

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 18, 2025

11:00 AM



Gathering in the Presence

PRELUDE

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Seek the Lord in the heavens; Seek God in the heights!

People: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Pastor: Seek God in the sun and moon; Seek God in the shining stars!

People: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Pastor: God commands all that is created today.

All: God has fixed the bounds, which cannot be passed. God is the bound in which we live.

***HYMN #634**

To God Be the Glory

INVITATION TO CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Merciful God, we have followed the desires of our own hearts and neglected the needs of our neighbors. Forgive our hard and selfish ways. Turn us to Christ and Christ's righteous path. Guide our steps in mission and ministry. Amen.

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***HYMN #590**

Hallelujah

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Hearing the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Reader: Listen for what the Spirit is saying to the church.

People: Our hearts are open.

FIRST READING

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

² Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

³ Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens

and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ He established them forever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.^[a]

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,

stormy wind fulfilling his command!

⁹ Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² Young men and women alike,

old and young together!

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!

Reader: The word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN #456**

Listen, God Is Calling

SECOND READING

John 13:31-35

SERMON

"Becoming"
Rev. Dr. Jay Moses

Responding to the Word

***HYMN #301**

Let Us Build a House

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: The LORD be with you.

People: And also with you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 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, forever. Amen

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Seek the Lord
Diane Phillips Lott, Soprano

J. Carter

*DOXOLOGY

HYMN 608 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all
peo - ple here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er -
more; praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 2008
Text © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg
Music © 2008 Hal H. Hopson

PRAISE GOD (Hopson)
LM

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #754

Help Us Accept Each Other

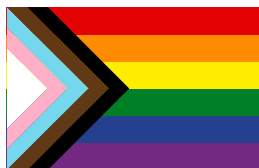
CHARGE & BLESSING

POSTLUDE

***Please stand if you are able**

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Welcome to Saint Mark Presbyterian Church. We are grateful that you are joining us today. We welcome everyone to our community regardless of race, class, marital status, sexual orientation, ability or disability. Saint Mark welcomes children and adults with disabilities and their families. We strive to ensure our programs and facilities are accessible to all and to accommodate any special needs. For those of you attending Saint Mark for the first time, we ask that you introduce yourself to an usher, so that we can greet you and answer any questions you may have.



Welcome to Diane Phillips Lott

We welcome Diane Phillips Lott, Soprano as a new section leader at Saint Mark. Look for her bio in the next *Good News Gazette*.

Offering Made Easy

If you would prefer to make an offering online, please go to the below QR code. We thank you for your generosity.



Announcements

Upcoming Christian Education Dates -- Mark your calendar!

5/25 - last day of Sunday School for Children / Youth and Adults

Adult Sunday School Class

We are called to care for neighbors and creation with all our hearts, with particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. In this class we are asked to explore and to act, responding to an issue that impacts all life on God's earth. We will learn about ecological systems, the challenges we face in this time of accelerated climate change, and the possibilities available to address or counter the impact of human-made stress on our environment. We will explore theological questions that point us to act and engage, in large and small ways. The class, led by Alison Bennett, meets for 5 weeks, ending on May 25th. Class meets in rooms 105/106 at 9:30 AM.

Men's Ministry Event

Saturday, May 24th, the Men of Saint Mark will be gathering for some DuckPin Bowling time together. We will meet at Noon at the White Oak Bowling Lanes - 11207 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

The cost is \$10...\$5 for the shoes and \$5 for the lane (if we get at least 6 bowlers). Please contact Teddy Ferguson (teddyferguson1@gmail.com) by Thursday, May 22nd if you plan to attend or if you have any additional questions.

Upcoming Game Night at Saint Mark

Save the date for the first of a series of gatherings for SMPC and friends. On Saturday, June 14th from 6:00 - 8:30 PM come for a game night in the Fellowship Hall with games for all ages. Pizza, salad and drinks will be provided. Mark it on your calendar and bring your friends and neighbors and help build our community. More information to come.

Book Lovers - May Meeting, Wednesday, May 21 at 7:00 PM.

Click [here](#) to join on Zoom.

Great Expectations: A Novel by Vinson Cunningham

When David first hears the Senator from Illinois speak, he feels deep ambivalence. Intrigued by the Senator's idealistic rhetoric, David also wonders how he'll balance the fervent belief and inevitable compromises it will take to become the United States' first Black president.

Great Expectations is about David's eighteen months working for the Senator's presidential campaign. Along the way David meets a myriad of people who raise a set of questions—questions of history, art, race, religion, and fatherhood—that force David to look at his own life anew and come to terms with his identity as a young Black man and father in America.

2025 Per Capita

Per capita is a designated dollar amount that is asked of each member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a yearly voluntary contribution. The amount is based on a church's membership and it helps support the operations and mission of the National Capital Presbytery, the General Assembly and the Synod of the Mid Atlantic. For 2025, the per capita amount is \$50.15. This is the amount that Saint Mark is required to pay for each member of our church. We are asking Saint Mark members to pay their per capita if they are able. You may mail your check directly to the church or put it in the offering plate. Be sure to note on the memo line that it is your 2025 per capita payment. You may also pay using the QR code below.



NIH Chorus Concert at Saint Mark

On Saturday, May 31st at 7:00 PM the NIH Community Chorus will be in concert in the Fellowship Hall. Admission is free but donations for NIH charities are welcome. The concert includes selections from Lauridsen's "Les Chanson des Roses", Durufle's "Requiem" and much more.

Resources for Federal Workers

We have provided a link below for resources providing guidance to Federal workers, families and friends. If you have any suggestions of other resources that can be added to this list, please send them to **phylnorrie@gmail.com** or **office@saintmarkpresby.org**.

Resources during layoffs

Donate Blood / Help Save Lives

Trinity Lutheran Church, our neighbor down the street, is hosting a blood drive on Monday, June 2nd from 1:30 – 6:00 PM. Call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule your life-saving donation.

Cover Art

This mural entitled the Global Refugee Mural tells the story of three refugees who live in Maryland. It is painted on the Kefa Café on the corner of Pershing Drive and Bonifant Street in Silver Spring, MD.

Bergner, Joel. Global Refugee Mural, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56930> [retrieved May 14, 2025]. Original source: Joel Bernger, <https://joelartista.com/about/>.

Please include the following persons in your prayers this week:

- ~ Mary Pullen, undergoing treatment for breast cancer
- ~ Betty Seidell, recovering from hip surgery
- ~ Alice and Stan Miller
- ~ Les Henig
- ~ Betty and Jerry Lowrie
- ~ Mary Jo and Ray Mountain
- ~ Ingrid Persaud

Saint Mark Community

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jay Moses
jay@saintmarkpresby.org

Elders

Battakok Bityeke
Nathan Brown
Walla Dempsey
Teddy Ferguson

Vinod George
Kristin Gilchrist
John Johnson
Patti Kurtz

Mike Welsh
Diane Wirono

Deacons

Mimi Beall
Ginny Blum
Barbara Caskey
Sara Coe

Tom Freeman
Rebecca Gambler
Zione Kansinde
Jennifer Milne

Hailey Parry
Nancy Rhyne
Erik Turkman

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Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. James Macdonell

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