

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope



November 24, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Christ the King

The Last Sunday after Pentecost

Sharing the hope and love of Jesus Christ in a radically inclusive, respectful and loving community, mobilized as His disciples to alleviate suffering, while working for equity, justice, and mercy in every aspect of life.

To become God's Beloved Community.

The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, Interim Rector

The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych, Clergy Associate-Retired

Loretta Haskell, Organist & Choirmaster

Alphonso Grayson, Senior Warden – Bob Waters, Junior Warden

Glory to you, beholding the depths;
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Lector: A reading from The Book of Daniel

As I watched,

thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne,

his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;

his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.

A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.

A thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

As I watched in the night visions,

I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.

And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.

To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,

that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,

and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 93

1 The LORD is King;
 he has put on splendid apparel; *
 the LORD has put on his apparel
 and girded himself with strength.

*2 He has made the whole world so sure *
 that it cannot be moved;*

3 Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; *
 you are from everlasting.

*4 The waters have lifted up, O LORD,
 the waters have lifted up their voice; *
 the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.*

5 Mightier than the sound of many waters,
 mightier than the breakers of the sea, *
 mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.

*6 Your testimonies are very sure, *
 and holiness adorns your house, O LORD,
 for ever and for evermore.*

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4b-8

Lector: A reading from The Book of Revelation

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Please stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Praise to God, Immortal Praise

LEVAS 288

GOSPEL: John 18:33-37

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

TRANSITION SONG

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

Song by Taizé

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
In the Lord I'll rejoice.
Look to God, do not be afraid,
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.*

THE SERMON

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(adopted from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer p.413)*

Intercessor: Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore, in confidence and trust we pray for the Church: Father, enliven the Church for its mission.

People: that we may be the salt of the earth and light to the world.

Intercessor: Breathe fresh life into your people.

People: Give us the power to reveal Christ in word and action.

Intercessor: We pray for the world: Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

People: That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Intercessor: Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

People: Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

Intercessor: We pray for the community: God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others.

People: That all act with integrity and courage.

Intercessor: Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours. We pray for those in need: God of hope, comfort and restore of all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We invite your personal intercessions at this time, either aloud or in your heart. (Pause, followed by Intercessor Prayers) Lord, hear our prayer.

People: May we serve Christ in another, and love as he loves us.

Intercessor: Almighty God, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve, bless all who following in his steps live a life of service to others. Those who dedicate themselves in every season of life, in youth and advancing age, to service of nation and every human being, striving for justice, peace and equality for all people in their daily lives. By the power of your Holy Spirit, grant all who serve, wisdom, patience and courage, that they may minister in the name of Christ to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us.

People: For it is in giving that we receive.

Intercessor: Make us willing agents of your compassion.

People: Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

Intercessor: We remember those who have died and those who mourn: We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. Give comfort to those who mourn.

People: Father, into your hands we commend them.

Intercessor: Lord, you have called us to serve you.

People: Grant that we may walk in your presence:

your love in our hearts,

your truth in our minds, your

strength in our wills;

until, at the end of our journey,

we know the joy of our homecoming and the

welcome of your embrace,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

The Presider may add a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: 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.

Priest: 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.

All: Amen.

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord saying, "Peace be with you."

SONG

Surely the Presence of the Lord is In This Place

Sung by all.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

The Priest offers an Offertory Sentence.

OFFERTORY

Now Thank We All Our God

Michael Rosewall

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

Sung to the tune of Hymnal #400

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

HOLY EUCHARIST – Eucharistic Prayer B

PRAYER OVER THE PLEDGE CARDS

Celebrant:

Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and true and beautiful and life-giving. These cards represent our sweat, they represent our lives, they represent our dreams. The pledges which we make on them are but tokens of the awesome gifts that have been given to us and they are pledged in thanksgiving for all we have received, for all we have been inspired to be, for all we are challenged to become, in this place.

May they be the first fruits of all we have and not what we have left over, so that we may live out as closely as possible how you give to us. May we see them as our offering to you, sacred, holy, yet earthy, filled with possibilities. May we hold this image in our hearts and minds so as we watch our offerings each week come to your table, we can see our very selves being part of this offering, it is us on the table, living sacrifices to you.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - *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.*

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds.

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

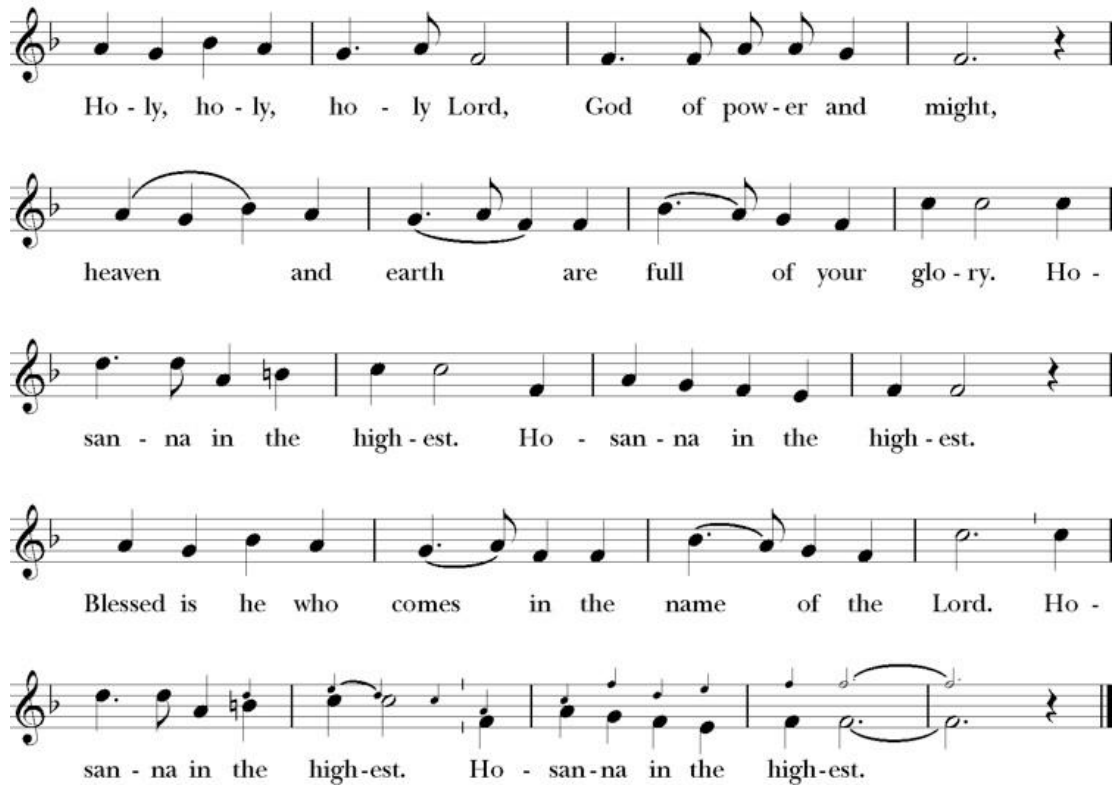
Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

Hymnal S -125



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

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of 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 Savior 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 before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

All:

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, O 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 may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with our patron St. Mark and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

All: AMEN.

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

People and Celebrant sing

Our Father, which 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 debt, as we forgive our debtors. 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.

Fraction Anthem

Let Us Break Bread Together

LEVAS 152

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

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

INVITATION

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.

At St. Mark's Episcopal Church, all desiring a deepening and reaffirming relationship with Christ are invited to come forward for Holy Communion or for a blessing. This is the table not of the Church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love God. Come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ who invites you to be fed and blessed here. For He knows you by name and calls you by name.

Communion will be offered in two kinds. The wine may be received by either sipping the chalice or allowing the Eucharistic Minister to dip your wafer in the wine, so that you may receive by intinction. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest when the chalice reaches you. Communion in one kind (in bread only) is a perfectly valid way to receive the sacrament. Gluten free hosts are available upon request. For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. If you would like to have communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

The Right Hand of God
Glorious is the Name of Jesus

LEVAS 61
LEVAS 63

After Communion, the Celebrant says.

Let us pray. *(All pray)*

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.

THE BLESSING

PROCESSIONAL

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Hymnal 405

DISMISSAL

Priest Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of the Christ.
People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

CLOSING HYMN

Thank You, Lord

Sung by all

*Thank You, Lord (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.
You've Been So Good (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.
You've Been My Friend (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord*

The worship is over. Now the service begins.



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Shaffer, *Celebrant & Preacher*
The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych, *Assisting*
Suzanne Hieserman, *Eucharistic Minister*
Minerva King, *Lector*
Loretta Haskell, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Ginny Grayson, Patricia Gates, Alphonso Grayson, Dana Beecken, *Altar Guild*
Gin Waters, William Bugg *Ushers*
Gin Waters, *Flowers*



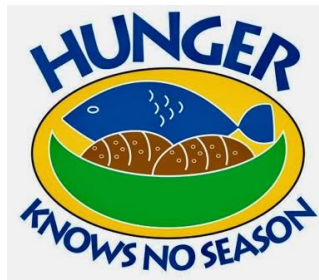
*The Flowers are given by Monica Hammonds in Memory of
Dr. Charles W. Simmons and Janice Forsythe*

Announcements



2025 Stewardship Campaign
September 29 – November 24, 2024

Today we conclude the formal season of our Stewardship Campaign seeking your financial support for St. Mark's in calendar year 2025. If you have not yet turned in a pledge card, please pick one up this morning in the Narthex, fill it out and turn it in.

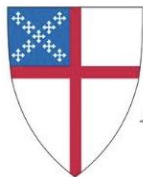


St. Mark's Advent Food Drive

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. - 2 Corinthians 9:7

Hunger knows no season, and many in Charleston need food, especially around the holiday season. We are asking members of St. Mark's to join in an Advent Food Drive to help those in need. During the Advent season, we're asking each member of St. Mark's to daily place in a box at home items which are allowed to be donated and then bring the full box with you to church on Sunday, December 15. We'll then deliver all these boxes to the Charleston Area Senior Center or other worthy charitable organization before Christmas Week.

Allowable items include boxes of cereal, peanut butter, stuffing mix, boxed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, canned tomatoes, canned tuna, dessert mix, jar of applesauce, canned sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned beans, boxed crackers, rice, container of oatmeal, packaged pasta, spaghetti sauce, chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, canned corn, canned mixed vegetables, canned carrots, canned green beans.



*Saint Mark's
Episcopal Church*

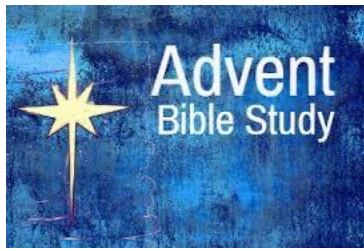
2025 Pictorial Membership Directory

In early 2025 we hope to publish a new Membership Directory, with photos and current contact information included for every active member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. If you did not have your photo taken in or fill out a current membership information form in September 2024 please email a .jpg photo of yourself to Fr. Michael and provide him your name, as you would like it to appear in the directory, as well as your current contact information, including mailing address, email address or addresses, home and cell telephone numbers.

Please reply and provide all requested information to Fr. Michael no later than December 16, 2024.

December 2024 Worship and Events

Regular Sunday morning worship services will be held at 10:00 AM each Sunday during December. On Sunday, December 15 we will hold a special "Lessons & Carols" service, followed by our Annual Parish Holiday party in the Parish Hall. Christmas Eve Service will be held on Tuesday, December 24, beginning at 5:30 PM.



Advent – Seed, Secret, and Not Yet.

Please join us on ZOOM for a three week Advent study – Wednesdays at 7:30. December 4, 11, and 18. Each session will be free-standing. We'll be looking at the upcoming Sunday Gospel readings accompanied by selections from Fleming Rutledge, Karl Rahner, and Caryl Houselander. Facilitated by The Rev. Dr. Jennie Clarkson Olbrych.

Wedding Ring Found

The altar guild found a wedding ring on the floor in one of the pews in front of the pulpit following the Liturgy of Lament and Repentance on November 10, 2024. If it is yours or you know someone who is missing a ring, please contact Alphonso Grayson.

Quarters for Patriot's Villa Residents

Please place quarters in the green bucket in our Narthex which will be contributed to Patriot Villa residents to help them pay for laundry and transportation.

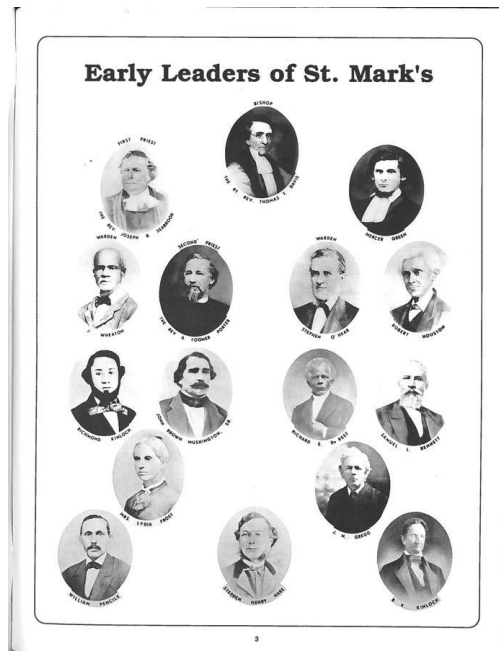
Panorama Newspaper

The Panorama Newspaper which is published in Columbia but covers news throughout South Carolina is available every week in the narthex. Please remember to pick up your copy either on your way in or out of the church.

Altar Flower Donations – Altar Flowers may be donated by signing up for any given Sunday in the Altar Flower Notebook in the church Narthex. Suggested donation is a minimum of \$40.00.

Free parking is available during Sunday Worship Services at Ashley Hall School parking lot, located at the corner of Warren and Smith Streets, only one block from St. Mark's Church.

Parish Office Hours are every Friday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Other times, contact Fr. Michael at 843-830-1220.



Our Honored Heritage

St Mark's Episcopal Church is an historic African American church established in 1865 by free people of color. St. Mark's was home to the Reverend Thaddeus Saltus, the first African American to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in South Carolina in 1882. Although he hoped to become rector, Reverend Saltus's life and ministry were cut short by tuberculosis, dying in 1884. In the spring of 1887 another African American priest, the Reverend John Henry Mingo Pollard, began an active ministry in the Diocese of South Carolina. Reverend Pollard was called to be St. Mark's first African American rector in 1888.

From 1875 to 1885 St. Mark's sought unsuccessfully to become a participant in the Annual Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina but was not admitted due to the racial prejudice of the time. Again, from 1912 to 1915, the place of Black Episcopalians in the diocese was hotly debated, but still, St. Mark's and other Black congregations were denied participation in the Diocesan Convention. It was not until 1965, one hundred years after its founding and ninety years after its first petition to enter into the full life of the Episcopal Church, that St. Mark's was granted participation in the Annual Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina. The history of St. Mark's stands as a strong example of the legacy of slavery, illustrated by the congregation's long struggle to achieve equal representation in the Episcopal Church.

Throughout its history, St. Mark's continued to be a community of faithful Episcopalians striving to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. While continuing to honor and embrace its African American heritage, today St. Mark's is a blend of ethnicities, geographies, socioeconomic backgrounds, abilities and sexual orientations, where everyone is treated with dignity, respect and love.