



St Mark's  
Episcopal Church  
NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT

# Christmas Eve at St. Mark's

## A Service of the Holy Nativity



December 24, 2024 • 5PM



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## A Blessed Christmas To You

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Mark's.**

It is our hope and prayer that while you are here, you will be touched by the Spirit of the living Christ and fed by the grace of God.

We worship according to the rites of the Episcopal Church in the *Book of Common Prayer*. We experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and we encourage all baptized persons who are seeking a deeper communion with our Lord and with one another to share in the mystical food of the Eucharistic feast. If you are not yet baptized or if for some other reason it is not appropriate for you to partake of Communion, please come forward for a blessing. You may signal your intention to the priest by crossing your arms.

The sacrament is distributed under the forms of both bread and wine. To receive the wine, you may drink from the common cup. We encourage baptized children to partake of Holy Communion because the sacrament is formative to all, regardless of one's ability to understand it.

We invite you to make St. Mark's your holy home, and hope 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. By the grace of God, we are engaged in a mutual ministry in which members give of their time, talent, and treasure for the love of Christ through our church.

### **Please help us to help you.**

Speak with a member of our clergy: Father Peter, Reverend Elizabeth, or Father John. You may also visit our website at: [www.stmarksnewcanan.org](http://www.stmarksnewcanan.org), or call the Church Office during the week at 203.966.4515.

May God bless you.



The Reverend Peter F. Walsh  
Rector

**Cover Art:** "The Mystic Nativity" (1501),  
Sandro Botticelli, London National Gallery

### **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**

111 Oenoke Ridge

New Canaan, CT 06840

203.966.4515 • [www.stmarksnewcanan.org](http://www.stmarksnewcanan.org)

# A Service of the Holy Nativity on the Eve of Christmas

Clergy

The Reverend Peter F. Walsh, Officiant  
The Reverend John Kennedy, Celebrant  
The Reverend Elizabeth Garnsey, Assisting

Organist-Choirmaster

Ned Tipton

## Gathering Music

Organ and Brass

*In dulci jubilo*

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Arr. E. J. Tipton

## The Word of God

*The People stand, as they are able, and sing.*

### The Processional Hymn

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from God, Light from light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
Je - sus, to thee be glo - ry given;

come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
glo - ry to God, in the high - est;  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

*Refrain*  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O  
come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others.  
Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786);  
harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906; arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

# The Christmas Acclamation

*The People remain standing, as they are able.*

*Celebrant* “Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

*People* **Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.**

*Celebrant* Glory to God in the highest;  
*People* **And peace to his people on earth.**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

*People* **Amen.**

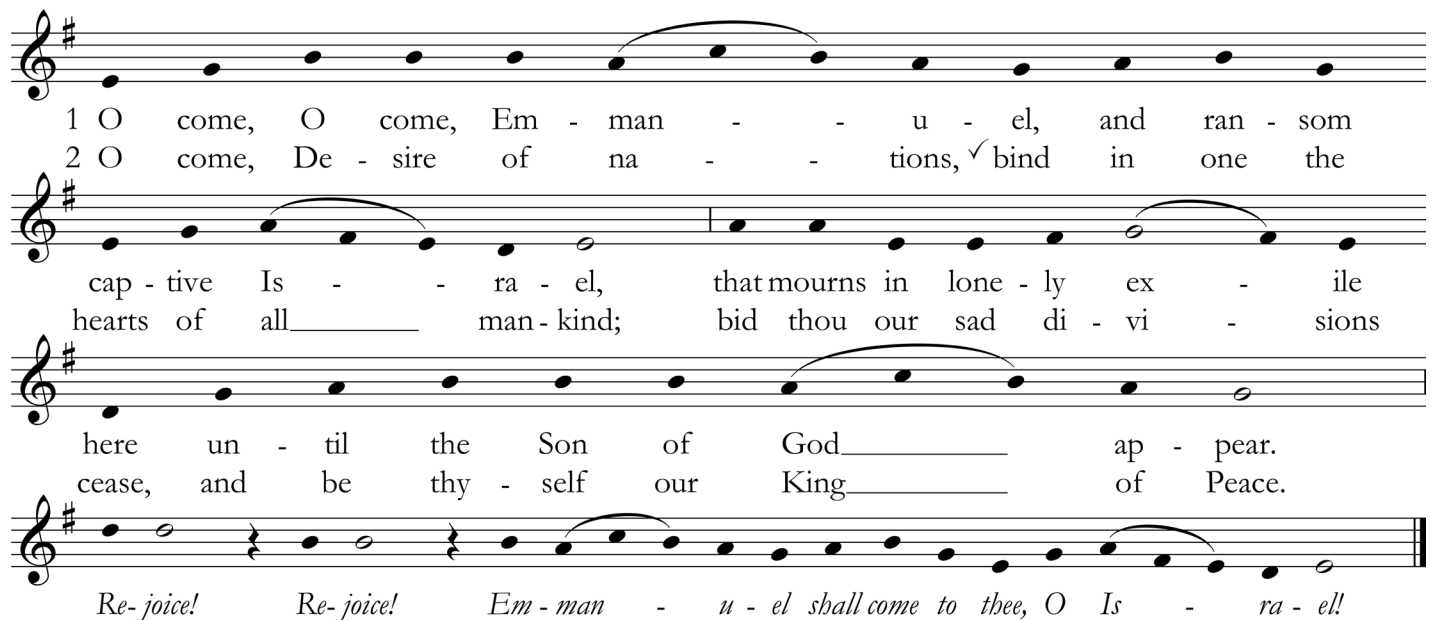
## A Pageant of the Nativity

*The People are seated throughout the pageant and join in singing the hymns.*

*Please keep aisles clear for all pageant players and live animals.*

### Messianic Prophecy

The prophets foretell the coming of the Christ child.



1 O come, O come, Em - man - - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, De - sire of na - - tions, bind in one the  
cap - tive Is - - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
hearts of all \_\_\_\_\_ man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
here un - til the Son of God \_\_\_\_\_ ap - pear.  
cease, and be thy - self our King \_\_\_\_\_ of Peace.  
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *The Hymnal* 1940, alt.  
Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.;  
adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

## The Annunciation to Mary

The Archangel Gabriel speaks to Mary and tells her of Jesus' birth. Mary consents to God's gift.

## The Annunciation to Joseph

The Archangel Gabriel appears to Joseph in a dream and convinces him to take Mary as his wife. They will name the child Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us."

## Visitation and Birth of the Baptist

Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is overjoyed to discover Mary carries the Messiah in her womb. Later, Elizabeth gives birth to John the Baptist, the prophet who will herald the coming of Christ.

## The Long Journey to Bethlehem

Caesar Augustus issues a decree that all the world should be enrolled. Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem and search for a place to stay.

## The Stable

Several animals enter the innkeeper's stable to find Mary and Joseph staying there.

### Solo

*A stable lamp is lighted*

David Hurd (b. 1950)

Mary Petro Noonan, soprano

A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky;  
the stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry, and straw like gold shall shine;  
a barn shall harbour heaven, a stall become a shrine.

But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high;  
the stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry in praises of the child  
by whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled.

*(Words, Richard Wilbur, 1921-1917)*

## The Birth of Jesus

Jesus is born in Bethlehem.

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.

Words: Traditional carol. Music: *Mueller*, James R. Murray (1841-1905)

## Shepherds and Angels

The shepherds and angels honor him with their praise.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
3 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;  
and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.  
*Refrain*  
Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!  
Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.  
Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

# The Gifts of the Magi

A bright star leads three kings from other nations to Bethlehem.  
They offer the Messiah gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing  
2 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and  
gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -  
moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

## Refrain

O ——— star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,  
west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt. Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

# A Living Icon

Christ continues to be born in our hearts.

*Narrator* The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

*People* **and all flesh shall see it together.**

*Narrator* Arise, shine, for thy light is come,

*People* **and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.**

*Narrator* For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,

*People* **and the government shall be upon his shoulder,**

*Narrator* and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor,  
the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

*The narration continues. The children will return to their pews after the Peace.*



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord.  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,  
 Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!  
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us se - cond birth.  
 Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh, the God - head see; hail, th'in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
 Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,  
 with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heav'n - born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*  
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born king!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847);  
 adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915). St. 3 arr. David Willcocks

## The Peace

*The People stand, as they are able.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

## 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

## The Offertory

**Choir and Brass**

*See, the dawn is breaking, sleeping shepherds waking* Music by Thomas Morley (1557-1602)  
 Arr. Mark Schweitzer (1956-2019) and EJT

See, the dawn is breaking, sleeping shepherds waking. *Fa la la*. Unto us is given God's own Son from heaven. *Fa la la*. And is it very far to Bethlehem's yonder star? Cold and afraid we may be as we go to see the baby. The maiden calls us near him, and there with the beasts revere him. *Fa la la*. What offering can we bring to give the little King? A coat of fur to warm him and a little lamb to charm him. *Fa la la*.

# The Great Thanksgiving

*The People stand, as they are able.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

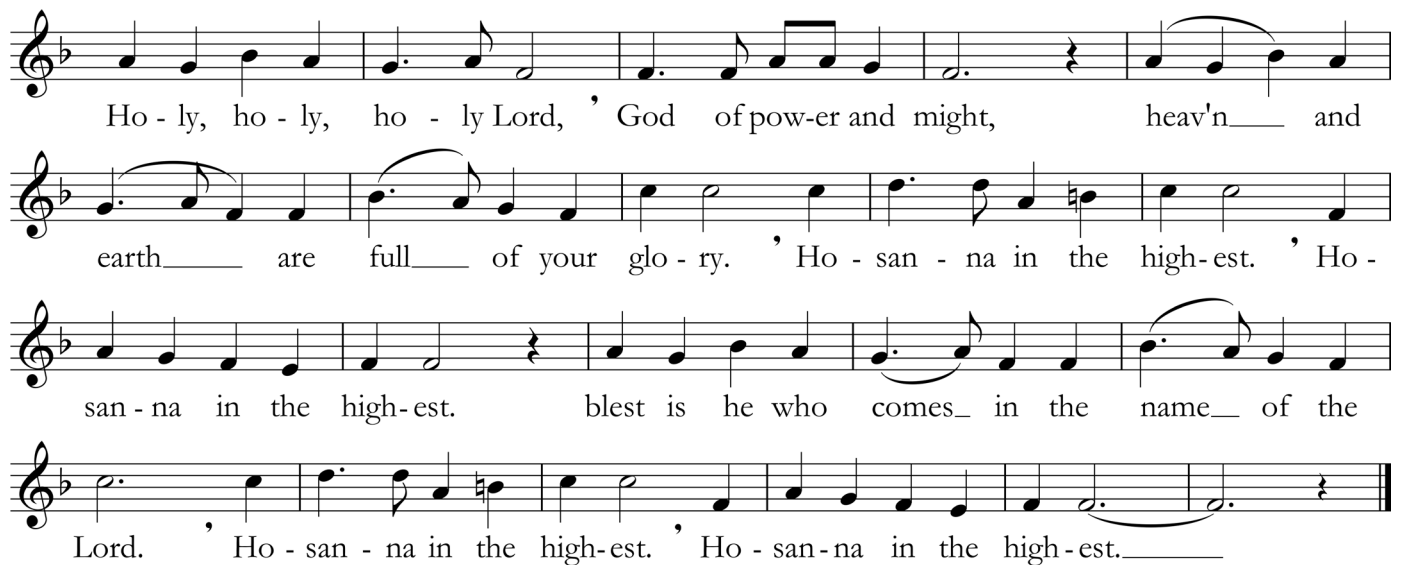
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant proceeds.*

*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.  
Because by the incarnation  
of your Son Jesus Christ  
you have restored us in your image  
and given us grace to become your children.

And so we join the saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we sing



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, ' God of pow-er and might, heav'n and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. ' Ho - san - na in the high-est. ' Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. blest is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. ' Ho - san - na in the high-est. ' Ho - san - na in the high-est.

Music: from *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

*The People stand or kneel, as they are able.*

*Celebrant* All glory be to you,  
our heavenly Father,  
who, in your tender mercy,  
gave your only Son our Savior Jesus Christ  
to be born for us of the Virgin Mary his mother.  
Gathering into one things earthly and heavenly,  
you were pleased  
through him  
to reconcile all things to yourself,  
making peace through the blood of his cross.

On the night before he died for us,  
our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,  
and when he had given thanks to you,  
he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:

“Take, eat:

This is my Body which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his life, death, and resurrection,  
we bring before you these gifts.  
Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit  
to be for your people the Body and Blood of Christ.

Sanctify us also,  
that we may faithfully receive this holy sacrament;  
and bring us, at the last,  
to that heavenly country where  
with the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Saint Joseph, the shepherds,  
the wise men, and all your saints,  
we may be brought to our perfection  
by him through whom all things were made,  
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
to you be honor, glory, and praise,  
for ever and ever.



Setting, McNeil Robinson II (1943-2015)

*The People remain standing or kneeling, as they are able.*

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

*Celebrant and People*

**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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated 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.

## **The Ministration of the Sacrament**

*The People are seated as the congregation receives communion. Following the direction of the ushers, please make your way to one of the two standing stations at the main altar or to the station at the chapel.*

**During the Communion:** carols sung by all (*seated*), found in the blue *Hymnal 1982*:

79            *O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
115          *What Child Is This?*  
89            *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

## **The Prayer after Communion**

*The People kneel, as they are able.*

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

## Congregational Carol

*The People may remain kneeling, as they are able.*

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,  
all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child,  
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,  
Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy  
peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)  
Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody by Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

## The Christmas Blessing

*The People may remain kneeling, as they are able.*

*Celebrant* May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him,  
bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness from your path,  
and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth,  
fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth  
and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## The Closing Hymn

*The People stand, as they are able, and sing.*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns, let us our tongues em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions  
King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and  
heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and  
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far  
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his love, and  
heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
-peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
as, far as the curse is found.  
won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759);  
adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Organ Voluntary

*In dulci jubilo*, BWV 729

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

### We thank the children and youth of St. Mark's Church

for telling the story of the birth of our Savior on the holiest of nights.

### Special thanks to pageant directors Jennifer Dalipi, David Park and our behind-the-scenes crew:

Abigail Blades, Lynn Donahue, James Grohsgal, Scott Hobbs, Brian Hollstein, Deb Luchs and the St. Mark's staff.

**Thank you also to volunteers:** Callie Creighton, Carolyn Crisafulli, Brooke Fagan, Sharon Fry, Charlotte Halle, Wendy Hilboldt, Michaela Johnson, Jennifer Palmer, Ellen Pottharst, Marysue Rucci, Elizabeth Torrenzano, and Mayme Walsh.

**We are grateful to Runabout Farm, Stamford CT,** who have provided their rescue animals each year.



## Worship Leaders

### 5PM Christmas Eve

#### Ushers

Lynn Donahue, Zackary Crawford,  
Jack Donahue, Alex Duffee,  
Jill Ernst, Paton Larkin,  
Ellen McMahon, Kevin McMahon,  
Bill Post, Paul Reiss, Eric Thunem,  
Ned Thunem, Pete Thunem

#### Acolytes

Michael Cantu Wilson Rothschild,  
Teddy Volanakis

### 10PM Christmas Eve

#### Lectors

Julie Brand  
John Harrison

#### Ushers

Lynn Donahue, John Harrison  
Suzanne Harrison, Paul Reiss

#### Acolytes

Heidi Neubohn,  
Charlie Daniels

### 10AM Christmas Day

#### Lector

Erik Luchs

#### Ushers

Tom Pettibone, Paul Reiss

### The Adorning of the Church

*St. Mark's Altar Guild*

### The Greening of the Church

*St. Mark's Flower Guild*

### Soloists of the St. Mark's Choir

Mary Petro Noonan, *soprano*; Lydia Cseh Dahling, *mezzo-soprano*;  
Trevor Scott and Ryland Angel, *tenors*; Kyle Gonyea, *baritone*

### The St. Mark's Fanfare Ensemble

Dylan Schwab and Alex Rensink (*trumpets*), Frank Drugge (*French horn*),  
Jason Miller and Matthew Wozniak (*trombones*), Peter Hohmeister (*percussion*)

### St. Mark's Clergy and Staff

**The Reverend Peter F. Walsh**, Rector

**The Reverend Elizabeth Garnsey**, Senior Associate Rector

**The Reverend John Kennedy**, Associate Rector

**Jill Sautkulis**, Director of Operations

**Beth Ralston**, Director of Special Projects

**Nancy Walton**, Director of Stewardship and Development

**Ed Hill**, Sexton

**Edgar Gonzalez**, Property Manager

**Ned Tipton**, Director of Music Ministry

**Rob Schwartz**, Digital Missioner

**Jan Maynes**, Director of Children's Ministry

**Prisca Spitz**, Preschool Director

### Worship & Prayer

#### Sunday

8AM Indoor Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9AM Outdoor Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10AM Indoor Holy Eucharist, Rite II and Live Stream

#### Monday—Friday

Morning Prayer, Rite II

8:30AM via Zoom

### St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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[www.stmarksnewcanaan.org](http://www.stmarksnewcanaan.org)