

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church

Sunday, October 5, 2025

The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

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: People will come from east and west and north and south to sit at table in the Kin-dom of God.

People: They will come with hope and they will come with doubts.

Pastor: They will come with faith and they will come with fears.

People: They will come with love and they will come with regrets.

Pastor: They will come from all over.

**People: They will come across all sorts of barriers and boundaries.
They will all come for God longs for it to be so.**

***HYMN #39**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

INVITATION TO CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As we come today to your great table, O God, we realize how small we have made our own. Our vision of your grace is too narrow. Our awareness of your mercy is too limited. Our understanding of your kin-dom always falls short.

Raise our eyes, lift our hearts, and inflate our spirits, so that we may live joyfully and abundantly in the manner of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***HYMN #380**

God Is Our Help, Refuge, and Strength

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 37:1-9

Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
²for they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.
³Trust in the Lord and do good;
live in the land and enjoy security.
⁴Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
⁵Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
⁶He will make your vindication shine like the light
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
⁷Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.
⁸Refrain from anger and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
⁹For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN #764**

For the Troubles and the Sufferings

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 1:1-14

SERMON

"Clear Conscience"

Rev. Dr. Jay Moses

Responding to the Word

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (ADAPTED FROM THE CONFESSION OF BELHAR)

We believe in the holy, universal Christian church, called from the entire human family. Unity is an obligation for those gathered in Christ's name; a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought. The existence of a variety of opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, genders as well as the various languages and cultures, are by the reconciliation of Christ, opportunities for mutual service and an enrichment to the whole.

The credibility of this message can be seriously affected when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but promotes alienation. God has been revealed as the One who wishes to bring about justice and peace among people. The church must stand by people in any form of suffering and need. Followers of Christ must witness against those areas of life where self-privilege and self-interest seek control over others.

In obedience to Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, we are called to confess and act towards gospel goals, so that the world as we find it may find relief from her pains of separation, and be a place for a world in communion. We remember this on this Sunday.

***HYMN #525**

Let Us Break Bread Together

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

The Imprint of God's Face
Chancel Choir

Murray/Tucker

O God, we bear the imprint of your face: the colors of our skin are your design,
and what we have of beauty in our race

as man or woman, you alone define,
 who stretched a living fabric on our frame
 and gave to each a language and a name.
 Where we are torn and pulled apart by hate
 because our race, our skin is not the same,
 while we are judged unequal by the state
 and victims made because we own our name,
 humanity reduced to little worth,
 dishonored is your living face on earth.

O God, we share the image of the One
 whose flesh and blood are ours, whatever skin,
 in Christ's humanity we find our own,
 and in his family our proper kin:
 Christ is the brother we still crucify,
 his love the language we must learn, or die.

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***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.

Invited to the Table of Remembrance

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The LORD be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the LORD.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: And so we gladly thank you, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

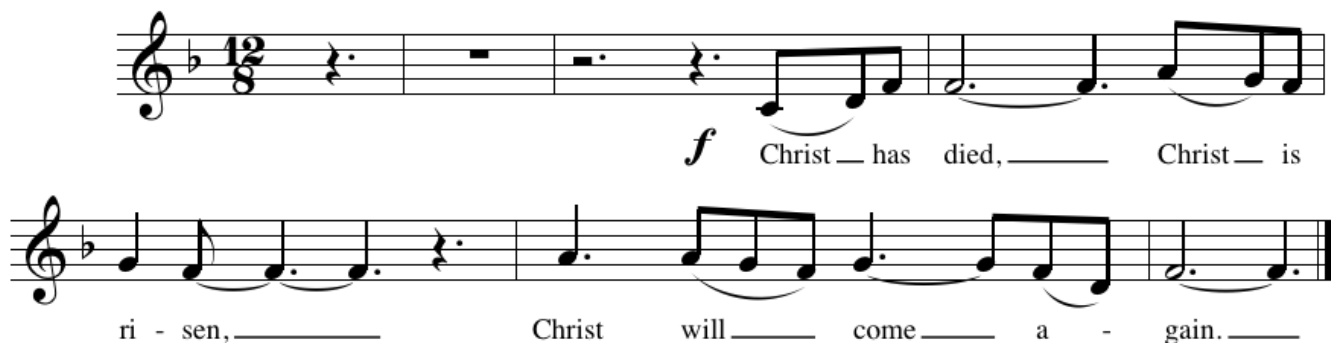
HYMN #593

Holy, Holy

SANCTUS (POOLE)

f Ho - ly, ho - ly, _____ Ho - ly,
ho - ly, _____ God of pow - er, _____ God of might, _____ Hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry _____ Ho - san - na _____ in the
high - est! Blessed is the one, _____ blessed is the one, _____ blessed is the
one who comes in the name of the Lord. _____ Ho - san - na! _____ Ho -
san - na! _____ Ho - san - na _____ in the high - - - est! _____

Pastor: Great is the mystery of faith.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Switch your window to "gallery view" to see everyone)

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE SHARING OF HOLY COMMUNION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #539

We Will Go Out with Joy

CHARGE & BLESSING

POSTLUDE

***Please stand if you are able.**

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.



Leading today's worship are: Rev. Dr. Jay Moses, Briana Stewart, Christian Education Director, Jeff Doenges, Director of Music, and Beth Irons, Lay Leader.

We are pleased this morning to also welcome Hoorig Poochikian, violinist, and Emma Johnson, cellist, from Galatea Chamber Music.

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

Calling All Youth! Let's get together and have fun and FOOD!

October

Sunday (10/5) - Youth Bible Study @ 5 PM; Room 109, dinner provided

Friday, (10/17) - Movie Night (Encanto) 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, (10/19) - Pumpkin Carving and Pizza @ Saint Mark Parking Lot;
(Bring knife and newspaper!)

Friday, (10/24) - Lock-in with Chevy Chase Presbyterian

@ CCPC w/ Butler's Orchard Trip; \$20 registration fee

November

Sunday (11/9) - Cupcake Battle Fundraiser; Details to come

Sunday (11/16) - Youth Service Opportunity; Details to come

Sunday (11/23) - College Care Package Packing @ 5 PM
@ SMPC in Room 109

Sunday (11/30) - Advent Festival @ 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall

Parent Dates

Sunday (11/16) - Parent Meeting about Summer Trips

Sunday (11/30) - Early Bird due date for Summer Trips

Use the QR code below to access information on the above events.



Sunday School

Sunday School classes for children, youth and adults will meet at 9:30 AM on Sunday. Elementary students will be using the Feasting on the Word curriculum, youth will explore the justice tenets of the PC(USA), and adults will engage in a parallel study with Briana. We hope you'll join us as we grow in faith and deepen our understanding of the Word.

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Jay

Join Pastor Jay on Wednesdays for a study of the book of Ruth. We will meet in the parlor at 1 PM, both in person and on Zoom. The final class will be October 15th.

Saint Mark Nursery

The Saint Mark nursery will be open on Sunday, October 5th. It will be closed on Sunday, October 12th.

Adult Sunday School Class

On Earth Day, we began an adult CE class using the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study, "Let Justice Roll Down." This study subtitled "God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation," focuses on environmental and social justice and is being led by Elder Alison Bennett. Last spring, we completed the lessons on Environmental Justice, Land Justice, Food Justice, Water Justice, and Air Justice. In October we will continue the study with four more lessons: Climate Change, Economic Climate Change, Intergenerational Justice, and Sustaining Creation's Health for All. Please join us on October 5 at 9:30. For questions contact Elder Bennett.

Peace & Global Witness Special Offering

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace. The pursuit of peace in the name of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith – a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together.

Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. Peace begins with each of us.

25% of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our community; 25% goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region; and 50% supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

You can donate by placing your check in the Sunday offering noting on your check that it is for the Peace & Global Witness Offering or donate using this [**LINK**](#) to the

Saint Mark webpage noting your gift is for the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Please give what you can. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Thank you!

Action in Montgomery Listening Sessions Update

The AIM listening sessions described in previous communications are being organized and we wanted to let you know how you will be invited to participate. Participants are being grouped based on affinity, i.e., inviting members who are all in the Choir, in a ministry team like the Connections team or who serve or have served as a Deacon or Elder. Due to group size being limited to 8 persons, the discussion leader will invite eight members of a ministry team or other team to be in their listening session. Upon receiving their responses, the leader will then set the date/time of when the listening session will be held with the input of members, increasing the likelihood of 100% attendance.

The discussion leaders are Alison Bennett, Barbara Caskey, Mary Casper and Dick Pavlin. Mary and Dick may also act as group recorders as needed. Alison and Barbara are already inviting members to their two listening sessions and Mary and Dick will be inviting members to their two sessions this coming week or next,

The goal of the AIM Core Team - Mariechen Bresler, Greg Carr, Mary Casper, Dick Pavlin and Pastor Jay - is to involve 40 - 50 Saint Mark members in 4 or 5 listening sessions by December 7. While not all Saint Markers will be able to participate in a listening session, those who do will play a part in helping AIM understand what concerns Saint Markers have about their community. This feedback will be reviewed and incorporated with that of the other AIM congregations to form AIM's agenda for 2026 and 2027.

Food First Sunday

On the first Sunday of each month, the Mission Ministry team collects donations of shelf-stable food for **Manna** and diapers and other toiletries for the **Greater DC Diaper Bank**. You can drop off your donations in the coat closet in the Education Building anytime throughout the month. Considering the current chaos, there may be additional families of federal employees who will need help from these services in the coming weeks. The next pickup date is October 5th. For details on accepted items for the Greater DC Diaper Bank, check out their list **here**.

Please include the following persons in your prayers this week:

- ~ Ginny and Dan Blum and Leslie Rose and Bill Howard on the death of Ginny's mother
- ~ Lyn Hill
- ~ Karen Prelovsky
- ~ Ingrid Persaud
- ~ Bonnie Tarone
- ~ Betsy Weingarten
- ~ Kay Haynes
- ~ Betty Seidell
- ~ Betty and Jerry Lowrie
- ~ Mary Jo and Ray Mountain

Cover Art

By John Stuart; stushieart.com

Saint Mark Community

Elders

Battakok Bityeki
Nathan Brown
Walla Dempsey
Tom Freeman

Kristin Gilchrist
John Johnson
Karl Kaufmann

Mike Welsh
Diane Wirono

Deacons

Mimi Beall
Ginny Blum
Barbara Caskey

Carol Henig
Zione Kansinde
Jennifer Milne

Nancy Rhyne
Erik Turkman

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