

Please be seated

Communion of the People

At Holy Communion, all baptized Christians are welcome to receive. The bread is received in the open palm. Gluten free wafers are available upon request; ask the priest when at the altar rail. The wine may be taken from the cup by drinking (placing your hand on the base to guide it) or by "intinction" (dipping the bread). If you wish to participate but do not want to receive the bread or wine, simply cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. Please let an usher know if you need assistance to the altar rail or if a priest may bring the elements to your pew.

Communion Anthem – Mary did you know M. Lowry and B. Greene

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you. Mary, did you know that your baby boy would give sight to a blind man? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm the sea with his hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod, and when you kiss your little baby then you've kissed the face of God? The blind will see; the deaf will hear; the dead will live again. The lame will leap; the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb. Oh, Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb, And the sleeping Child you're holding is the great I Am?

Mary Did You Know by Buddy Greene and Mark Lowry © Word Music, LLC | Rufus Music CCLI License # 621330

Communion Hymns sung by all

Let all mortal flesh keep silence (*Picardy*) Hymnal 324
Creator of the starts of night (*Conditor alme siderum*) Hymnal 60

Sending out of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors (when applicable)

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

Congregation **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

Please stand

Prayer for Mission said by all BCP 365

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.

Blessing

Hymn in Procession sung by all

Prepare the way, O Zion (*Bereden väg för Herran*) Hymnal 65

Dismissal BCP 366

Postlude – Sleepers, wake! J. S. Bach

Music Notes

Violinist – Corina Weinmair Soloist – Hosea Bigirwenkya

On this third Sunday of Advent our Gospel focus remains on John the Baptist, who prepares the way for Christ's coming, and whose message is the subject of "Prepare the way, O Zion". The other music is more generally Advent-themed. Ruth and Paul Manz's lovely adaptation of Revelation 22 is a classic that helps put the Advent message in the realm of the second coming in addition to the first coming at Christmas. The solo is sung by Hosea Bigirwenkya on his final Sunday with the choir before moving away. Thank you, Hosea, and we will miss you!

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from One License lic. #A-732869 and CCLI lic. #20201141.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Children's Chapel

A Children's Chapel, including music and a story, is offered for all potty-trained 3-year-olds through 3rd graders during the service. To participate, children simply follow the cross in procession to the McCarty Early Learning Center after the reading of the Gospel and then return as a group during the Peace.

Nursery and Restrooms

A **nursery** is available during the service for children through age 2. It is located in the McCarty Early Learning Center across the circular drop off west of the church. **Restrooms** are located in the church office building south of the church.

Sunday Classes for Adults and Children

Sunday classes for adults and children are offered at 10 a.m. Please see the announcements insert for a list of classes and their locations.

GIVING INFORMATION

Offerings can be put in the plate or text SMJAX to 53555 or scan QR code →



PLEDGE

To make a 2026 pledge scan QR code →



Worship Participants

We thank God for those leading worship and pray that all will be blessed in our service today.

8:45 a.m. service

Advent Wreath The Ellis Family **Verger** Frank Scheu
Lectors Laine Gandy, Katie Kidd, Jane Arnold
Acolytes Maggie Kidd, Emily Kidd, Sam Boozer, Sunny Scheu
Chalice Bearers Nancy Burrows, John Burrows, Katie Kidd, Jesse Webb
Ushers Robb Smith, William Boozer, Eric Cavin, Andy Kidd

11:00 a.m. Service

Advent Wreath The Smith Family **Verger** Keith Daw
Lectors Laura Ropp, Julie Pope, Lee Haramis, Sr.
Acolytes H Burkett, Mamie Burkett, Hunter Long
Chalice Bearers Christine Burkett, Drew Haramis, Alex Cain, Jordan Eyrick
Ushers Gary Willetts, Mike Davenport, Scott Hobby, Taylor Sealey **LEV** Jordan Eyrick

Altar Guild Drew Haramis, Anne Gorman, Celeste Heller, Frances Hutto, Barbara Irving, Adrienne Kent, Bunny Manning, Stephanie Milne, Katherine Smithwick, Carol Worsham, Haydee Smith

Flower Guild Martye Groble, Loren Groble

THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

in loving memory of my parents, Caldwell "Chick" Haynes and Margaretha "Maude" Kaufmann Haynes, by Margo Haynes Bliss

*Please contact the church office to donate and dedicate altar flowers.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church Vision

St. Mark's is a missional church built at the headwaters of the Gospel where the life and light of Christ flow into our community, our city, and God's world. (Ps 46:4-5)

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church Mission

To cultivate generations of servant-leaders rooted in God's Word and nurtured by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to the world.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

A River of Grace. A Life Abundant.

Welcome! We are delighted to have you join us for worship today! Newcomers, please complete a Connect Card (located in the pew in front of you) so that we can get to know you better. Regular attendees, please use this same card to ensure we have your current contact information. Please note that all page numbers listed in the bulletin preceded by BCP refer to the red Book of Common Prayer in the pews. Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982. Hymn numbers preceded by an "S" (service music) are found near the front of the hymnal.

Information on childcare, restroom locations, and educational offerings is on page 6.

The Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist - Rite II

December 14, 2025 - 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Prelude – Once he came in blessing J. S. Bach

The Word of God

Please stand

Hymn in Procession sung by all

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates (*Truro*) Hymnal 436

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity BCP 355

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

Celebrant 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.**

Hymn of Praise sung by all Hymnal 56, verses 1 and 4

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Words Latin, ca. 9th cent.; Hymnal 1940, ver. alt.; music Plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent. adapt. Thomas Helmore, arr. Richard Proubs; both © Public Domain

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

On this Third Sunday of Advent we light the next candle on our Advent wreath. It reminds us of the joy that the Lord constantly provides for those who love him. This joy can be found in the call of Israel to be his people. This joy can be found in the words spoken to us through the prophets. Above all, this joy can be found in the Word made flesh, Jesus, who saves us from error, sin and death.

First Lesson – Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm – 146:4-9 *simplified Anglican chant sung by all* *chant:* J. W. Meachen

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their / help! *

whose hope is in the LORD their / God;

5 Who made heaven and earth the seas and all that is / in them; *

who keeps his promise for / ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are op/pressed, *

and food to those who / hunger.

7 The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the / blind; *

the LORD lifts up those who are bowed / down;

8 The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the / stranger; *

he sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way of the / wicked.

9 The LORD shall reign for / ever, *

your God O Zion throughout all generations. Halle/lujah!

Second Lesson – James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Sequence Hymn *sung by all*

Once he came in blessing (*Gottes Sohn ist kommen*)

Hymnal 53

Holy Gospel – Matthew 11:2-12

Clergy The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Clergy The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

After the Gospel reading potty-trained 3-year-olds through 3rd graders are invited to follow the cross to the chapel for Children’s Chapel as the congregation sings “Jesus loves me”.

Sermon – The Rev. Charlie Holt

Please stand

Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Prayers of the People – Form I

BCP 383

Confession

BCP 360

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

at 8:45 a.m. – Two Advent Anthems

Hal H. Hopson

We look for the star in the eastern sky; we listen for the song of the angels high; who will believe the promise? Who will behold the star? Who will greet the Christchild? Who will sing his song? Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art: dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart. Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king, born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne. *Words by Charles Wesley; music © Choristers Guild*

Lift up your heads, all the gates lift high. Christ the Lord will soon be here. Joy will fill the city, the place where Jesus comes. Lord Jesus, come, quickly come, come within our hearts. Come to us, Lord Jesus; we claim the prophet’s word. Lord Jesus, come, quickly come, come within our hearts. *Words free paraphrase of Psalm 24:7; music © Choristers Guild*

at 11:00 a.m. – E’en so Lord Jesus, quickly come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sin, who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord almighty God, who was, and is, and is to come. Sing holy, holy Lord. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein; rejoice on earth, ye saints below; for Christ is coming soon. E’en so Lord Jesus quickly come, and night shall be no more. They need no light, no lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their All! *Words from Revelation 22 adapt. by Ruth Manz; music © Birnamwood Pub.*

Please stand

Offertory Hymn *sung by all*

Hymnal 76, verse 5

All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

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 him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues...

Sanctus *sung by all*

musical setting: Hymnal S 130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

After the Sanctus you may stand or kneel for the Eucharistic Prayer.

Lord’s Prayer *said by all*

BCP 364

Our Father, who 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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.

Fraction Anthem *sung by all*

musical setting: Hymnal S 164

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.