

WELCOME

St. Mark's is a community of believers and seekers committed to being queer-affirming and anti-racist, reflecting the love and justice of Jesus Christ. We are a place where people of all ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities are welcomed, celebrated for their gifts, and invited to share in God's embrace. As an expression of our faith, we strive to stand in solidarity with Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).

OUR PURPOSE

Jesus Christ calls us to be a joyful community that celebrates God's love, transforms lives, and is a force for justice in the world.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9am-noon Friday & Saturday: Closed

STAFF

Reverend Tracy Daub (she/her)
Interim Pastor
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Dr. Jared Isaac Aragón (he/him)
Organist, Director of the Handbell Choir
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Michael Robinson (he/him)
Facilities Coordinator
michael@stmarksaz.org

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | APRIL 28, 2024 | 10:30 AM_

A PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

PRELUDE

Erg - Stepan Naghdyan | J.I. Aragón, piano

WELCOME Rev. Tracy Daub

*CALL TO WORSHIP Trianna Oglivie

One: There is a story we gather to recall and to rehearse.

All: It is the story of God's love.

One: God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,

and God abides in them.

All: We gather to give thanks for God's gift of love.

▲ GATHERING HYMN no. 388 (sung twice)

Come All You People

AGATHERING PRAYER

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS (read in unison)

O God, your love for us is so deep that while we were yet sinners, you died for us. You invite us now to abide in that love. Yet, too often we have refused to love others, finding them difficult, unpleasant, or unworthy. We turn away from need and withhold compassion. Even though we have been showered with blessings, we are reluctant to share. Holy God, forgive us. Help us find our true calling to live as your people of love! Amen.

(a moment follows for silent personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends hear the good news: God's love was revealed in Jesus so that we

might have life. Forgiveness and new life have been offered to us.

All: Thanks be to God!

*PASSING THE PEACE

As a forgiven people, we extend the hand of peace and reconciliation to one another saying:

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE no. 243 (sung twice)

Be Not Afraid

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 4:7-21 | First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament

My much-loved friends love each other, for love comes from the Great Spirit. All who love have been born of him and know him. Those who do not love do not know him, for the Great Spirit is love. Creator showed his love for us by sending the only Son who fully represents him into this world, so that we could live through him. This is love, not that we loved Creator, but that he loved us and proved his love by sending his Son to take on himself the burden of our broken ways.

My much-loved friends, if Creator loved us like that, then we should also love each other. No one has ever seen the Great Spirit, but as long as we love each other, he remains in us, and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he lives in us because Creator has shared his Spirit with us. We have seen and now tell you the truth about what our Father the Creator Spirit has done. He sent his Son to be the Sacred Deliverer of the world. Those who tell others that Creator-Sets-Free (Jesus) is the Son of the Great Spirit are the ones Creator lives in, and they live in him.

We have come to know and trust the love Creator has for us. The great Spirit is love. He remains in those who love and keep on loving, and they remain in him. Love is made complete in us so that we will stand without fear on the day Creator decides who has done right or wrong. For in this world, when we love as he loves, we are just like him. Where love is, there can be no fear, for mature love drives all fear away. Fear comes from the thought of punishment. So love has not yet matured in those who continue to be afraid. We love because he first loved us. If we say we love the Great Spirit but hate others, then we are speaking with a forked tongue. If we do not love someone we can see, then how can we love a Creator we cannot see? And from him we have been given this instruction: the ones who love the Great Spirit must also love the members of his family.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-11 | New Revised Standard Version

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you

(continued on next page)

wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

One: Holy wisdom, holy word.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEMAcclamation - Patricia Hurlbutt | St. Mark's Handbells

SERMON "The Promise"

HYMN no. 693 Though I May Speak

INVITATION TO THE OFFERINGS

**If you'd like to donate to God's work through St. Mark's, ushers will now collect the offerings. You may also give electronically using the Vanco or Venmo QR codes found in the worship quide.

**If you have a prayer request or an announcement to share during Opportunities, write it down on the sheet of paper included with your worship guide and place it in the offering baskets.

venmo



VANCO



OFFERTORY

Folk Song - Stepan Naghdyan

[▲]OFFERING HYMN no. 582

Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines On Me

Glory to God whose goodness shines on me
And to the Son whose grace had pardoned me
And to the Spirit whose love has set me free
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. (3x)
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

^ CHARGE

from 1 Cor. 16:13; 2 Tim. 2:1; Eph. 6:10; 1 Thess. 5:13-22; 1 Peter 2:17

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold fast to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the suffering. Honor everyone. Love and serve Christ, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ABLESSING

POSTLUDE

I. Allegretto from Sonata - Stepan Naghdyan

OPPORTUNITIES

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY: Liturgist: Trianna Oglivie; Usher: Terry Gilliland; Greeter: Joe Zimbardo; Livestream: John Jewett, Irvin Richards, Dexter Mitchell.

SPECIAL BOOK STUDY AND PREACHER: "Everything Good about God is True." We continue our "Lunch and Learn" series to study an uplifting, interactive new book by former PC(USA) Moderator, Bruce Reyes-Chow. Today's discussion will be led by Kevin Hainline. Rev. Reyes-Chow will be preaching at St. Mark's on May 5 and leading a discussion over lunch. You can still pick up a book for \$10 a copy. You do not need to read it before participating. If you have questions, please contact Sylvia Thorson-Smith by email (sylviats@cox.net) or phone (520-820-1544).

BIG COFFEE: It is the last Sunday of the month which means Big Coffee! Join us after worship for some goodies and beverages in the south courtyard. If you have brought something to share, there are tables set up in the courtyard to leave food on. After you grab a plate, head on down to Knox for.....(see Narcan/AED training next...)

NARCAN/AED TRAINING: Join us after worship today for Narcan/AED training in Knox. This is informative and helpful knowledge for us to learn. All are welcome. Contact <u>Jeff Parrish</u> if you have questions.

BOOK CLUB: Join the Book Club discussion of "Low Anthropology," at 11:00 am in Calvin Hall on Thursday, May 2. All are welcome to join, even if you have not read the book and would like to listen to a lively conversation.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Next week is Children's Church. On Sunday, May 5 during the first hymn, Stephanie Mitchell will lead the children to Calvin Hall for a Bible study, arts and crafts and snacks. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact <u>Cathy</u> <u>Lurvey</u>.

MONTLURE: Work Camps at Montlure are being scheduled now through Memorial Day. Sign up at Montlure Camp. If you have any questions, please contact Cameron Mitchell (520) 977-5189.

VISITOR CARDS: If this is your first time visiting St. Mark's or if you have been wondering about St. Mark's, please fill out a visitor card in the back table of the narthex. You can always ask questions at the Opportunities Table after worship as well. Turn your completed card to an usher or in the offertory basket.

FOOD PANTRY: Due to your generous donations, our food pantry is well stocked, however, we are in need of pasta sauce (no glass jars please). Bring donations to the office or in the red wagon in the narthex on Sundays.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR: Sue Thorne (pneumonia), Mari Helen High (health concerns), Thomas Guard (leg surgery), Steve Patterson - Ann MacGregor's cousin - (brain surgery), Monica Lopez (health concerns), Linda Ryan (health issues).

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Come All You People



This short gathering song (based on a text adapted from Psalm 95:6) is a great favorite among children in Zimbabwe, and it is frequently used as a processional song for worship. The choir enters singing, the congregation picks up their excitement, and soon all are singing.



Though I May Speak

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The Gift of Love



As paraphrases of 1 Corinthians 13:1, 3 the first two stanzas here are in the first person singular, yet they lead into a plural prayer for the gift of such love, for it thrives in community. These words are especially poignant with this adaptation of an English folk melody.

We Are One in the Spirit

300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



- 1 We are one in the Spir-it; we are one in the Lord;
- 2 We will walk with each oth-er; we will walk hand in hand;
- 3 We will work with each oth-er; we will work side by side;
- 4 All praise to the Fa-ther, from whom all things come,



the Spir - it; one we are one will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand, will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side, and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's Son. on



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re-stored: and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land: and we'll guard hu-man dig - ni - ty and save hu-man pride: and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.