

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

*Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope*



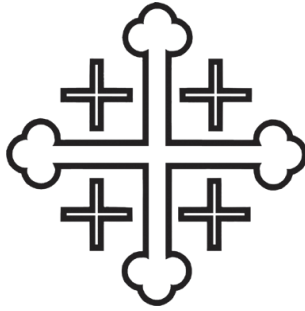
## Welcome to St. Marks's Episcopal Church

**The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord**  
The Holy Eucharist *with* Renewal of Baptismal Vows

**January 12, 2025 – 10:00 AM**

*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  
Alphonso Grayson, Senior Warden – Bob Waters, 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.*

<b>CHORAL INTROIT</b>	Take Me to the Water	Traditional
<b>OPENING HYMN</b>	Baptized in Water, Sealed by the Spirit	<b>LEVAS 121</b>

### **A LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*The Celebrant says*

Priest            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.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

## THE LESSONS

*Please be seated.*

### FIRST READING – Isaiah 43:1-7

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth--  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

## PSALM 29

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, \*  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; \*  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; \*  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.**
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD \*  
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.**
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; \*  
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

## SECOND READING - Acts 8:14-17

Reader: A reading from the Book of Acts

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

SEQUENCE HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry

Hymnal 76

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17,21-22**

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

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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 HOMILY**

**The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Shaffer**

**THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS**

*The presider invites the people to renew their baptismal vows.*

Priest Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People *I do.*

Priest: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: *I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of  
heaven and earth.*

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
**People:** *I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

Priest: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
**People:** *I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*

Priest: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?  
**People:** *I will, with God's help.*

Priest: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
**People:** *I will, with God's help.*

Priest: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?  
**People:** *I will, with God's help.*

Priest: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
**People:** *I will, with God's help.*

Priest: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
**People:** *I will, with God's help.*

Priest: May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *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.

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. We invite your personal intercessions either aloud or in your hearts. *(After a pause intercessor offers special prayers for this week.)*

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.*

## **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**

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Richard Shephard

**HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION***Sung to the tune of Hymnal #400*

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

**Holy Communion- Eucharistic Prayer C**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

*People: We lift them to the Lord.*

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

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

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

*People: Glory to you for ever and ever.*

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

*People: By your will they were created and have their being.*

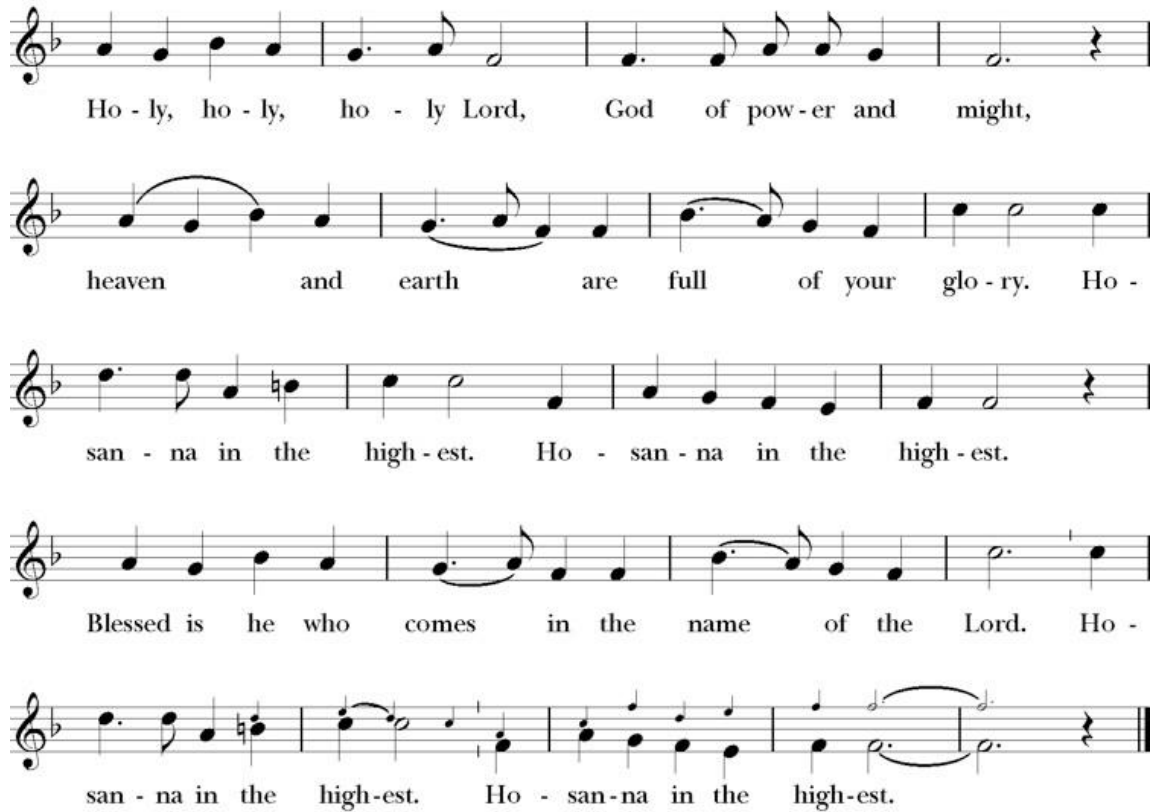
From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

*People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.*

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

*People: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.*

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:



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.

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 of our Mothers, God of Sarah, Rebekah, and Rachel, 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.*

### 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**

### THE 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. 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**

Blessed Be the Name  
Wade in the Water

**LEVAS 78**  
**LEVAS 143**

*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**

Shall We Gather at the River

**LEVAS 141**

### **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.*



### **SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:**

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, *Celebrant & Preacher*

The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych, *Presiding*

Lerone Johnson, Sr, *Eucharistic Minister*

Lisa Van Bergen, *Lector*

Ruth Breland & Suzanne Hieserman, *Altar Guild*

Gin Waters, *Flowers*

Angela Hare & Yvette Douglas, *Ushers*

*The flowers are given by Ellen Hardin*

*in Thanksgiving for*

*The people of St. Mark's Episcopal Church*

### **Announcements**

#### ***Plan on Marching in the Parade with St. Mark's Episcopal Church and The Diocese of South Carolina***

The 2025 Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in Charleston will be held on Monday, January 20, 2025, and St. Mark's Episcopal Church plans to participate. The bishop's office is organizing the participation of our diocese with Canon McCall taking the lead. The parade begins at 9 am, but lineup will begin at 7 am, and all participants are asked to be in place by 8 am. We've been told by Canon McCall that it is possible to enter a car or two in the parade for those who want to participate but cannot walk, however we need to let him know immediately!

Please step up and march with St. Mark's, our Bishop and other members of the churches around the Diocese in this year's parade. We'll be strutting our new banner "*St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope.*"

***Please email Fr. Michael no later than Monday, January 13, 2025, and let him know if you plan to participate.***

## **Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church, Charleston, South Carolina** **Notice of Annual Meeting – January 26, 2025**

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 2025 Annual Meeting of membership of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Charleston, to be held at 11:30 AM on **Sunday, January 26, 2025**, 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 2024, Michael Shaffer, Interim Rector, certifies for purposes of participation in the 2025 Annual Meeting of the congregation of Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church, Charleston, SC, to be held January 26, 2025, the following individuals to be “Communicants in Good Standing”, on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025. Said individuals have full voting rights at the Annual Meeting and are eligible for election of any office or delegation.

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Crossley	Mr. & Mrs. William Bugg
Mrs. Gail DeCosta	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Waters
Mrs. Patricia Gates	Ms. Jacqueline Storts
Mr. Peter B. Goodrich	Ms. Vicki Willams
Mr. Alphonso Grayson, Jr.	Ms. Michele Watson
Mrs. Mary R. Grayson	Mrs. Monica Hammonds
Ms. Angela E. Hare	Mr. & Mrs. Hillery Douglas
Ms. Ellen Harden	Ms. B. Shawan Gillians
Mr. & Mrs. James Hieserman	Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Beecken
Mrs. Anita Jefferson	Mrs. Kristin Wallace
Mr. Michael D. Jefferson	Mrs. Janice Blair
Ms. Minerva T. King	Mr. John Dash
Mr. Doug Murphy & Mrs. Lisa Van Bergen	Mrs. Pauline Caffey
Mr. John Olbrych	Mrs. Maggie Bresnihan
Mrs. Erin Shaffer	Mr. Walter Boags
Ms. Samara Hawkins	Ms. Bea Lavelle
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Turner	Ms. Bea Lavelle
Mr. Christopher West and Mrs. Amy Chase West	Mr. & Mrs. George Williams
Mrs. Margaret Williams	

On January 26, 2025, nine (9) vestry members will be elected to serve various length terms. The three nominees who receive the most votes will serve a three (3) year term, those three receiving the next most votes will serve a two (2) year term and those three receiving the fewest votes will serve a one (1) year term. Any tie votes will be determined by a runoff election. Every year hereafter, an election will be held at the Annual Meeting to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of class retiring.

Also, on January 26, 2025, four (4) delegates and two (2) alternates will be elected to attend the 2025 Convention of the Episcopal Church of South Carolina, to be held in November 2025.

***Nominations for all offices must be submitted in writing to Fr. Michael before 5:00 PM, Tuesday, January 21, 2025.***

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

**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.



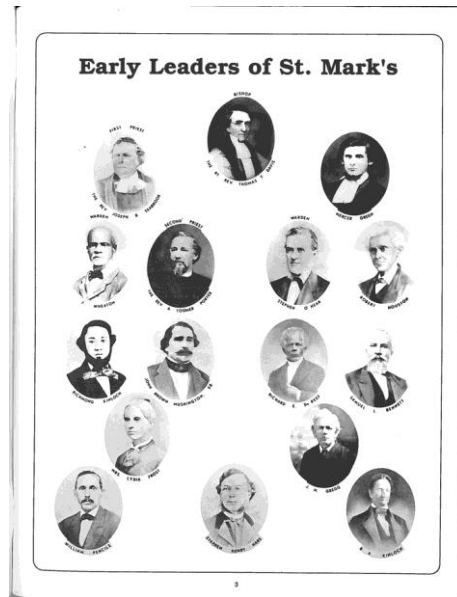
### *A little about Eucharistic Prayer C used during this season.*

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

The prayer draws heavily from the biblical books of Genesis, Exodus, 1 Chronicles, the Letter to the Hebrews and the Acts of the Apostles. It tells the story of creation and our Old Testament ancestors more fully than the other Eucharistic prayers. What makes Prayer C especially popular is the line about the enormity of God in creation: *“At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.”* That line has earned it the nickname “The Star Wars Prayer” among many clergy.

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

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



## *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 be 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.



