



St. Mark's Anglican Church

The Epiphany

January 4, 2026

Sung Eucharist at 10:30 am

Welcome to St. Mark's.

*The order of service is set forth in this service sheet.
Please stand and kneel as you are able—and as is your custom.
Please join in singing the hymns and saying the parts printed in **bold***

PRELUDE *Chorale Fantasia on "How Brightly Beams the Morning Star"*
Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

HYMN 622

How Bright Appears the Morning Star

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Almighty God,
All to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
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.

GLORY TO GOD
THE COLLECT

Common Praise, no. 686

Celebrant Let us pray.

Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son.
Guide by your light the nations of the earth,
that the whole world may know your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

All sit

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Reader: Donna Belleville

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Reader Thanks be to God.

All stand

HYMN 159

Brightest and Best

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by

no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Celebrant The Gospel of Christ.
People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev'd Dr Susan MacLaren

All stand

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant Let us confess our faith, as we say,
All **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.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped 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

Leader: Penny-Lynn Cookson

Leader Let us worship the Saviour with joy and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.

People The magi came from the east to worship your Son: Father, grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of adoration. Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

Leader The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh: Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds at the beginning of this year. Lord of glory,
People **hear our prayer.**

Leader The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ: Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world. Lord of glory,
People **hear our prayer.**

Leader The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death: Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless, and all who suffer. Lord of glory,
People **hear our prayer.**

Leader Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth: Father, protect in your love our neighbours, our families and this community of which we are a part. Lord of glory,
People **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Father, we rejoice in our fellowship with the shepherds, the angels, the magi, the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and all the faithful departed.
In your unfailing love for us and for all people, hear and answer our prayers through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

HYMN 385

Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The first staff is for the Celebrant and the second for the People. The lyrics are as follows:

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth;
you have revealed your eternal plan of salvation,
and have shown your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of all peoples.
Therefore with angels and archangels we raise our voices in joyful praise
to proclaim the glory of your name Therefore at the name of Jesus every knee
shall bow as heaven and earth proclaim the glory of your name.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD

Common Praise, no. 689

All remain standing or kneel

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you.
In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted, 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.

All Therefore, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

People **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

*THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
People **We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God,
People **Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD

Common Praise, no. 690

THE COMMUNION

*Please follow the directions of the greeters as you make your way to the altar
Kneeling and standing are both appropriate postures to receive the Eucharist*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Les Mages from *La Nativité*

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

After communion, all stand for

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant All your works praise you, O Lord.
All **And your faithful servants bless you.**

**Gracious God we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
May we, who share his body, live his risen life;
we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;
we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so that we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

THE BLESSING

Celebrant Christ our Lord, to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,
reveal to you his glory and pour upon you the riches of his grace;
and the blessing of God almighty: And the blessing of God almighty, the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 101

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

VOLUNTARY *Fugue on "How Brightly Beams the Morning Star"* Max Reger (1873-1916)

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The Rev'd Leighton Lee, *Rector*
The Rev'd Dr Susan MacLaren, *Honorary Assistant*

Michael Bloss, *Director of Music*
Erin McKinley, *Parish Administrator*

Andrea Douglas Ian Russell
Rector's Warden *People's Warden*

Kathy Taylor
Deputy Warden

Allan Magnacca, O. N.
Warden Emeritus