St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope.



The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026
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 of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina
The Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, Rector
The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych, Clergy Associate-Retired
Loretta Haskell, Organist & Choirmaster
Rob Turner, Senior Warden – William Bugg, Junior 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.

INTROIT **I Owe My Lord a Morning Song** **John Bell**

OPENING HYMN **Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies** **Hymnal 7**

A LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Priest says

Presider: Blessed be the one, holy and living God.
People: Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

The Priest 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

Presider: God be with you.
People: And also with you.
Presider: Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

Reader: A reading from the Book of Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is at hand;

the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: ***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM 90:1-8, 12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Reader: A reading from Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians.
Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN **Take My Life, and Let It Be** **Hymnal 707**

GOSPEL: Matthew 25: 14-30

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

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.

Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

TRANSITION SONG **In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful** **Taizé**

In the Lord I'll be ever 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 Reverend 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.

INTERCESSIONS (*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: God of hope and comfort, give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours and for those in need, and restore all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. 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 they know the power of your healing love.

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 minster 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: Make us willing agents of your compassion.
People: Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

Intercessor: We remember those who have died and those who mourn: We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. Give comfort to those who mourn.
People: Father, into your hands we commend them.

Intercessor: Lord, you have called us to serve you.
People: Grant that we may walk in your presence; your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: 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.

Presider: 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. ***All: Amen.***

THE PEACE

Presider: 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

The Priest offers an Offertory Sentence.

OFFERTORY **A Prayer for Humility** **Mark Patterson**

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION ***Sung to the tune of Hymnal #380***
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** **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.
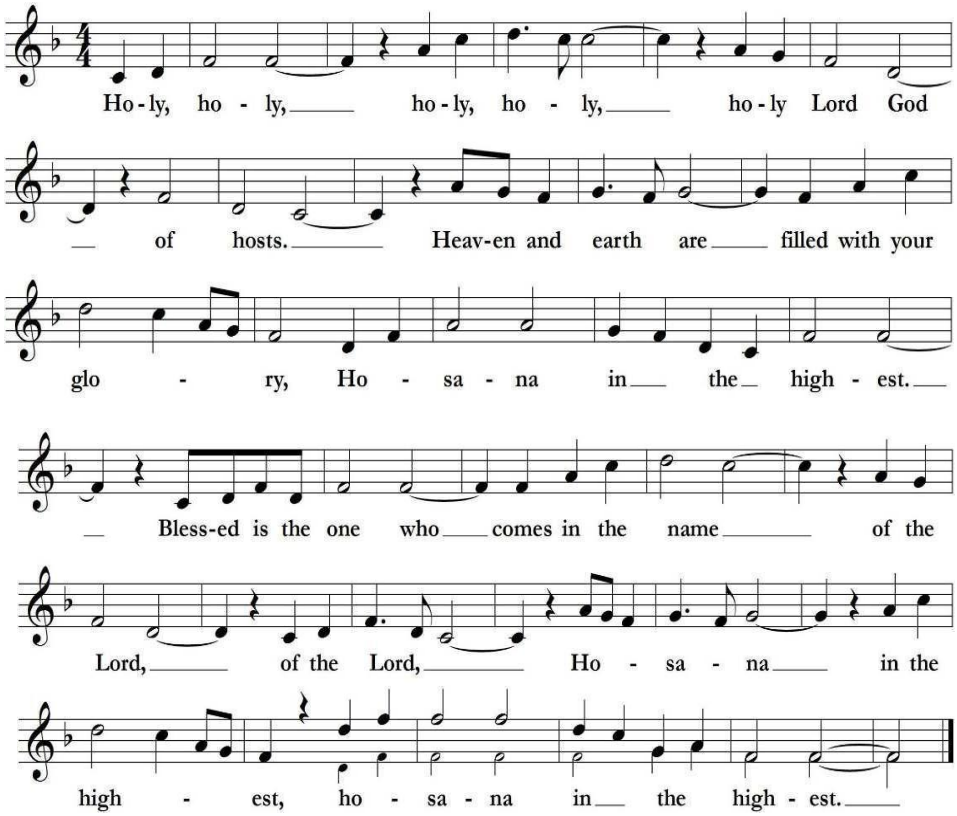
Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds,

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.

SANCTUS Grayson Warren Brown **LEVAS 255**



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.

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,

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 debts, 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.

Fraction Anthem: *Let Us Break Bread Together* **LEVAS 152**

Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.
Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.
Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

INVITATION

Celebrant: The Body and Blood of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; behold who you are; become what you receive.

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.

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 **Here Am I, Send Me** **LEVAS 126**
Let the Heav'n Light Shine on Me **LEVAS 174**

Taizé hymn as needed.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and never be hungry,
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.
Jesus Christ, Bread of Life, those who come to you will not hunger,
Jesus Christ, Risen Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

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 **I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light.** **Hymnal 490**

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.

The worship is over. Now the service begins.



Given by the English Family, in loving memory of
Charles Richard English, Sr., 1908 - 2008

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

The Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, *Celebrating and Preaching*
Rob Turner, *Crucifer, Eucharistic Minster*
Ginny Grayson, Patricia Gates, Alphonso Grayson, Suzanne Hieserman, *Altar/Flower Guild*
Angela Hare and Deirdre Williams, *Ushers*

Announcements

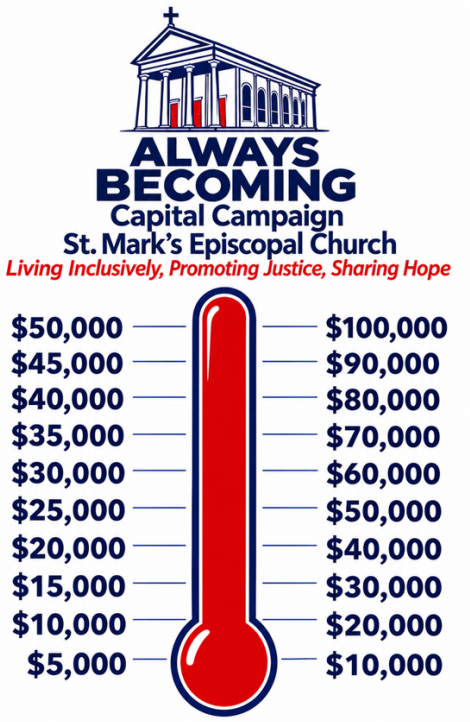


Mission Accomplished – Over 3,450 pair of shoes donated!

This week the St. Mark's ECW successfully completed its shoe drive, having collected over 3,450 pairs of gently used shoes for donation. In addition to providing shoes to those in need of footwear, proceeds raised as the result of the drive will go to support future ministry outreach initiatives undertaken by the ECW, including ongoing support of Chicora Elementary School.

On behalf of the ECW and all those involved in this effort, we thank the St. Mark's community, as well as the other church communities which comprise the Episcopal Peninsula Deanery, for supporting this effort.

Michele English-Watson, President, Episcopal Church Women (ECW) - St. Mark's Episcopal Church.
Vicki Davis Williams and Rev. Jennie Olbrych, Co-Chairs, Shoe Drive Committee, St. Mark's ECW



Thank you…You did it!

We've successfully concluded our *Always Becoming* Capital Campaign having received pledges totaling $54,630 from 29 parishioners, family and friends of St. Mark's! This results in St. Mark's having raised $104,330 from this effort.

We are most grateful to the following parishioners, families and friends of St. Mark's who pledged so generously to make this possible.

Peter Goodrich
Jennie & John Olbrych
Vicki Davis Williams
Gin Waters (in honor of Bob)
Ellen Hardin
Jacqeline Storts
Patricia A. Gates
Major General Leo V. Williams
Jean & Rob Turner
Carol & William Bugg
Loretta Haskell
Walter Boags
Suzanne & Jim Hieserman
Deirdre & George Williams
Gail DeCosta
Marj Kenney Williams
Anita & Mike Jefferson
Minerva King
Lisa Van Bergen & Doug Murphy
Ginny & Alphonso Grayson
The Primus-Brown Family
Meg & Scott Crosby (Community Foundation of Greater Memphis)
Yvette & Hillery Douglas
Maggie Bresnihan
Michele English Watson
Amy Chase West & Chris West
Belinda & Kurt Jefferson (In memory of parents William & Mildred Jefferson and Ethel M. Gourdine)
Paula & Chris Caffey (In memory of Bennett and Pauline Caffey)
Mark Fox (McKenna's father)

We believe a remodeled 3-bedroom, 2-bath Parish House apartment will generate substantial income for St. Mark's for years to come. While the formal campaign has ended, you can still be a part of this historic renovation. If you would like to do so, please fill out an *"Always Becoming" Capital Campaign* pledge card and turn it in today. And if you have pledged, we hope you will submit payment on that pledge before the end of 2026. *Thank you!*

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21



Welcome Charleston (SC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated

We are pleased to welcome members of the Charleston (SC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated to St. Mark's this morning. Founded in 1946, The Links, Incorporated is one of the oldest and largest international volunteer service organizations for professional women of African descent. Guided by the motto *"Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service,"* the group focuses on enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the cultural and economic survival of African Americans and other people of African ancestry. The Links, Incorporated celebrate Friendship Month every November to honor the core tenet of sisterhood and shared service, and specifically this weekend observes National Donor Sabbath, a time of raising awareness about organ, eye, tissue, and blood donation disparities affecting communities of African descent. The Charleston (SC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated was the first chapter of the organization established in South Carolina. on March 29, 1951, having provided community service across the Lowcountry for over 75 years. We are honored to have members of The Links, Incorporated, as well as Ms. Chastity Benjamin, the Community Event Coordinator for We are Sharing Hope, worshiping with us at St. Mark's today.

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 Villas. Please support veterans living at Patriot Villas by placing quarters in the collection jar 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.

Donate to St. Mark's Online

Make financial contributions to St. Mark's Church via Zelle. Zelle payments are initiated by the sender in their individual banking platform or website. The St. Mark's Zelle payment address is office@saintmarkschurch.com. Contributions can also be made through Tithe'ly by accessing the below QR code.