

**Welcome to  
St. Marks's Episcopal Church**

*Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope*

**The Third Sunday of Lent  
March 23, 2025  
10:00 a.m.**

*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  
Rob Turner, Sr. Warden – Hillery Douglas, Jr. Warden



The 1982 Hymnal, referred to as **Hymnal** and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, referred to as **LEVAS** are found in your pew. **WLP** designates the music comes from the publication *Wonder, Love and Praise*. If **BCP** appears, that is a reference to the red Book of Common Prayer, also found in your pew.

## Opening Proclamation

*Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*

**CHORAL INTROIT**

Humbly in Your Sight

Tiza Pantazi Pinu

**OPENING HYMN**

Forty Days and Forty Nights

**Hymnal 150**

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE ONE

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

*People: His mercy endureth for ever.*

Celebrant: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

*Almighty and most merciful father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.*

Celebrant: The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: *Christ, have mercy on us.***

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy on us.

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: *And with thy spirit.***

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 3:1-15**

Reader: *A reading from the Book of Exodus*

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,  
and this my title for all generations."

Reader: *Here ends the reading.*

## PSALM 63:1-8

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 *Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
that I might behold your power and your glory.*
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 *So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands in your Name.*
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- 6 *When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the night watches.*
- 7 For you have been my helper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 *My soul clings to you; \*  
your right hand holds me fast.*

## NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Reader: *A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians*

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

(Reader: *Here ends the reading.*)

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

What Wondrous Love is This

**Hymnal 439**

## **THE GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9**

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*All: Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.  
*All: Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

## **TRANSITION SONG**

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful**

**Song by Taizé**

**In the Lord I'll be every thankful.  
In the Lord I will 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 Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych

## **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.*

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Intercessor: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Ruth, our Bishop, Michael and Jennie our priests, and our seminarian Shawan, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald our President, those elected to Congress and the Senate, Henry, our Governor and William, our mayor, and all judges and elected officials, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. We invite your personal intercessions at this time, either aloud or in your heart. (Pause, followed by Intercessor Prayers)

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of our Patron St. Mark and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

*The Congregation prays in unison:*

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

#### **THE PEACE**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People: And with thy Spirit..*

#### **SONG**

Surely the Presence of the Lord is In This Place  
*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.*

*Sung by all.*

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **OFFERTORY**

God So Loved the World

Bill Wolaver

#### **HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION**

**Hymnal # 380, verse 3**

#### **The Doxology**

*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.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION – RITE I - EUCHARISTIC PRAYER I

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**People:** *It is meet and right so to do.*

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

***Celebrant and People***

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:***

***Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.***

***Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.***

Celebrant: All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.



And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.*

### Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

## THE INVITATION

*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 dipping your wafer in the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest as you approach the chalice. Communion in one kind (in bread only) is a perfectly valid way to receive the sacrament. Gluten free hosts are available upon request at the communion rail. For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest when approaching the priest. If you would like to have communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.*

## MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Go down, Moses  
My Jesus, I Love Thee

LEVAS 228  
LEVAS 89

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*After Communion, the Celebrant says.*  
Let us pray.

### *Celebrant and People*

*All: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.*

## THE BLESSING

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Great is thy Faithfulness

LEVAS 189

## THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People: Thanks be to God.*

## 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.*

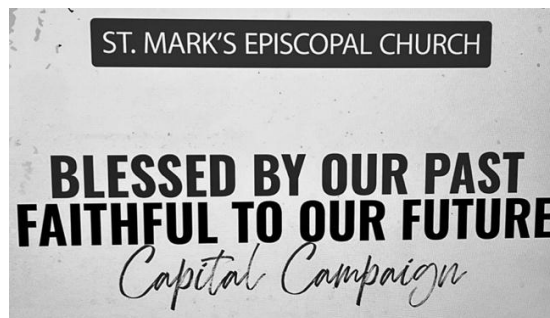
**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:**

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, *Presiding*  
The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych, *Celebrating and Preaching*  
Ellen Hardin, *Crucifer & Eucharist Minister*  
Ellen Hardin, *Lector*  
Ginny Grayson, Patricia Gates, Alphonso Grayson, Dana Beecken, *Altar Guild*  
Gin Waters, *Flowers*  
Angela Hare & Gin Waters, *Ushers*



The Altar adornments are given by Mike and Anita Jefferson  
In Thanksgiving for the birthdays of Anita Jeffers and Vendelle German  
And in memory of Paulette German Cousins

**Announcements**



***“20 in 40” Lenten Season Campaign  
for new sound and live steaming systems***

On March 12, 2025, the vestry approved the purchase and installation of new audio and live stream systems at St. Mark’s. The system will be state of the art and allow us to live fully into the new season of ministry to which we are being called at St. Mark’s.

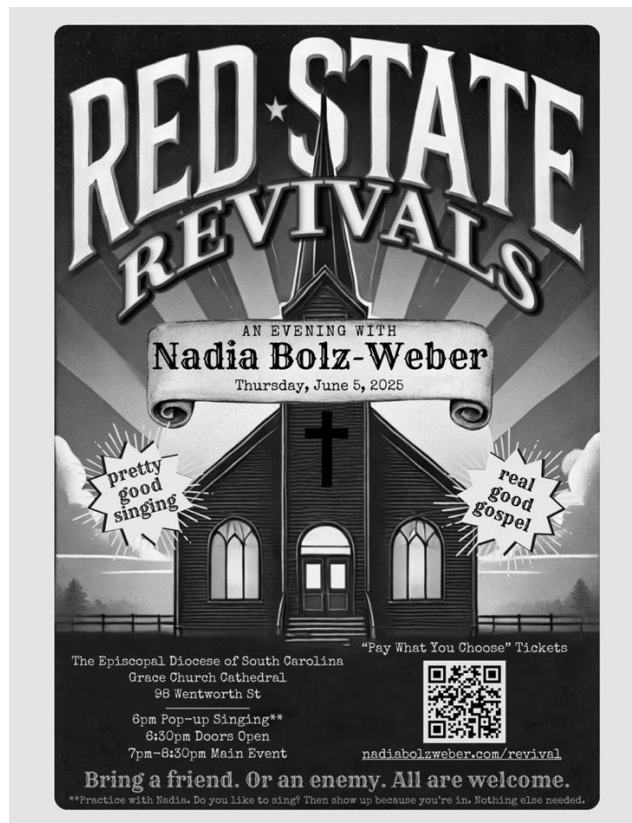
As part of the diocese catalytic commitment to the historically disenfranchised parishes, and St. Mark’s in particular, our bishop has confirmed with me that should we be successful in our “20 in 40” campaign, that the diocese will contribute at least \$50,000.00 to pay for the installation of these systems.

We need to raise \$30,000.00 among ourselves my friends prior to the end of Lent. Marj Kenney-Williams has generously already donated \$10,000.00, so if we raise the additional \$20,000.00, we can hopefully have new systems in place by the time our bishop officially visits St. Mark’s, which I anticipate will be mid-June.

We've already received commitments for approximately \$7,800.00 towards our \$20,000.00 goal. We hope you will contribute before the end of March to this effort, as we need to make a substantial downpayment to materials can be ordered and delivered timely, so that we might complete installation prior to the bishop's visitation. *Please give what you can.* Some may only be able to contribute a few dollars, others thousands of dollars; but we *need everyone to do their part* in order to be successful.

We are doing great things here at the corners of Thomas and Warren Streets in Charleston. As stewards of this sacred place, we owe it to ourselves, those who sacrificed so much for St. Mark's in generations past and to those in generations to come, to live into the vision God has for us. *Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope.*

Please communicate your intentions and commitment to Fr. Michael directly as soon as possible. Call him at (843) 830-1220 or email him at [frmichael@saintmarkschurch.com](mailto:frmichael@saintmarkschurch.com). For any contribution, please note "*20 in 40 Capital Campaign*" in the memo line of a check or designate such in your online gift. If you have any questions, please call me. Michael+



## **Grace Church Cathedral June 5 – 7:00 to 8:30 PM**

The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina is pleased to welcome Nadia Bolz-Weber to Charleston as a stop on her Red State Revivals tour for an evening of singing, prayer and preaching the gospel. Felling called in this moment “not to concede the Christian faith to nationalists,” Bolz-Weber seeks to remind the church what seems more and more important and less and less popular: “humility, curiosity, mercy and hope—the things Jesus of Nazareth yammered on about.”

Nadia Bolz-Weber, an ordained Lutheran Pastor, is coming to Charleston at the invitation of our bishop, so I hope everyone at St. Mark's will support this event. Because of seating requirements,

Grace Church Cathedral will serve as the event location. However, St. Mark's and St. Stephen's have specifically been asked for volunteer support to assist on the evening of the show. Volunteers are requested to be present between 5 pm and 9pm on the date of the event. We need six (6) to eight (8) volunteers to sign up from St. Mark's, so please consider doing so. If you do, notify Fr. Michael. Attendees are invited to pay as they can for a ticket, although the service is free. Registration for the event and sign up to volunteer links are below.

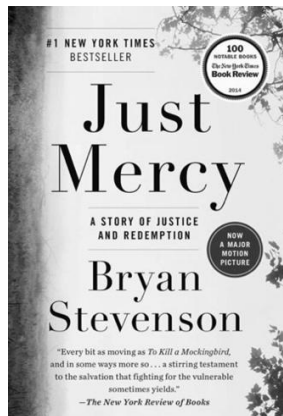
Link for tickets ("pay-as-you-can") is at this link: <https://www.tixtree.com/e/an-evening-with-nadia-bolz-weber-in-charleston-b00600a7914a>

Volunteers are asked to sign up at this link: <https://forms.gle/ThAHRJZtwq1PgqJP7>.

## REGISTER FOR DIOCESAN LEARNING DAY NEXT SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Registration is now open for the Racial Justice & Reconciliation Commission Learning Day, sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, on Saturday, March 29, from 10 am to 3 pm, at the historic Epiphany Church, located at 212 Central Avenue, Summerville, SC. This interactive experience will feature the history of the church built in 1887, and benefactor Catherine Smith Springs, a prominent businesswoman of color. There will be interviews of long-standing parishioners telling in their own words the struggle of acceptance, recognition and being invited to join the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. There will be original artifacts and participants will be invited to ask questions of the speakers to delve into and understand this journey. Lunch will be provided, and the program will move from the parish hall to the Church with closing prayers and the Holy Eucharist. We at St. Mark's need support our brothers and sisters in Christ who remain members of an Historic African American Church.

The cost to attend the event is \$25 and includes lunch. You may register at the link provided in the most recent Diocesan Newsletter published online or by contacting Canon Ramelle McCall.



### Read "Just Mercy" with Fr. Michael during Lent

The book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, can be purchased on Amazon, \$11.78 in paperback, \$4.99 for Kindle version. If you decide to read the book, let Fr. Michael know, as an invitation will be extended in the future to the pilgrims and everyone in our "Three Churches United" who read the book to gather and discuss it.

**Send Prayer List Requests to Fr. Michael and Cheryl.** The St. Mark's Prayer List is being reconstituted. If you have someone you would like added to the Prayer List, please email Fr. Michael directly and Cheryl at [office@saintmarkschurch.com](mailto:office@saintmarkschurch.com).

**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.

**Patriot Point Veterans.** Please support veterans living at Patriot's Point by placing quarters in the green bucket in the Narthex, which can be used by them for laundry, bus fare and other essentials.

**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 St. Mark's 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. In 1956, St. Mark's and the other Black congregations of the Diocese were admitted to Convention but were still segregated from the whole diocesan body. 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 full participation in life 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.

