

# The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

10AM The Holy Eucharist, Rite II • September 15, 2024

Celebrant: The Reverend John Kennedy Preacher: The Reverend Elizabeth Garnsey

**Opening Organ Voluntary** 

Préambule (Op. 37, No. 1)

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

#### Welcome

#### **Entrance Hymn 409**

"The spacious firmament on high"

- 1. The spacious firmament on high, with all the blue ethereal sky, and spangled heavens, a shining frame, their great Original proclaim.

  The unwearied sun from day to day does his Creator's power display; and publishes to every land the work of an almighty hand.
- 2. Soon as the evening shades prevail, the moon takes up the wondrous tale, and nightly to the listening earth repeats the story of her birth: whilst all the stars that round her burn, and all the planets in their turn, confirm the tidings, as they roll and spread the truth from pole to pole.

Words: Joseph Addison (1672-1719); para. of Psalm 19:1-6 Music: *Creation*, Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809); adapt. *Dulcimer, or New York Collection of Sacred Music*, 1850, alt. 3. What though in solemn silence all move round the dark terrestrial ball? What though no real voice nor sound amid their radiant orbs be found? In reason's ear they all rejoice, and utter forth a glorious voice; for ever singing as they shine, "The hand that made us is divine."

#### **Opening Acclamation**

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

#### The Collect for Purity

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**.

]

#### setting by Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

#### Gloria in excelsis, S 280

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

#### The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

when panic strikes you like a storm,

Because they hated knowledge

would have none of my counsel,

For waywardness kills the simple,

and despised all my reproof,

but those who listen to me will be secure

therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way

and be sated with their own devices.

and the complacency of fools destroys them;

and will live at ease, without dread of disaster."

and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,

when distress and anguish come upon you.

they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;

and did not choose the fear of the Lord,

Proverbs 1:20-33 The First Reading

Wisdom cries out in the street;

in the squares she raises her voice.

At the busiest corner she cries out;

at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

"How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?

How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing

and fools hate knowledge?

Give heed to my reproof;

I will pour out my thoughts to you;

I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused,

have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,

and because you have ignored all my counsel

and would have none of my reproof,

I also will laugh at your calamity;

I will mock when panic strikes you,

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

People

#### Wisdom 7:26-8:1 (Read by all)

For wisdom is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness.

Although she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom.

She is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared with the light she is found to be superior, for it is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail.

She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well.

#### The Second Reading

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

James 3:1-12

tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

# The Gospel Acclamation

The people stand, as able.



The Gospel Mark 8:27-38

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Christ. People

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ. and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

#### The Sermon

The Reverend Elizabeth Garnsey

The people stand, as able.

#### The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### The Prayers of the People

Let us cry out to the Lord with our prayers and petitions saying, Lord in your grace, hear our prayer.

The Lord has given us the beauty of worship and the gift of fellowship with one another. We thank you Lord, for the church.

Lord in your grace,

#### hear our prayer.

The Lord has given us life in a nation of opportunities and liberty; with public services such as fire and police protection, ambulances, food pantries, schools, libraries, and hospitals. We thank you Lord, for our national life.

Lord in your grace,

#### hear our prayer.

The Lord has given us neighbors, friends, families, and coworkers to share the joys and burdens of this life. We thank you Lord, for the privilege of loving others.

Lord in your grace,

#### hear our prayer.

The Lord has given us a world full of creatures that crawl, fly, swim, and climb.

We enjoy a bounty of flowers and shrubs, grasses and trees, plants and moss, and rocks and hills. We thank you Lord, for your creation.

Lord in your grace,

#### hear our prayer.

The Lord has given us one another and we give thanks for God's grace and mercy as we offer prayers for the sick and suffering

Lord in your grace,

#### hear our prayer.

The Lord has given us a promise that where He goes, He will prepare a place for us. We thank you Lord for the gift of life and for giving us to one another for safekeeping. Bring us home when it is time.

Lord in your grace,

#### hear our prayer.

*Celebrant* Into your grace, O God, we commend all the world, trusting in your almighty power, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins

through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.** 

#### The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

#### Welcome and Announcements



New to St. Mark's or Visiting and interested in learning more? Please scan the QR code and help us connect with you.



To give to St. Mark's please scan the QR code. We thank you for your generosity.

# The Holy Communion

## At the Offertory

Jesus loves me

Swedish folk tune, arr. Helen Kemp (1918-2015)

The Church School, Joyful Noyze, and Choristers

Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me; he is always, always near. If I always trust and love him, there is nothing I need fear. Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me; he is always, always near.

Jesus loves, me, night and morning, Jesus hears the prayers I pray; And he never, never leaves me when I work or when I play. Jesus loves, me, night and morning, Jesus hears the prayers I pray. The people stand, as able.

#### The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift up your hearts.PeopleWe lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant

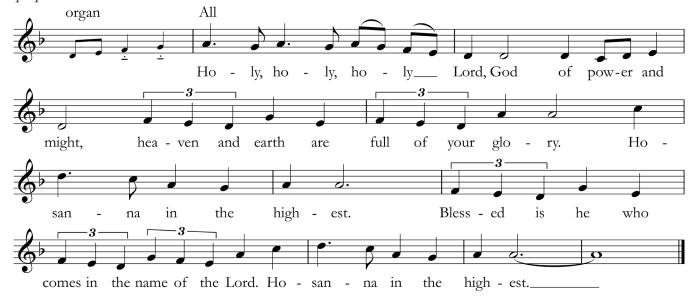
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

#### Sanctus and Benedictus

The people stand or kneel, as able.



Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

Celebrant

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

#### The Memorial Acclamation (spoken)

#### Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

#### The Great Amen

The People sing.



Setting: McNeil Robinson (1943-2015)

#### The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

#### The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

#### The Ministration of Communion

**During the Communion** 

A Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester setting by Leonard J. White (1910-1973)

Lydia Cseh Dahling, mezzo-soprano soloist

O holy Jesus, most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly. Amen. [Words, St. Richard of Chichester, 1197-1253]

#### Post-Communion Prayer (said together)

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.

On occasions when the Eucharist is to be sent out

#### The Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitor

People

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

#### The Blessing

People Amen.

#### The Closing Hymn 675

"Take up your cross, the Savior said"

- 1. Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be; take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.
- 2. Take up your cross, let not its weight fill your weak sprit with alarm; his strength shall bear your spirit up, and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
- 3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your foolish heart be still; the Lord for you accepted death upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

Words: Charles WIlliam Everest (1814-1877), alt. Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859)

- 4. Take up your cross, then, in his strength, and calmly every danger brave: it guides you to abundant life and leads to victory o'er the grave.
- 5. Take up your cross, and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down; for only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

#### The Dismissal

Celebrant Go and make disciples who live

a deeper life in Christ

a more holy communion with one another and

a greater love for the world.

People Thanks be to God.

#### We thank the following who are serving today:

**Lectors:** Frederick Whitmer, David Luchs

Intercessor: Valeri Whitmer

**Ushers:** Lynn Donahue, Jill Ernst, Robert Grieves, Kevin McMahon, Paul Reiss, Tom Pettibone, Stan Twardy

Greeters: Jim & Eleanor Lisher

Chalice Ministers: David Luchs, Laura Davis,

Lise Leist, Wendy Hilboldt, Deb Luchs

Organist-Choirmaster: Ned Tipton The St. Mark's Choir and Soloists

Flower Guild: Francie Thompson, Sarah DeMenocal Altar Guild: Mayme Walsh, Muriel Browne, Jill Ernst, Beth Kinney, Emily Morgan, Joanne Renwick, Cindy Tye

Hymns and service music are printed, and organ music streamed, under OneLicense A-734671.

**Ned's Notes:** Our **Opening Hymn**, "The spacious firmament on high," is an arrangement of the famous chorus from *The Creation*, a large oratorio for choir, soloists, and large orchestra by Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809), specifically the chorus *The heavens are telling the glory of God* ("Die Himmel erzählen die Ehre Gottes," in the original German). Haydn was inspired to create this great

work after hearing Handel's oratorios while visiting London in the late 18th century. The melody was arranged as a "hymn" by the compiler of the 1850 <u>Dulcimer, or the New York Collection of Sacred Music</u>, Isaac B. Woodbury, "Organist and Director of Music at the Rutgers Street Church" (now Rutgers Presbyterian, 236 West 73rd St., NYC). The text is a paraphrase of Psalm 19:1-6.

## **WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

September 15, 2024 • The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to St. Mark's. We are a community of love formed by the grace of God.

Together we seek to follow the spiritual practices of a Jesus-centered life. We hope that you will join us as we seek a deeper life in Christ, a more holy communion with one another, and a greater love for the world.

You can find more information on our website: www.stmarksnewcanaan.org.

# **Weekly Worship**

Worship and Program Schedule
Sunday Holy Eucharist
8AM In the Chapel
9AM Outdoors
10AM Indoors & live-streamed
5PM In the Chapel

**Praying of the Rosary** 

Wednesday at 8:45AM via conference call Call in: 978.990.5000 (access code: 811368)

Wednesday Eucharist at 12:05PM in the Chapel.

#### **Weekday Morning Prayer via Zoom**

Monday-Friday · 8:30AM · Morning Prayer Rite II

# **NEW 5PM Holy Eucharist**

**Join us for our newly reintroduced 5pm contemplative service of Holy Eucharist in the chapel.** This intimate and reflective service offers a quieter, more meditative

worship experience, inviting you to pause, pray, and receive communion in a serene setting. Come as you are and find rest and renewal in God's presence at the close of the day.

#### **Children**

#### **Our 10AM program includes:**

**Lion Cubs** childcare for children ages 2 and under **Frolic playgroup** for three- and four-year-old children (These two groups remain in the classrooms for the entire service.)

Godly Play 1 for kindergarten
Godly Play 2 for first and second grades
Holy Moly for third and fourth grades
Meet in the Middle for fifth, sixth and seventh grades
(These classes join families in church at the Peace.)

**Upcoming Special Events:** Teach and Sing Sunday (today), Learning About the Eucharist, Blessing of the Birds, The World's Greatest Christmas Pageant, and more!

**Questions?** Contact Jan Maynes, Director of Children's Ministry, at children@stmarksnewcanaan.org.

#### Youth

#### Youth Mini Golf - Sunday, September 15 Kick off the new year with the St. Mark's Youth Group!

All youth (9-12th grade) are invited to join us for a fun evening of mini golf at Norwalk Cove Marina with pizza this Sunday, September 15. We will begin with a Contemplative Service of Holy Eucharist at 5PM in the Chapel, followed by pizza in the Youth Room at 5:45PM. We'll then carpool to Norwalk Cove Marina for mini golf around 6:15 PM and return to St. Mark's by 8:30PM. **This is a great chance to reconnect, make new friends, and have fun together!** 

#### **Confirmation Class Registration is Open!**

Registration for the 2024-25 Confirmation Class is now underway. Confirmation Class will be taught by Fr. John and is open to youth in 8th grade or above. **Please scan the QR code to sign up online** (or email Fr. John at



jkennedy@stmarksnewcanaan.org). **Classes** will begin Sunday, October 6. A schedule of classes can be found on the signup form. Registration will close at the end of the month.

#### Taizé Youth Pilgrimage: February 13-23, 2025

Registrations are open for the 2025 pilgrimage to Taizé. The Taizé Community is our ultimate destination with 7-days immersed in the regular practices of this special place. Before arriving at Taizé, we will spend a couple of days in Madrid, the capital city of Spain. We will visit the Prado Museum, the Cathedral, the Royal Palace, Plaza Mayor and the street life of Madrid's central tourist area. Christ Church Bronxville is organizing this trip, and the group will include youth from several parishes, including St. Luke's in Darien. **Registration closes on October 15.** 

**To sign up or learn more**, be in touch with Fr. John: jkennedy@stmarksnewcanaan.org.

#### Join Us in Bringing a Washer-Dryer to Toni's House!

Last month, a group of six youth and four adults from St. Mark's, led by Margaret Roscoe and Fr. John, embarked on a service trip to St. Helena Island, South Carolina, to work with the St. Helena Gullah Housing Project. We worked on the fire-damaged home of a local woman named Toni, helping with demolition and cleanup work, installing sheetrock, insulation, and painting the house a vibrant shade of purple. The most meaningful addition we made was creating a space for a stackable washerdryer. Toni has never had the ability to do laundry in her own home, and this washer-dryer will bring a profound change to her daily life, offering her the convenience and dignity she deserves.

**Now, we need your help!** We are raising funds to purchase a washer-dryer for Toni's home. Your contribution, whether large or small, will bring us closer to achieving this goal.

You can support our fundraiser by donating online at our giving page or by sending a check to St. Mark's Episcopal Church with "Youth Washer-Dryer Fundraiser" in the memo line. Your generosity will directly impact Toni's life and help us continue our mission of service.

# **Ending TODAY: Clothes to Kids K-12 Clothing Collection**

Today is the final day for our Clothes to Kids collection. Clean out those closets and bring your CLEAN or NEW clothing for children K-12 and place in the **boxes marked** for this purpose outside Morrill Hall.

**Clothes to Kids of Fairfield County (CTKF)** provides new and quality used clothing to low-income or in-crises

school aged children, free of charge. The mission of CTKF is for every child to have quality clothing to attend school so that they may have the confidence and self-esteem to achieve academic success. Each eligible child may visit the CTKF twice a year to "shop" for a full week's worth of school clothes.

#### **Coffee Hour**

Be a Coffee Hour Hero this September! We are looking for 2 households or individuals to sign up to help host a coffee hour on the following dates: September 22 and 29.

Coffee is (as always) made by Ed, so all you need to do is prepare platters of goodies for all. You can bring food to contribute (and get your expenses reimbursed) and/or raid the St. Mark's freezer to add to the feast.

**Nervous?** Don't be! Hospitality hosts, Emily and James Morgan, will fully prepare you for the Sunday you've chosen.

**Sign up outside Morrill Hall or scan the QR code** to help host a Coffee Hour (together with a friend or family member, if desired).

**For more information**, reach out to scrappypickles@gmail.com or the church office at 203-966-4515, with questions.

Pick your Sunday today!

# **Food Pantry**

**The New Canaan Food Pantry** (located here at St. Mark's on the east side next to the Youth Room) provides non-perishable items and St. Mark's Gospel Garden produce to qualified individuals and families living in New Canaan.

Donations of non-perishable and non-expired food can be placed on any table inside the food pantry 7 days a week. Monetary donations can be mailed to Human Services at 77 Main Street, New Canaan, CT 06840. Please make checks payable to the New Canaan Food Pantry.

#### Items needed right now:

- Jar of Pasta Sauce
- Fruit (Low Sugar)

- Salad Dressing
- Kids Snacks
- Kids Breakfast Snacks
- Juice Packs
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Strawberry or Grape Jelly
- Peanut Butter
- Non-Refrigerated Milk
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Vegetables

If you are a resident in need of food, please call the Human Services Department at 203-594-3076.

#### 2025 Wall Calendar Donation

**St. Mark's Samaritan Ministry is currently collecting 2025 wall calendars with beautiful pictures** to give as holiday presents to children in the Stamford Head Start program, as well as to residents at South Avenue Cottage and Schoolhouse apartments. Surplus goes to New

Canaan Food Pantry clients. Your gift can brighten an otherwise dull room - and contribute to the environmental cause by recycling expensive paper. **Collection boxes** can be found in the narthex and outside Morrill Hall.

# Join a Choir

#### Sing with the St. Mark's Choir!

Singers are needed in all sections for this diverse, enthusiastic, and dedicated group, essential to the beauty and spiritual depth of sung services. It is our "care and delight" to sing every Sunday (September through early June/Trinity Sunday) and for all major holidays of the church year. **Weekday rehearsals** are held on Thursday evenings, 7-8:45PM. If you love to sing, have some sight-reading ability, and would enjoy this labor of love with a wonderful group of people, **please contact** our Director of Music Ministry, Ned Tipton at ntipton@stmarksnewcanaan.org.

#### **Children's Choir Opportunities for 2024-2025**

Calling all children in kindergarten and up - Join us! We welcome current and new members to join one of our two children's choir levels:

**Joyful Noyze:** For children in kindergarten through second grade, Wednesdays 4-4:30PM

**Choristers:** For children in third grade and older, Wednesdays 4:30-5:30PM

Rehearsal and performance schedules follow the New Canaan school calendar. For more information, please contact Ned Tipton through the church office or ntipton@stmarksnewcanaan.org.

# **Vote Faithfully**

Vote Faithfully: Episcopalians Engaging the U.S. Election will be on Thursday, September 18 at 1PM. Join Presiding Bishop Michael Curry with guests from across the church exploring the meaning behind voting from a theological perspective that centers this civic action as one expression of caring for one another and God's creation. Our panelists will offer framing for healthy, faith-based civic engagement from the theoretical to the tangible, including addressing why

it is important for Episcopal churches to leverage our resources to help our broader communities vote.

In an election full of increasing pressures—disinformation, the risk of political violence, disenfranchisement, environmental concerns, and more—come learn how to navigate challenges while remaining focused in our preparations to cast our votes in this fall's election. **Scan the QR code to register.** 

# **Wardens' Report**

As your Wardens, we want to keep you informed of the matters being considered by the Vestry. At our May, June, and July meelings, we discussed capital expenditures (including the nave lighting renovation, the bell tower renovation, the repairs of the church facade, and vicarage garage and patio). In addition, Father Peter reviewed plans for Fall programing, including two outstanding pilgrimages - Civil Rights 101 in October, and Sacred Sounds and French Cathedrals next February, as well as the Men's and Women's weekend

retreats in October and November. We also had discussions about working more closely through the year with the Pre-School. Our Treasurer, Tim Dann, provided us with a quarterly financial update and together with the Finance and Investment and Endowment Committees, hosted a discussion with our Auditors Reynolds & Rowella, which gave us a "clean bill of health." The Vestry will meet again on September 29 and we will provide another update after that meeting.



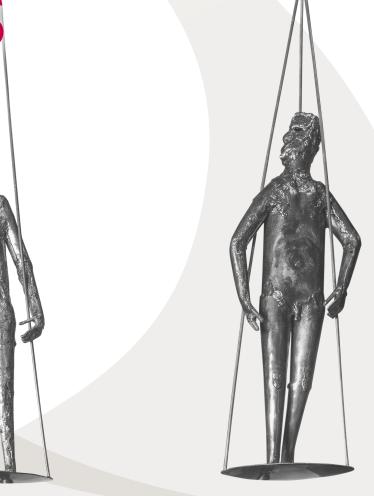
"EQUALITY OF MAN" ST. MARK'S REREDOS, FIGURE 141

# Civil Rights

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Following the stories of those who marched, protested and died in the struggle to attain basic civil and voting rights

For more information please email Beth Ralston at bralston@stmarksnewcanaan.org or call the church office 203-966-4515



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