

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

All are welcome. All are embraced. All are loved.



The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 7, 2024

10:00 a.m.

*Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church
A house of prayer for all people in the historic Radcliffeborough
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

Alphonso Grayson, Senior Warden – Bob Waters, Junior Warden



SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



*A Community dedicated to loving,
not judging and respecting the dignity
of every human being.*

EST. 1865

16 THOMAS ST CHARLESTON, SC 29403

There is nothing *ordinary* about Ordinary Time!

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

Frederick Buechner

The Season after Pentecost, the longest season of the Church, is often referred to as Ordinary time. This season lasts roughly six months, during which there are no big feasts days and no Church holidays. Because of this, there’s an old joke about Episcopalians being the only Christian tradition that allows for summers off. I disagree. This season, also known by some as the “long green season”, is meant to be a time for growing and transformation, just as we experience in nature throughout the summer and fall seasons.

Our Anglican tradition is steeped Benedictine spirituality. One of my favorite summations of Benedictine life is, “*do ordinary things extraordinarily well*”. Whatever your daily routine, whether it be caring for children, completing your tasks as work, taking care of yourself or doing for others, during this season *mindfully* enter into those activities as holy and spiritual acts, dedicated to God and the building of his Kingdom. Do them in a holy way; enter into them as prayer, a spiritual act.

Another Benedictine adage is “*always we begin again.*” Green time is growing time. In that regard, I’m excited that during this time, we at St. Mark’s will be concluding much of the work undertaken during the first half of 2024, updating our Constitution and Bylaws as well as updating our Mission and Vision Statements. This will foster a common sense of core values and mission, which leads to a unified and energized transformation in order to accomplish shared mission as a parish church in the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina post schism. As Paul wrote in his Epistle to the Romans, “*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God...*” (Romans 12:2)

During this season I pray the Lord who have given us the will to do great things in His name, will give us the grace and power to accomplish them. May you be blessed as you strive to do ordinary things extraordinarily well.

*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.

INTROIT

Song for Love

Ar Hyd Y Nos

OPENING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hymnal 657

A LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Celebrant says.

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

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.

Canticle 13, A Song of Praise: Benedictus es, Domine

Hymnal S-236

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers;
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple;
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths;
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:1-5

¹He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. ²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord God.” ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123

- ¹ To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.
² As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
³ So our eyes look to the Lord our God, *
until he show us his mercy.
⁴ Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
⁵ Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat.⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a

messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated.⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me,⁹but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

Hymnal 635

GOSPEL: Mark 6:1-13

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Priest 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 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.

INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING *(adopted from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer p.413)*

Intercessor: Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore, in confidence and trust we pray for the Church: Father, enliven the Church for its mission.

People: that we may be the salt of the earth and light to the world.

Intercessor: Breathe fresh life into your people.

People: Give us the power to reveal Christ in word and action.

Intercessor: We pray for the world: Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

People: That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Intercessor: Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

People: Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

Intercessor: We pray for the community: God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others.

People: That all act with integrity and courage.

Intercessor: Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours. We invite your personal intercessions at this time, either aloud or in your heart. (Pause, followed by Intercessor Prayers) Lord, hear our prayer.

People: May we serve Christ in another, and love as he loves us.

Intercessor: Almighty God, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve, bless all who following in his steps live a life of service to others. Those who dedicate themselves in every season of life, in youth and advancing age, to service of nation and every human being, striving for justice, peace and equality for all people in their daily lives. By the power of your Holy Spirit, grant all who serve, wisdom, patience and courage, that they may minister in the name of Christ to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us.

People: For it is in giving that we receive.

Intercessor: We pray for those in need: God of hope, comfort and restore of all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

The Priest offers an Offertory Sentence.

OFFERTORY

Creator of Beauty and Giver of Light

Mark Schweizer

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.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Enriching Our Worship Eucharist Prayer 2

The People remain standing.

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.*

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

Celebrant: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

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

The Celebrant continues.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing the wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with our patron St. Mark and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem: Taste and see

WLAP # 764

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Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness

of the Lord. O taste and see. Taste and

see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Fine

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, allowing the Eucharistic Minister to dip your wafer in the wine, or dipping your wafer in the intinction chalice. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest when the chalice reaches you. Communion in one kind (in bread only) is a perfectly valid way to receive the sacrament. Gluten free hosts are available upon request. 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

Amazing Grace
Lord I Want to Be a Christian

LEVAS 181
LEVAS 138

After Communion, the Celebrant says.

Let us pray. *(All pray)*

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

PROCESSIONAL

How Firm a Foundation

Hymnal 636

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

CLOSING HYMN

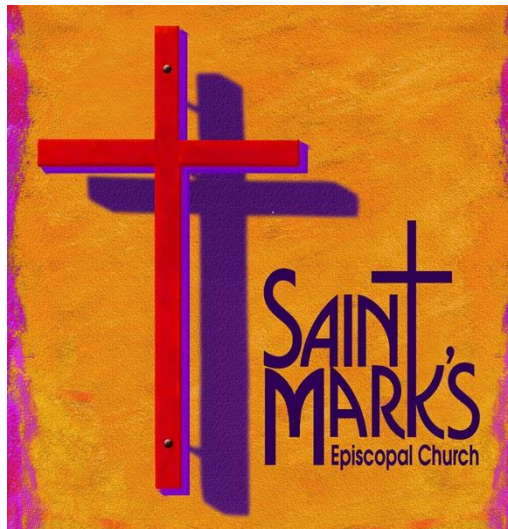
Thank You, Lord

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.*

POSTLUDE

The worship is over. Now the service begins.



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Shaffer, *Celebrant & Preacher*
Shawan Gillians, *Eucharistic Minister*
Lisa Van Bergen, *Lector*
Loretta Haskell, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Ginny Grayson, Patricia Gates, *Altar Guild*
Gin Waters, *Flowers*
Vicki Davis Williams, William Bugg, *Ushers*

Announcements

Our next Vestry meeting will be held in the Parish Hall this coming Wednesday evening, July 10 between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

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.

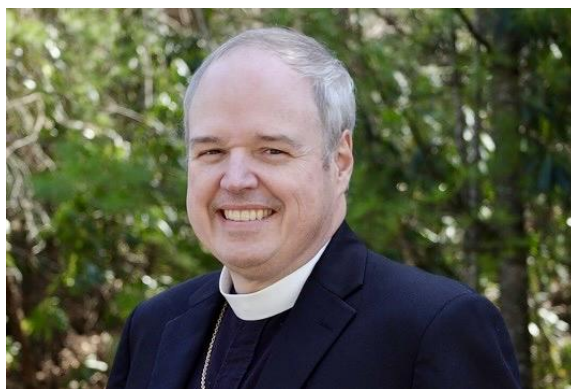
Free parking is available during Sunday Worship Services at Ashley Hall School parking lot, located at the corner of Warren and Smith Streets, only one block from St. Mark's Church.

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



Thank you St. Mark's for Showing Up and Shining

A big thank you to the many St. Mark's parishioners who showed up and participated in a joint worship service with Calvary Episcopal Church on Sunday, June 30, to host The Most Reverend Dr. Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith, Archbishop & Primate of the Province of West Africa. Our Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley who presided at the service was most grateful for these two Historic African American congregations joined together in unity of Spirit for what was a meaningful service for everyone who attended and our diocese. *Thank You!*



The Rt. Rev. Sean W. Rowe
28th Presiding Bishop Elect of the Episcopal Church

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, bishop of the Episcopal Dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York, was elected and confirmed the 28th presiding bishop and primate of The Episcopal Church on June 26 for a nine-year term beginning Nov. 1. Rowe was chosen from among five nominees on the first ballot, with 89 votes out of 158 votes cast; 82 votes were needed to elect. Following his election by the House of Bishops, the House of Deputies confirmed the election, with 778 votes for, 43 votes against.

Rowe, 49, was ordained bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania in 2007 and became bishop provisional of Western New York in 2019. From 2014 to 2018, he served as bishop provisional of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem. He was the youngest Episcopal priest in the U.S. when he was ordained in 2000 at age 24, and he was the youngest member of the House of Bishops when he was ordained and consecrated at age 32.

Born in Sharon, Pennsylvania, Rowe earned a bachelor's degree in history from Grove City College, a Master of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary, and a doctorate in organizational learning and leadership from Gannon University. Rowe is married to Carly Rowe, a Christian educator; they have a daughter named Lauren.

In a speech given to the convention delegates shortly following his election Bishop Rowe said, *"I give thanks that the five of us together made this journey together, in solidarity, for the love of this church."* His speech acknowledged some of the challenges facing The Episcopal Church at a time of membership decline when some dioceses say their ministries are struggling under financial burdens and diminished congregational vitality. *"It's not too strong to say we're facing an existential crisis,"* Rowe said – not because the church doesn't have something to offer the world, he said, but *"because the world around us is changed and continues to change and is changing all the time. God is calling us ever more deeply into the unknown. We know that we cannot continue being The Episcopal Church in the same way, no matter where we live,"* he said. *"It's time to reorient our church ... to support dioceses and churches on the ground, where ministry happens."*

Current Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, the former bishop of North Carolina, concludes his nine-year term on Oct. 31, and Rowe will take office the following day, with a November 2 installation to take place at the denominational headquarters in New York City.

Please keep the Presiding Bishop Elect and his family in your prayers in the coming months as he prepares to enter this most challenging and important ministry.

Welcome to St. Mark's



We're 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 +
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