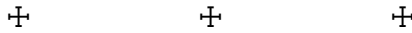




ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



JANUARY 7, 2024

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.

GATHERING

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

“Allegro-Larghetto” from *Partita on ‘Morning Star, How Fair and Bright’*

Settings for organ by Michael Burkhardt

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” ELW 275

REGENT SQUARE

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. *Refrain*

3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star. *refrain*

4. All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. *refrain*

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4; Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

Please be seated.

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

The congregation may kneel or sit for the Confession. Silence is kept for reflection.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace.

We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.

We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ †, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.


And also with you.

Please stand as able.

Kyrie


“O Lord, Have Mercy” from *Holy Communion Setting Eleven*

Christian Souza, cantor



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no-so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no-so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

Leader or All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad.
Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Charles Lakeman, lector

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Christian Souza, Delenn Rumbolo, cantors

Refrain © 1969, 1981, 1997 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corp.
Music: Luke Mayernik, © 2017 Birnamwood Publications, A division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.



¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. ²May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. ³May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. ⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. ⁵May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. ⁶May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. ⁷In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. ¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts. ¹¹May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service. ¹²For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. ¹³He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. ¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

Charles Lakeman, lector

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the

promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

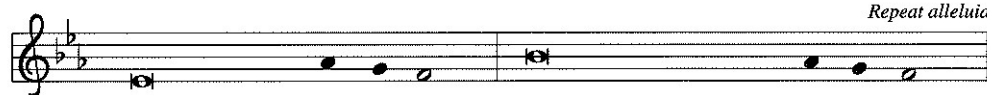
Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go” from *ACS Holy Communion Setting Twelve*



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The Holy Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Nations shall come to your light”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“As with Gladness Men of Old” ELW 302

DIX

1. As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav’nly king.
4. Holy Jesus, ev’ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.
5. In the heav’nly country bright need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

The Apostles’ Creed

Together, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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. Amen.

The service continues with the Prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

(Mike Doyne, prayer assistant)

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

With hope and expectation of Christ’s coming, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God’s day of restoration. *A brief silence.*

God of grace, Paul reminded the Ephesians that he was a recipient of God’s grace and that they too have access to this wonderful gift. By extension, as descendants of and current practitioners of our faith, we

too are able to strengthen ourselves and live our faith with the knowledge of God's grace being active in our lives. Help us and your church in every place to be vibrant practitioners of a grace-filled faith in all that we do and what we say. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, in the rising and setting of the sun you faithfully renew your creation. Place wonder into our hearts as we look upward into the skies and cosmos, and grant us understanding of our place in your creation so that we might help curb waste and pollution, always working as co-creators with you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of infinite compassion, we see suffering locally and around the world. Whether the challenges of war are in Ukraine, or in the Gaza Strip, or the ravages of nature in Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, or immigration issues on our border with Mexico, may we be compassionate followers of Christ who reach out and live our faith by caring for others. Guide us that we may know how to serve others in ways that are helpful to them and pleasing to you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, come quickly with your power to all who seek reconciliation of relationships and restoration of health. Bring relief and healing to all who are sick or struggling, and grant comfort to the dying. We pray for strength and hope for: Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, David Kutscher, Vann Milheim, Oakley Coburn, Arlene Fielding, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Shirley Larson, Ingrid Keiris, Martha Stackel, Tina Wiland, Ben Watson, Louisa Coburn, Mindy Curley, Danye Olin Bragdon, Sarah Lindberg, Marilyn Denison, Eileen Dunlap, Jim Middleswarth, Christopher Shirley, Pat & Gary Ragsdale, Tanner Grant, Michael Frye, Ken Foust, Gene Ellington, and Wayne Lineberger. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new beginnings, as we celebrate the start of another year, guide us to be better people by reminding us to study your holy words on a regular basis. In the Bible we find events to which we can relate, stories to engage and challenge us, and lessons that help define your expectations. While these writings are millennia old, they still capture and reflect current human nature. May we contemplate what we read to our current lives that we may better serve you and others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of light, as you led the Magi by a star, so lead us with the light of your only Son that we might radiate his light and love to all whom we meet in this coming year. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Peace

(Please stand as able, sharing the peace of the risen Christ.)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Please be seated.

OFFERING

(Offerings for the mission of the church are gathered by the ushers.)

Anthem

“Exult, O Morning Stars Aflame!” from *Christmas Cantata-The Incarnation*

K. Lee Scott; Setting for choir, solo handbells and organ

Exult, O morning stars aflame! With all the works of God proclaim the Child of Bethlehem who came for love and love alone. Come earth and air and sky and sea, bear witness to his deity who lived, the Man of Galilee, for love and love alone. By faith behold the Crucified, his arms of mercy open wide, the Lamb of Calvary, who died for love and love alone. Let ev'ry eye his glories see, who was, and is, and is to be; who reigns as Christ in Majesty for love and love alone. Exult, O morning stars aflame! With all the works of God proclaim the Child of Bethlehem who came for love and love alone. Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light” ELW 815

HOUSTON

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Music: Kathleen Thomerson; T & M 1970, 1975 Celebration

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Holy Communion Setting Four

S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy” from *All Creation Sings, Holy Communion Setting Twelve*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
 God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation

Glory to God in the highest!
 Come to the table of peace.

Please be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is offered continuously in front of the freestanding altar, or at the rail of the high altar in two ways, by wafer and wine in a small cup or "Communion Kit." Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station, and returning via the side aisles. If receiving a "kit" please seal the used utensils in the zip-lock bag, placing the bag after worship in the marked bowl in the Narthex. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.

Communion Music

"Lamb of God" from *Holy Communion Setting Three*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

"Improvisation on 'O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright'"

Organ setting by Paul Manz; Tune WIE SCHON LEUCHTET by Philipp Nicolai

"Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

Tune MORNING STAR by James P. Harding

Setting for organ by Sue Mitchell-Wallace

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and
the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.
Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Brightest and Best of the Stars” ELW 303

MORNING STAR

1. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.
2. Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
maker and monarch and savior of all.
3. What shall we give him, in costly devotion?
Shall we bring incense and off’rings divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?
4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
richer by far is the heart’s adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
5. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.; Music: James P. Harding, 1850-1911, adapt.

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“We Three Kings”

Tune KINGS OF THE ORIENT by John H. Hopkins, Jr.

Organ setting by Robert Lind

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Mike Doyne; crucifer/acolyte: Brooks Stevenson; lector: Charles Lakeman; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Ken Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley; greeters: Neil & Charlotte Dixon, Charles Lakeman; communion assistants: Charles Lakeman, Cliff Edahl, John Simon, Chris Stevenson, Nick Wartner; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators: Dianne Thomas, Doug Milheim; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Delenn Rumbolo, Christian Souza, cantors; Marcia Newlin, solo handbells; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Melissa Smith; crucifer/acolyte: Michael Lakeman; lector: Kay Finlon; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Team C; greeters: Eileen Dunlap, Ted Seman, David Thomason; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Flora Chance, Nick Wartner, Betsy Wenzel, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Dianne Thomas, Diane Miller

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Parish News

From the pastor -

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore." (Isaiah 9:6-7)

As we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus Christ, we are encountered by the God whose kingdom dwells in the human heart, a kingdom crossing all borders of nation, culture and language. Isaiah points toward a kingdom giving unity to human beings across the globe and across time. In Christ, our time has been forever interrupted by God's eternity. Isaiah's "born for us" reveals that the Messiah's kingdom of peace will be established not in one particular nation or people, but in all nations and peoples.

If you have ever worshipped in another nation or language, you will readily understand that through faith, Jesus Christ is born into the hearts of people all over this world, crossing boundaries and borders, making us all sisters and brothers with Jesus. At

Christmas we celebrate a holy mystery that has been, as Isaiah wrote, growing "continually" since Jesus' birth. He seeks to dwell in your heart so that through you, Christ might extend his reign of justice and righteousness further and further across time and space. Your life is the means by which God furthers this kingdom. Christ has come down to earth to raise you to heaven so that you might share God's infinite kingdom of grace and peace with all whom you meet.

A blessed Christmas to you,
Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

REMINDER: To our able bodied members please park across Queens Rd in our church parking lot or on the side of the church along Edgehill Rd and come in side door saving the parking lot by the church for less able bodied members. Thank you.

ROOM in the INN! Volunteers are needed to supply DINNERS, BREAKFASTS and bag LUNCHESES. Especially needed will be NIGHT SITTERS and VAN DRIVERS. Look for more information and a signup poster in the gathering place. Another way to help is to

donate BEDTIME SNACKS for our guests such as lunch size bags of pretzels, goldfish, chips; granola bars (preferably without nuts); small bags of fruit snacks. Reminder - We DON'T NEED soap, shampoo or conditioner as we have dispensers in the showers. We CANNOT OFFER mouthwash as ordered by Roof Above. A collection basket is in the hall across from the restrooms. We thank you in advance for your participation in this outreach to the homeless in our community.

2024 Offering Envelopes are in the Gathering Space. If you do not see your envelope box, and would like one, please fill out the form provided and put it in the basket.

Thinking of joining St. Mark's? Please see Pastor Tim to set up a time to talk. All people are welcome at St. Mark's!

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. In January we begin "Other Scriptures". We'll discuss the lost texts of other early Christians based on Bart D. Ehrman's writings. Dr. Ehrman is the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor at UNC Chapel Hill. Please join us as you are able in the Large Conference Room.

Online worship continues to be streamed every Sunday at 10:30 am on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

Rehearsals! Wednesdays at 6 pm Handbells and 7 pm Choir. Come play and sing!

Love Circle Wednesday, September 13 at 11:00 am in the Large Conference Room. Join us!

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Wan Fu Chinese Restaurant on January 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Wan Fu presents a lovely environment in which to enjoy their carefully crafted cuisine, starting with the exterior of the building (which resembles a Chinese temple) and definitely including the carved wood paneling inside the restaurant. This restaurant has weathered the economic storms of many years and produces beautifully presented dishes which range from simple and easily accessible to highly spiced and complex flavors. Wan Fu is located at 10719 Kettering Dr, Charlotte, NC 28226 (on the east side of Pineville, just north of NC-51 – Pineville-Matthews Road). Our group always enjoys visits at

Wan Fu! Contact Tom & Judy Tolbert for seating by noon on Sunday, January 14.

Theology on Tap Thursday, January 18 at 7 pm at Edge City, 6209 Old Post Rd, Charlotte. Everyone is welcome!

Ushers for Sunday Worship The ministry of ushering is a crucial part of worship because it is one of the most visible ministries in the Church. Please volunteer by contacting the church office or John Simon.

St. Mark's email list If you are not receiving emails from St. Mark's, we may not have your correct email address. Please contact the church to let us know. We send at least 2 emails every week.

Family Ministry

Nursery: A fun-filled nursery, staffed by volunteers, is located downstairs. An usher is available to show you the way. Our safety protocols offer peace of mind so you can worship without worry.

Youth Classes

Sundays at 9:30: Youth Group in the Youth Room. Godly Play has been temporarily paused.

Confirmation Class meets every Sunday at 9:30.

Stewardship 2024

Sharing our gifts is important to St. Mark's ongoing mission. A pledge is a prayerful commitment to giving in response to God's grace. A pledge may be offered at any time, but pledges help a congregation establish a responsible budget for the coming year. Please consider making a financial pledge to St. Mark's. Brochures are available in the Gathering Place. Thank you for your faithful gifts to St. Mark's ministries. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.

You may use the QR code at left (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page. Pledges and donations for Altar Flowers may also be made using this code.



2024 Altar Flower Sponsorship If you would like to sponsor live flowers for our Sunday worship service, please sign up on the calendar by the mailbox room or contact the church office.

Social Ministry

We continue to remember the hungry and homeless through our social ministries.

LOAVES & FISHES The baker's rack is a permanent collection location for **NON-BREAKABLE NON-PERISHABLE** food. And remember, all families need condiments, salt & pepper and sugar, along with basic food.

Soup Kitchen St. Mark's Soup Kitchen is serving lunch in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday for our neighbors. If you would like to serve, please contact

us. You may also support the Soup Kitchen through financial donations sent to the church, or through St. Mark's online giving portal. Help us share God's love!

Announcements

AA meets in the Fellowship Hall: Monday nights "Third Tradition", 7 p.m.; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 p.m.; and Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 p.m.; in Room 210: Saturday morning 10:30 a.m. "SLAA".

Music Notes

"As with Gladness Men of Old" ELW 302 This popular Epiphany hymn is based on the Gospel lesson from Matthew 2:1-12 for Epiphany Day and tells of the visit of the Magi. William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) is the writer of this hymn. He was a marine insurance manager by trade, and fortunately for us, had a second career as a writer of Christmas and Easter carols and other devotional writings, including the carol "What Child Is This" ELW 296. The tune **DIX** was composed by German musician and composer Conrad Kocher (1786-1872) and is also wedded to the great hymn of praise "For the Beauty of the Earth" ELW 879.

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" ELW 275 Raised in a Moravian family of missionary parents, English hymn writer and poet James Montgomery (1771-1854) published this hymn on Christmas Eve, 1816, under the title "Nativity" in a paper he edited called *The Sheffield Iris*. He wrote over four hundred hymns, four of which are included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, including "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" ELW 311, "Go to Dark Gethsemane" ELW 347 and "Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright" ELW 745. This poem is based on Luke 2, Matthew 2, and Malachi 3, and is a call for everyone, including the angels, shepherds, wise men, and saints, to come and worship the newborn King. The tune **REGENT SQUARE** was composed by Henry T. Smart (1813-1879) and named for St. Philip's Regent Square Church in London, one of the churches where Smart served as organist.

St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, David Kutscher, Vann Milheim, Oakley Coburn, Arlene Fielding, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Shirley Larson, Ingrid Keiris, Martha Stackel, Tina Wiland, Ben Watson, Louisa Coburn, Mindy Curley, Danye Olin Bragdon, Nathaniel Coburn, Sarah Lindberg, Marilyn Denison, Eileen Dunlap, Jim Middleswarth, Christopher Shirley, Pat & Gary Ragsdale, Tanner Grant, Michael Frye, Ken Foust, Gene Ellington, and Wayne Lineberger.
Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

Readings for 1/7/2024

Second Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

You have searched me out and known me. (Ps. 139:1)

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

Birthdays

1/7 Virginia Stackel

1/7 David Platt

1/8 Diane Thornton

1/9 Michael Mobley

1/10 Steve McCall

1/13 Andrew Abbasi



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

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