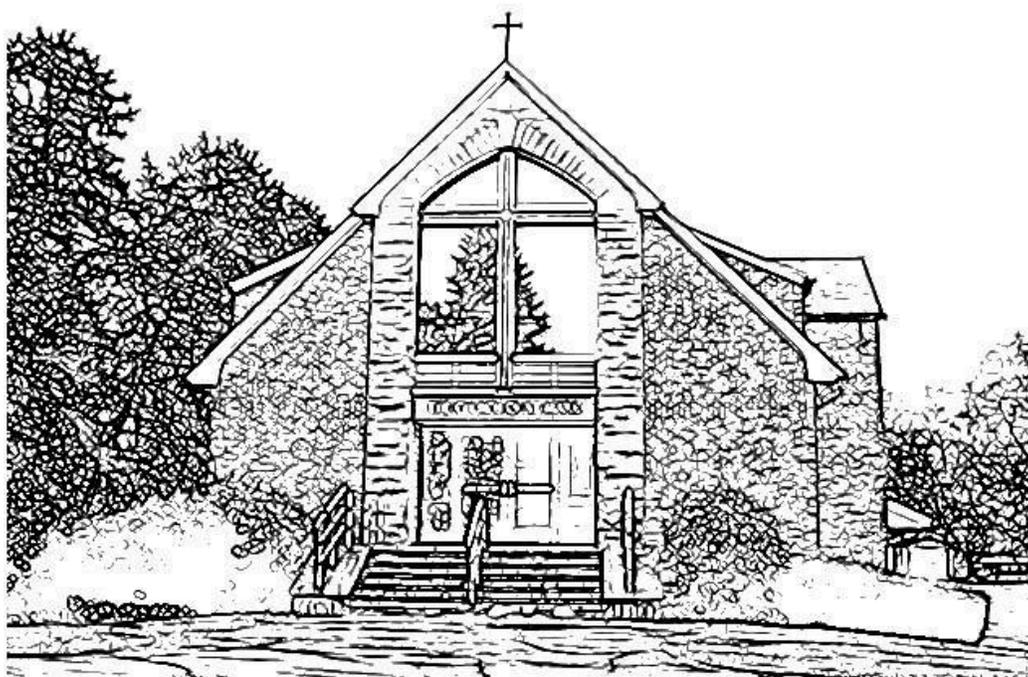


# Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14, 2025 9 am



## Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

111 West Shore Road

Warwick, RI 02889

401.737.3127

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

**All are welcome at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Whether you are comfortable with church or new to this tradition, we invite you to come as you are and participate fully.**

## Welcome to St. Mark's!

This introduction will help you understand how to follow our worship.

- The red book is our Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and pages can be found by using the bulletin.
- The blue book is our Hymnal 1982. Service music (S-) is found in the front. Hymns after that. We all sing in the Episcopal Church so join in making a joyful noise to the Lord!
- All (even young children) who are baptized may receive Holy Communion. Simply come forward to receive the bread and wine. If you choose not to drink from the cup the Eucharistic Minister will dip your bread in the wine for you.
- If you would like to receive a blessing put your arms across your chest.
- Children are welcome in church and enliven our worship!
- Restrooms are located down the stairs and through the doors into the lower floor.
- There are welcome cards in each pew. We invite you to share your information and leave any comments or questions. The Rev. Julia will be delighted to follow up with you.

*Come for a visit. Stay for the journey.*



**Want to make a pledge payment or donation via your cell phone? Just scan this code!**

**To make your pledge online visit our website  
[www.stmarkswarwick.org](http://www.stmarkswarwick.org)  
and click on the green *Give Online* tab**

# Holy Eucharist Rite II

Gather

*We are drawn together as one body*

Welcome

Tolling of the Bell

*All stand as able to sing the*

Opening Hymn#72 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes *Richmond*

Greeting & Collect for Purity

*Presider:* Blessed are you, holy and living one

*All:* **You come to your people and set them free**

*Presider:* 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.**

*All remain standing as able for*

The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Presider:* Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All may be seated for*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Three candles are lit by the Acolyte*

*Reader:* O King of the nations, and their desire,  
The cornerstone making both one:  
Come and save the human race,  
Which you fashioned from clay.

## Word

*We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts*

*All are seated for*

The First Lesson Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader: Laurie Connors

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*All: **Thanks be to God.***

## The Psalm (said in unison)

### Psalm 146:4-9

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous;  
the LORD cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!

### The Second Reading James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*Reader:* Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

*All: Thanks be to God.*

*All stand as able to sing*

Sequence Hymn #67 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry *Winchester New*

*All remain standing as able and turn to face the reader for the proclamation of*

## The Holy Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

*Reader:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

*After a brief prayer, all are seated for the*

Sermon

The Rev. Julia Matallana Freedman

*After a period of silent reflection, all stand to say*

The Nicene Creed (BCP 358)

Prayers of the People Form III (BCP 387)

Let us pray together for all who are sick or in any kind of need; and for those who have asked our prayers:

**John, Sharon, Tom, Abigail, Kathy, Myles, Gerry, Braden, Bethany, Rohit, Corey, Bryan, Joey, Stephen, Stephen, Jennifer, Dennis, Joe, Thomas, Gail, Cara, Deaya, Brent, Dianne, Adeline, Sofia, Kerry, Robyn, Fran, Kate, Marjory, Joe, Carolyn, Edwin, Angela, Sandy, Katee, Mike, Eric, Ralph, Max, Shirley, Pat, Jonathan, Carol, Manny, Jen, Bob, Glenn, Larry, Don, Michael, Pat, Michael, Karen, Cynthia, David, Bob, Irene, Kelly, Ralph, Abbie, George, Maya, Bill, Katie, Judith, Robert, Michael, Andrew, Niko, Brett, Allison, Janet, Mary, Ron, Mike, Jess, Andrew, Heidi, Kim, Steve, Rick, Linda, Jean, Bill, Janice, Richard, Brianne, Katie, Marie...**

And those whom we remember now, either silently or aloud, (...pause ...): Let us Pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died whom we remember now especially, John Tevyaw and Dorothy Correra, (...pause...) that they may be drawn ever more fully into the light of God's presence: let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

We join in praying for peace.

***All:* Spirit of the living God, come afresh on your world as we remember the people of Israel and Palestine, Russia and Ukraine, and everywhere people are threatened and victims of wartime violence. Help us to restore broken relationships. Give us patience to break down barriers of suspicion and mistrust, ability to discern personal prejudices, and the courage to overcome fear and the wounds of history. Teach us to respect each other's integrity and rights so that your kingdom may be established on earth. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. Guide the leaders with power over war or peace; inspire them to wisdom, discernment, and compassion. We pray for all your**

**children, hold and protect us all. We pray for peace, we pray to you, O Lord, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Presider:* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Confession & Absolution (BCP 360)

*Silence for self-examination, kneeling as able  
the Priest, stands and says*

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.*

*Stand as able for*

### The Peace

*Presider:* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Exchange a sign of peace with your neighbors*

## Table

*We offer our gifts, give thanks, and gather at Christ's banquet*

*Sit as able for the*

Offertory Anthem, Celtic Advent Song, (*Michael Barret*) and the Presentation of the Gifts

The Great Thanksgiving (BCP 361)

*The people remain standing.*

*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 him thanks and praise.**

The Lord's Prayer (BCP 364)

The Breaking of the Bread

*The consecrated bread is broken. A period of silence is kept.*

*Presider:* Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*All:* **Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.**

*All (even young children) who are baptized may receive Holy Communion. Simply come forward to receive the bread and wine. If you choose not to drink from the cup the Eucharistic Minister will dip your bread in the wine for you. Alternatively, if you would like to receive a blessing cross your arms over your body. Gluten Free wafers are available, please let the Eucharistic Minister know if you need them. If you need Holy Communion brought to you in the pew please let an usher know.*

Communion hymn # 615 Thy kingdom Come!

*St. Flavian*

Post Communion Prayer

*After a moment of silent reflection, all stand as able*

*Presider:* Let us pray

*All:* **Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Send

*We go forth as Christ's Body in the world*

*All standing as able, as a priest offers the*

Blessing

The Rev. Matthew Stewart

Recessional Hymn #68 rejoice! Rejoice, believers

*Llangloffan*

Dismissal

*Presider:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

The Sanctuary candle burns to the Glory of God and in loving memory of John Tevyaw. Given by Shirley, Jeff and family and Dorothy Correra, given by her children, Kim & Rex Morris, Ken & Bernice Correra, her grandchildren & great grandchildren.

### Saturday-5 pm

Reader: Bill Lyons  
Server: Barbara Lyons  
Usher: Paul Howard

### Officiant & Preacher

Rev. Rich Schweinsburg

### Torch Bearers

MacKenzie Chamberlain  
Kyara Van Loon

### Sunday-9 AM

Reader: Laurie Connors  
Server :Karen Lynch  
Ushers: Bob Connors  
Thom Mathews

### Altar Guild

Tammy Chauvette  
Joanne Heffernan

### Counters

Bob Connors  
Thom Mathews

### Coffee Hour

Millie Provencher  
Sondra Andrew