



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

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

**The Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

January 21, 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



*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**

Put Down Your Nets and Follow Me

Dillow

**OPENING HYMN**

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

**Hymnal 480**

## 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.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE LESSONS

*Please be seated.*

### FIRST READING – Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

### PSALM 62: 6-14

6 For God alone my soul in silence waits; \*  
truly, my hope is in him.

7 *He alone is my rock and my salvation, \**  
*my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.*

8 In God is my safety and my honor; \*  
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

9 *Put your trust in him always, O people, \**  
*pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.*

10 Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, \*  
even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

11 *On the scales they are lighter than a breath, \**  
*all of them together.*

12 Put no trust in extortion;  
in robbery take no empty pride; \*  
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

*13 God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, \*  
that power belongs to God.*

14 Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, \*  
for you repay everyone according to his deeds.

## **SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

## **SEQUENCE HYMN**

My God Thy Table Now is Spread

**Hymnal 321**

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20**

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

*People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

God of light and life our prayers rise before you this day in hope and faith. We pray for your church, for our diocese, bishops, clergy and all people.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Flame of abundant love, be our Joy in proclaiming your Good News to the world. We pray for all who are coming to faith, all who wonder about faith, and all who are struggling with faith.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Light of all creation, guide us to lead, teach and nurture your disciples We pray for those in need of food, shelter, clothing, and of God's healing touch, especially those for whom our prayers are especially desired.

*(Intercessor leads specific prayers for parishioners of St. Mark's, the diocese and Anglican Communion)*

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Comforter of the suffering, warm our hands to loving service We pray for the world, especially where there is trouble and suffering, far away or nearby... (petitions may be added)

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Ember of steadfast care, fuel our passion to challenge injustice and violence and to pursue peace and reconciliation  
We pray for the land on which we stand, the peoples, creatures, plant life and waters around us.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Star blaze of glory, lead us to care for this fragile earth, our island home, and to heal the circle of creation God of radiant light, your love illumines our hopes before we know them, and our needs before we ask. Kindle your flame within us, that in our prayers and service, we may know your transforming presence at work in the world around us. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## CONFESSION

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

***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 Priest offers an Offertory Sentence.*

**OFFERTORY**

The Summons

John Bell

**HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION**

**Hymnal 400, verse 7**

*Let all things their creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

**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 stewards 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly,

ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

heaven 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.

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,

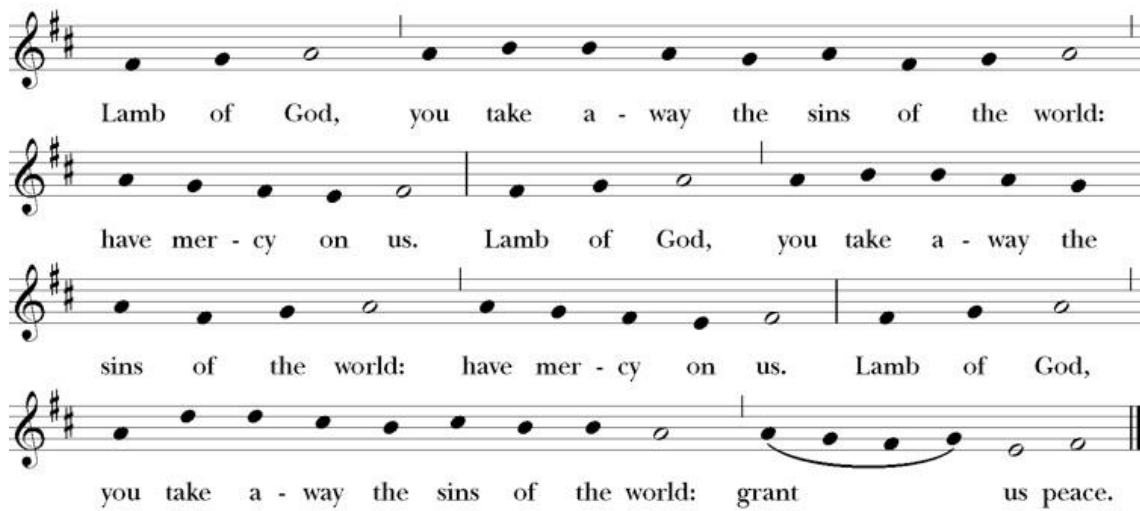
***People and Celebrant sing***

***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

In Remembrance of Me  
I've Got Peace Like a River

**LEVAS 149**  
**LEVAS 201**

*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**

Christ for the World We Sing

**HYMNAL 537**

**THE DISMISSAL**

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God*

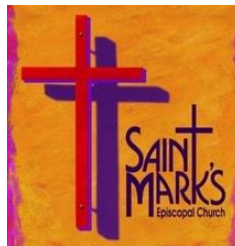
**CLOSING HYMN**

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*

B. Shawan Gillians, *Crucifer & Eucharist Minister*

Stacy Hill & Shawan Gillians, *Lectors*

Angela Hare & Kristin Wallace, *Altar Guild*

Yvette Douglas, *Usher*

***Christmas Eve Correction!***

On Christmas Eve 2023 an error was made in recognizing the Poinsettia gift from Christine Caffey Williams, whose mother is very much alive.

With apologies for our error, those flowers and today's altar flowers are given:

***In Loving Memory of Bennett L. Caffey, Husband and Father, from Pauline, Chris and Paula  
In Thanksgiving for Our Mother Pauline Caffey, from Daughters Chris and Paula***

## **Announcements**



### ***Bishop Ruth to visit St. Mark's Episcopal Church Rescheduled for Sunday, March 17, 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 2024.

Although Bishop Ruth was originally scheduled to visit St. Mark's today, her visit has been postponed until Sunday, March 17, 2024. Bishop Ruth wants everyone to know that she sincerely regrets this delay in visitation, but remains committed to St. Mark's and the efforts being undertaken in 2024 to put St. Mark's on a good foundation for the future. She looks forward to being with us on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, so please make every effort to be present with us on that date.

If anyone has not been confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church and would like to be confirmed or received at the Bishop's Visitation, please contact Fr. Michael.

**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*

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

# ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024**

**3:00 PM TO 6:00 PM**

**FREE OF CHARGE!**

*Bring your friends and family!*

## *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 prayer. 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.

**Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Charleston, South Carolina**  
**Notice of Annual Meeting – January 28, 2024**

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.

In compliance with St. Mark's bylaws, Ellen Hardin has been appointed Secretary for this Annual Meeting.

## *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