



www.stmarksaz.org
 3809 E 3rd St.
 Tucson, AZ 85716
 (520) 325-1001

Find @StMarksAZ on social media!



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

Interim Pastor

Reverend Tracy Daub (she/her) tracy@stmarksaz.org

Organist, Director of the Handbell Choir

Dr. Jared Aragón (he/him) jared@stmarksaz.org

Director of Music

David Braceros-Hamm (he/him) david@stmarksaz.org

Church Administrator

Gianina Scavone (she/her) gianina@stmarksaz.org

Director of Communications

Elaina Richards (she/her) elaina@stmarksaz.org

Facilities Coordinator

Michael Robinson (he/him) michael@stmarksaz.org

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY | FEBRUARY 23, 2025 | 10:30 AM

^ PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

PRELUDE

Nobody Knows the Trouble - Arr. Florence Price | J.I. Aragón, *piano/organ*

WELCOME

The Rev. Tracy Daub

CENTERING SONG no. 466 (sung twice)

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
 You alone, O Lord, are holy.
 Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
 Alleluia!

^ CALL TO WORSHIP

Art Almquist

One: We have come to learn the way of Jesus.

All: Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you.

One: We have come to learn the way of Jesus.

All: Bless those who curse you and pray for those who persecute you.

One: We have come to learn the way of Jesus.

All: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

One: This will not be easy. And so we turn to God in order to walk the way of Jesus.

^ GATHERING HYMN no. 623

I've Got Peace Like a River

^ GATHERING PRAYER

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Teacher of hard truths, we confess that we find it difficult to let go of our anger toward those who have wronged us. We confess our desire for revenge and retaliation. We confess the hardening of our hearts. We confess that we feed the negative thoughts and feelings and perpetuate resentment. And we find ourselves held captive. O God, forgive us and set us free! Help us take the first baby steps toward walking Jesus' way of love, forgiveness, and compassion. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

(a moment follows for silent personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In Christ, God has shown us what forgiving love has already done and continues to do. It heals, it mends, and makes a new chapter possible. This is the forgiving power of God that embraces you and me, here and now.

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. 591

Halle Halle Hallelujah

Halle halle hallelujah! (repeat 3 times)
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 | *New Revised Standard Version*

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:27-38 | *New Revised Standard Version*

"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

One: Holy wisdom, holy word.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Adoration - Florence Price, Arr. J. I. Aragón | St. Mark's Handbells

SERMON

"The Workout"

HYMN no. 775

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

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 guide. **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

There Will be Peace in the Valley - Thomas Dorsey

^ OFFERING HYMN no. 39

Great is Thy Faithfulness (refrain only)

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

^ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts to God.

We lift our hearts to God, and our thanks and praise, because it is right to do this.

Through all time, our God has been fair and kind to us. God's works are great and wonderful, and the Lord's ways are just and true.

God of power and majesty, the heavens and the earth show your glory and holy is your name.

Holy God, we thank you for your son Jesus, who lived sharing joys and sorrows. He told your story, healed the sick, and was a friend of sinners like us. Obeying you, he took up his cross and was murdered by people he loved.

We praise you that he is not dead but is risen to rule the world, and that he is still a friend of sinners. We trust him to overcome every power that tries to hurt or divide,

So that when his promised reign comes, we will celebrate the victory with him.

(continued on next page)

Holy Spirit, fill these elements with your spirit so that through them we may enjoy the gift of life and unity with you.

O God, you called us from death to life. We give ourselves to you. With the church through all ages, we thank you for the love of Jesus Christ our Saving Lord, who taught us to pray, saying . . .

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.

BREAKING THE BREAD, POURING THE CUP

COMMUNION

Communion at St. Mark's is open to all individuals of all ages. Worshippers may come down the center aisle and receive the bread or gluten-free option and the non-alcoholic grape juice in either the pre-filled cups or by dipping the bread in the chalice.

COMMUNION HYMN no. 525

Let Us Break Bread Together (first verse)

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

^ SENDING HYMN no. 728

Somebody's Knocking At Your Door

^ 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.

^ BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Allegretto - Florence Price

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR: The family and friends of Carolyn Emerine (died February 13, 2025), Marilyn Simmons (health issues), Bill Dingeldein (health issues), Sylvia Thorson-Smith (health issues), Ann MacGregor (health issues), Paul Miller (health issues), Lillian Deyerberg (health concerns), Rob Selby (health issues) and the Selby Family, Mari Helen High (health concerns), Monica Lopez (health concerns), Linda Ryan (health concerns).

OPPORTUNITIES

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY: Liturgist: Art Almquist; Usher: Terry Gilliland; Greeter: Tricia Heller; Communion Servers: Charles Ambrose, Bruce and Melinda Burke, Gail Kocourek, and Ann Moynihan; Communion Set Up and Clean Up: Berry Roberts and Audrey Harding; Livestream: Lori Block, John Jewett, Dexter Mitchell, and Irvin Richards.

ARE YOU ENJOYING THE HYMNS THIS MONTH? Then consider saying “thank you” with your donations. In celebration of Black History Month, worship at St. Mark’s during the month of February will highlight the wide array of African American spirituals found in our hymnal. These songs are beautiful and rich in theological and spiritual meaning. Yet, as the composers of these songs were enslaved peoples, neither they nor their descendants received any royalties for their creative endeavors.

In response to this generational injustice, St. Mark’s offers our worshipping community the opportunity to make a small gesture toward “royalty reparations.” Each Sunday in February, a donation basket will be located in the narthex of the sanctuary for worshippers to express their gratitude for the spiritual songs that continue to enrich our faith today. Donations can also be made through the Vanco and Venmo QR codes in the worship guide. Please indicate that your donation is for the Dunbar Pavilion. At the end of the month, these donations will then be sent to the Dunbar Pavilion—an African American arts and culture center here in Tucson. Originally, the Dunbar Pavilion was the home to the only segregated school in Tucson for African American children.

ISKASHITAA REFUGEE NETWORK: There is currently a great need for some basic food and household supplies. St. Mark’s Community and Global Engagement team is launching a drive to collect specific staple foods, through the end of March. Here are what they are requesting: flour, sugar, salt, rice, cooking oil, dish soap, toilet paper, diapers, female hygiene protection. See Christina Early at the Opportunities Table to drop off your donations.

PER CAPITA: Per Capita costs connect Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations, presbyteries, and synods, with the work of the wider church. It’s the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly, it is how Presbyterian mutually and equitably share the cost of moving the church forward. St. Mark’s per Capita share in 2025 is \$7,460. If you would like to contribute to this connection we are asking members and friends to consider an extra gift of \$45.00.

PRESBYTERIAN ADVOCACY HOUR: For such a time as this! Standing in the Gap! Join us for a new monthly series Presbyterian Advocacy Hour Opening Session with Rev. Jimmie Hawkins February 26th 12 pm ET. Stay connected, stay informed, and stay active! See our weekly email for the link to register.

CLASS OF 2024: Arizona Public Media project has collaborated with Tucson High's theatre program on a storytelling radio series and show at Tucson High with 8 of last year's grads. It's an awesome, really special project. The students and Art Almquist have each written and recorded personal, 1st person narrative stories which deal either with living in the age of school shootings or starting high school during the pandemic. It will start with two stories being broadcast on AZPM on *Arizona Spotlight* on Thursday, February 6. a Stories will then air for the next three Thursdays, culminating in two live performances at Tucson High in the Almquist Theatre. All of the stories plus three more will be available at www.AZPM.com as well. There are two nights for the live shows: Friday February 28 at 6:30 PM is our friends and family night, and Saturday March 1 is reserved as the AZPM night. There is no charge but it's a sign up for tickets. Here is the link for Friday night: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/arizona-spotlight-presents-class-of-2024-for-friends-and-family-tickets-1229298678439?aff=oddtcreator>

TIHAN EVENT: TIHAN invites us to join their RED Concert, an HIV/AIDS Benefit taking place outdoors on the patio of Three Canyon, an eastside outdoor music venue with covered gazebos to enjoy live music from popular local band ONESALL. The concert takes place on Sunday, March 9, at 5pm, and advance tickets are \$30. Tickets are available online at <https://www.centerforhealthandhope.org/the-red-concert>. Arrive between 4:00 and 4:30pm to get the best parking, grab your preferred seats, and order some delicious food and drink so you'll be ready when the band starts at 5pm! All proceeds support the work of TIHAN serving people living with HIV here in Tucson, and the Center for Health and Hope providing services to people affected by HIV globally, a mission which we support as a participating faith community of TIHAN.

FOOD PANTRY: Our food pantry has been quite busy this month. Next time you are at the grocery store, consider our food pantry and our current needs: vegetables (preferably with pop tabs); peanut butter; crackers, pasta, bottles of water, and cans of pasta sauce (no glass jars please). No family size items please. You may place the items in the red wagon in the narthex on Sundays or bring them to the church office during business hours.

CHURCH WORK DAY: The Administration Committee is planning a Church Work Day for Saturday, March 22 from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Stay tuned for more details.

GASLIGHT THEATRE TICKETS TO BENEFIT MONTLURE: We invite you to purchase tickets to the Gaslight Theatre's production "*Beach Blanket Bee-Bop*" for a 3:00 PM matinee on Sunday, April 6, 2025. Proceeds from the ticket sales will benefit our Mission Partner, Montlure Presbyterian Church Camp (www.montlure.org). We are partnering with Christ Presbyterian Church, Immanuel Presbyterian Church, and St. John's on the Desert Presbyterian Church to help send kids to camp. And the campers are back in Greer! Tickets are \$33.00 each. Please see [Robin Staples](#) at the Opportunities Table after worship.

MONTLURE: Have you started thinking about summer plans yet? At Montlure Camp, we are looking forward to another incredible summer with our campers and can't wait to meet new ones. Montlure offers a summer camp experience where campers can unplug from both technology and stress/anxiety and connect with nature, their peers, their counselors, and their faith. All while having an incredible amount of fun! Space IS limited so register early to hold your spot. Details at www.montlure.org. Overnight Camps: 10-12th Grade: June 8-13; 8-9th Grade: June 16-21; 6-8th Grade: June 23-28; 4-6th Grade: July 7-11; Traveling Day Camps: See website for dates and locations!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The World Day of Prayer is recognized by many faiths as a day not only to pray but also to introduce people of faith to more ways to pray. We would like to invite the members of your community to join us for that event. We'll be observing the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 7. Folks are invited to come anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to Christ Presbyterian Church, located at 6565 East Broadway in Tucson. For further information, call 520-886-5535. In the fast pace of today's culture, we often hear, "I can't find time to pray." Or, "I never really learned how to pray." Our plan is to provide interactive stations throughout our church sanctuary to learn about old and new ways to pray. Our Prayer Stations will include

1. **World Prayers:** Pray for a part of the world in need using pins placed on a world map.
2. **Remembrance Station:** Candles may be lit for the saints who have influenced our lives.
3. **Forgiveness Prayers:** writing in sand to ask for forgiveness and then smoothing away as an indication of God's grace.
4. **Thank You prayers:** What are you most thankful for? Add it to our prayer chain and more...

In addition, folks from Christ Presbyterian will be available for those who need prayers spoken on their behalf. There will be take-away prayers at all stations.

623 I've Got Peace like a River

1 I've got peace like a riv - er; I've got peace like a
 2 I've got joy like a foun-tain; I've got joy like a
 3 I've got love like an o - cean; I've got love like an

1
 riv - er; I've got peace like a riv - er, in my
 foun-tain; I've got joy like a foun-tain, in my
 o - cean; I've got love like an o - cean, in my

2
 soul. I've got riv - er, in my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain, in my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean, in my soul.

In the King James Version, the promise of “peace like a river” is twice mentioned in Isaiah (48:18; 66:12) as a blessing that comes from doing God’s will. The water imagery of this African American spiritual also provides reminders of Christians’ baptismal identity.

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 775

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

The two equal phrases in each line suggest that this African American spiritual shares some characteristics of work or field songs that were used to coordinate the efforts of slaves involved in tasks (road clearing, ditch digging, etc.) that needed combined rhythmic strokes.

728

Somebody's Knocking
at Your Door

Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door; some - bod - y's

knock-ing at your door; O sin - ner, why don't you

an - swer? Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door.

1 Knocks like Je - sus.
2 Can't you hear him? Some - bod - y's knock-ing at your
3 An - swer Je - sus.

The description of the Son of Man as standing at the door and knocking (Revelation 3:20) has given rise to many visual and verbal representations of that figure. This African American spiritual uses its repeated phrases to imitate knocking and to give immediacy to this encounter.

door. Knocks like Je - sus.
 Can't you hear him? Some - bod - y's
 An - swer Je - sus.

knock - ing at your door. O sin - ner, why don't you

an - swer? Some - bod - y's knock - ing at your door.