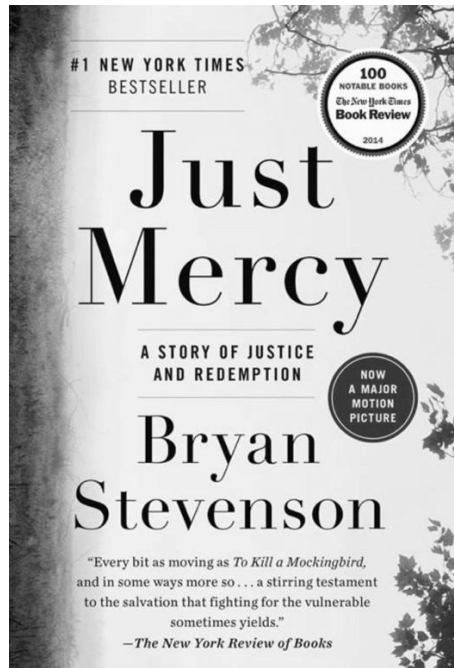
Please communicate your intentions and commitment to Fr. Michael directly as soon as possible. Call him at (843) 830-1220 or email him at frmichael@saintmarkschurch.com. For any contribution, please note "*20 in 40 Capital Campaign*" in the memo line of a check or designate such in your online gift. If you have any questions, please call me.

In passage with Him,
Michael+



Lenten Season Study Continues Thursday evenings during Lent by Zoom
Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices

If you are interested in joining contact Fr. Michael or Rev. Jennie



Read “Just Mercy” with Fr. Michael during Lent

Fr. Adam Shoemaker, rector of St. Stephen’s has invited his parish to join him in reading the book “Just Mercy” written by Bryan Stevenson the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative (or EJI) during Lent. I’m joining him in inviting you to do so. The inspiration for this invitation comes from the recent “Three Churches United” pilgrimage to Atlanta, Montgomery, and Selma organized by St. Stephen’s, Calvary, and St. Mark’s. While in Montgomery, the pilgrims visited The Legacy Museum and the Peace and Justice Memorial founded by EJI and, prior to marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, in Selma, pilgrimage participants had their picture taken with Bryan Stevenson and heard him preach.

The book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, can be purchased on Amazon, \$11.78 in paperback, \$4.99 for Kindle version. If you decide to read the book, let Fr. Michael know, as an invitation will be extended in the future to the pilgrims and everyone in our “Three Churches United” who read the book to gather and discuss it.



Send Prayer List Requests to Fr. Michael and Cheryl. The St. Mark's Prayer List is being reconstituted. If you have someone you would like added to the Prayer List, please email Fr. Michael directly and Cheryl at office@saintmarkschurch.com.

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.

Patriot Point Veterans. Please support veterans living at Patriot's Point by placing quarters in the green bucket in the Narthex, which can be used by them for laundry, bus fare and other essentials.

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.

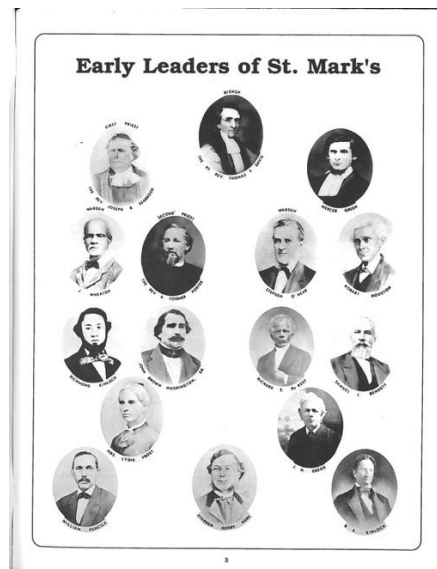


St. Mark's "Bending the Arc" Pilgrims

Vicki Davis Williams, Ellen Hardin, Erin Shaffer, Mike Jefferson, Anita Jefferson, Fr. Michael, Seminarian Shawan Gillians, Rob Turner, Rev. Jennie Olbrych, Gail DeCosta, Jim Etheredge, Michele English Watson and Minerva King (not pictured). St. Mark's, these of your number truly lived into our Mission Statement on Pilgrimage; *"Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope"*

"Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

Rep. John Lewis



Our Honored Heritage

St Mark's Episcopal Church is an historic African American church established in 1865 by free people of color. St. Mark's was home to the Reverend Thaddeus Saltus, the first African American to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in South Carolina in 1882. Although he hoped to become rector, Reverend Saltus's life and ministry were cut short by tuberculosis, dying in 1884. In the spring of 1887, another African American priest, the Reverend John Henry Mingo Pollard, began an active ministry in the Diocese of South Carolina. Reverend Pollard was called to be St. Mark's first African American rector in 1888.

From 1875 to 1885 St. Mark's sought unsuccessfully to become a participant in the Annual Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina but was not admitted due to the racial prejudice of the time. Again, from 1912 to 1915, the place of Black Episcopalians in the diocese was hotly debated, but still, St. Mark's and other Black congregations were denied participation in the Diocesan Convention. In 1956, St. Mark's and the other Black congregations of the Diocese were admitted to Convention but were still segregated from the whole diocesan body. It was not until 1965, one hundred years after its founding, and ninety years after its first petition to enter into the full life of the Episcopal Church, that St. Mark's was granted full participation in life of the Diocese of South Carolina. The history of St. Mark's stands as a strong example of the legacy of slavery, illustrated by the congregation's long struggle to achieve equal representation in the Episcopal Church.

Throughout its history, St. Mark's continued to be a community of faithful Episcopalians striving to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. While continuing to honor and embrace its African American heritage, today St. Mark's is a blend of ethnicities, geographies, socioeconomic backgrounds, abilities and sexual orientations, where everyone is treated with dignity, respect and love.

