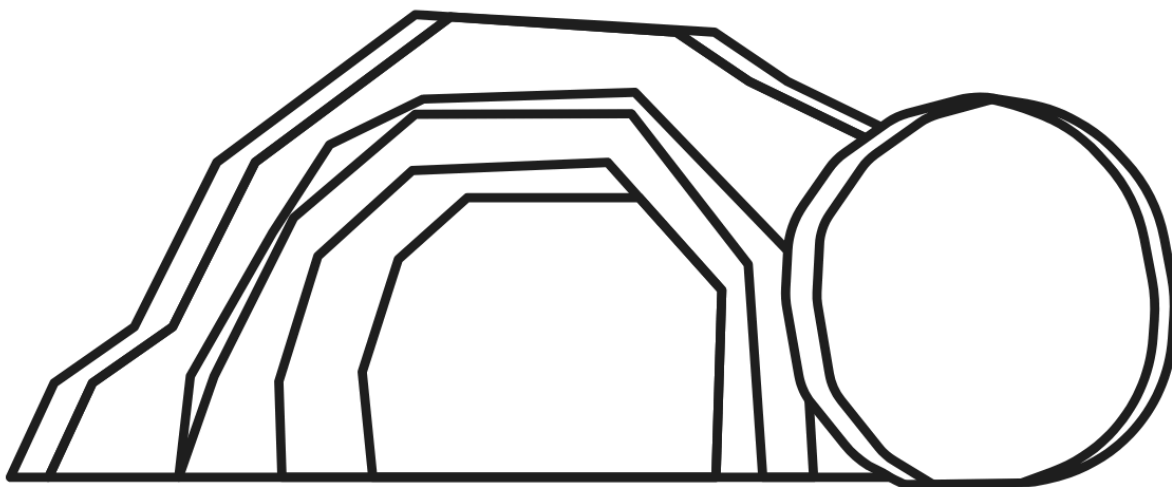


The Fifth Sunday of Easter



April 28, 2024

St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church

Welcome to St. Mark's and St. John's!

Name tags are available. We'd love to make one for you if you do not have one already.

Help yourself to coffee in the "cafe," and feel free to bring it to your pew. We're casual.

We invite children to make themselves at home at our children's table, where there are weekly activity bulletins and crayons.

Our live YouTube broadcast begins at 9:15 am. The link to our YouTube channel is available on our website, stmarksandstjohns.org.

We do not pass an offering plate during the service. If you would like to make a financial gift, you can place it in the plate (by the sign-in binder) or contribute online.

PRELUDE

OPENING MUSIC

“Immortal, Invisible”

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ has risen.

Christ has risen indeed. Alleluia!

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant: 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.**

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

A reading from the book of Acts, the eighth chapter...

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found

himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:24-30

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship
him.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

**For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

**My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:7-21

A reading from the book of First John, the fourth chapter...

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Christ is Alive"

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the

1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for

whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Cindy

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Community of Iona Abbey

**We believe in God
in whom is power and compassion.
We believe in the Creator who gave birth to the universe,
set solar systems dancing into space,
shaped molecules and mountains,
and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.
God’s power topples tyrants,
and brings down walls of separation;
God’s love embodies the tenderness of a mother and father,
encouraging and caring for each of us.**

**We believe in Jesus, born in poverty in an occupied land;
a human being, vulnerable to hunger, thirst, persecution and grief.
He understood the power of love and confronted the powers of evil,
spoke truth with courage and clarity,
forgave his enemies and changed lives.
In his living, dying and rising again he showed
love strong enough to save the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
who sustains, comforts and empowers us,**

**opens the scriptures, opens our minds,
and illuminates earth's darkness.**

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION *Please be seated*
You're invited to light a candle at our prayer table and write your prayer intentions on one of the Prayer Boards during the music.

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE

We give you thanks and praise, O God of creation, for the grandeur of all that you have made, saying

Thank you, God.

For the healing waters of creation, which bring pleasure and health, purity and life,

Thank you, God.

For the richness of soil that covers so much of our earth that we may know your presence more fully as we work to remediate the soil in city lots as we nurture the land.

Thank you, God.

For the soaring birds of the air, the crawling creatures on the earth, the gliding fishes in the seas, for all creatures great and small with whom we share this precious web of life,

Thank you, God.

For your life giving spirit and your promise to always be with us. We pray for those who are experiencing pain, sadness, distress, or uncertainty that you may provide relief to their suffering. We pray especially today for...

Thank you, God.

Celebrant: 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, Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

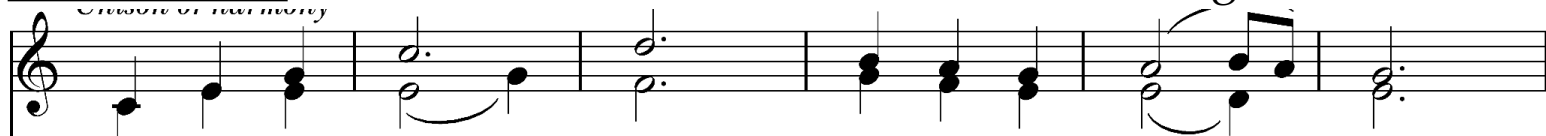
OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant: I appeal to you, brothers and sisters in Christ, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

DOXOLOGY

"Morning has Broken"

Chorus of harmony



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird. _____
like the first dew - fall on the first grass. _____



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word! _____
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass. _____

MUSIC

"Crowded Table"

*Brandi Carlile, Natalie Hemby, and Lori McKenna
Text adapted for worship*

Refrain

I want a church with a crowded table
And a place at the altar for everyone
Let us take on the world while we're fed and able
And bring us back together when the day is done.

If we want a garden we're gonna have to sow the seed
Plant a little happiness - let the roots run deep
If it's love that we give - then it's love that we reap
If we want a garden we're gonna have to sow the seed **(+ Refrain)**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right that we should praise you, God of love, our source
and our fulfillment, for you create all things, and in you we live and
move and have our being. Your wonder is manifest in land and sea

and sky. When the times had at last grown full and the earth had ripened in abundance, you made us in your image for yourself.

And even though we turn from you, again and again you call us to yourself, and in every age, promise liberation. As a parent tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own to rear them in your way of compassionate love. From your own being you sent Jesus among us, incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary our sister and Joseph our brother.

Jesus revealed your care for all you have made. You send forth your Holy Spirit ever giving birth and rebirth to your church.

Now we join hands around your table, and with all creation we sing your hymn of unending love,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is He who comes in the name

of the Lord, of the Lord.

Ho-san-na in the high-

est, ho-san-na in the high-est

To you indeed be glory, almighty God, on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper, he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you; do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

And so, in this sacrament, we celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.**

Therefore, loving God, recalling now Christ's life, death, and resurrection, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon us and this celebration, that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son and be filled with your life and goodness. Strengthen us to do your work, and to be your resurrected body offering hope to the world.

Unite us in Christ and give us your peace. Through your Holy Spirit, burning as a flame, gentle as a dove, may we who receive these gifts live lives of justice, love, and prayer, and be a voice for those who have not been heard. In union with your whole church we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere,
now and forever. Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day 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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with God's goodness.

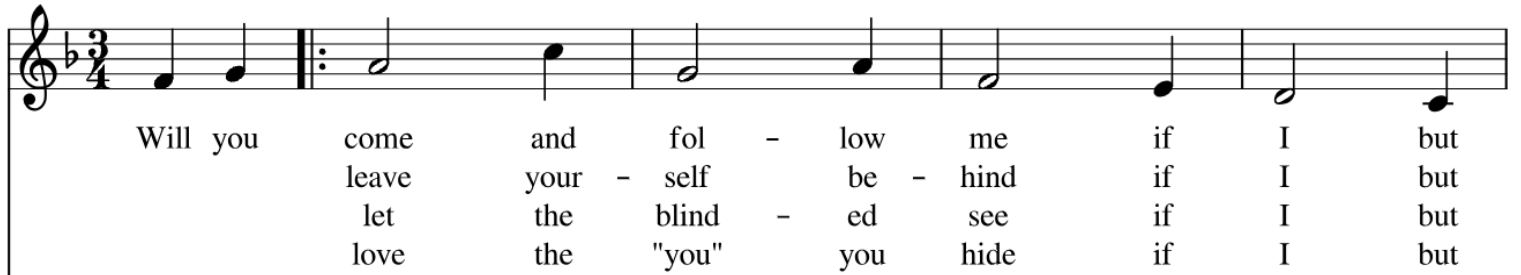
WELCOME TO THE TABLE

ALL are welcome to receive communion. Please be seated.

An usher will direct you to the center aisle. Gluten-free wafers are available. We offer both the common cup/ individual glasses (grape juice is also available). We ask that you refrain from intinction (dipping your wafer into the common cup). If you would like to receive a blessing instead of communion just let Pastor Cindy know.

COMMUNION MUSIC

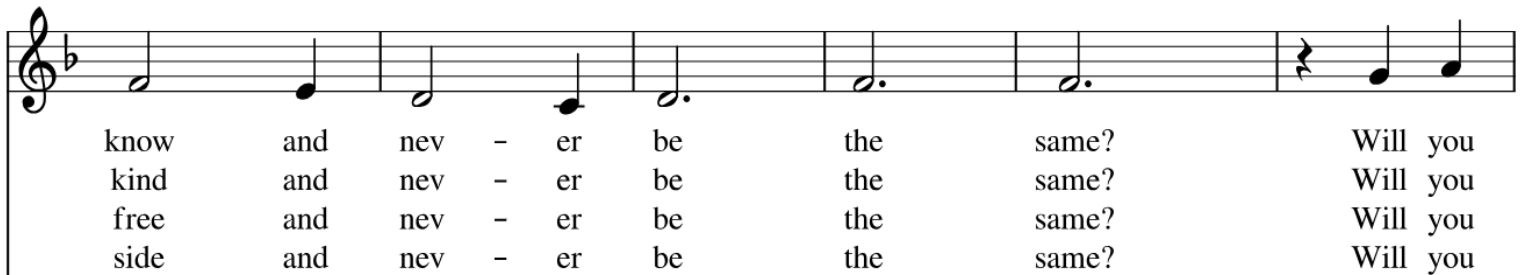
"The Summons"




Will you come and fol - low me if I but
leave your - self be - hind if I but
let the blind - ed see if I but
love the "you" you hide if I but



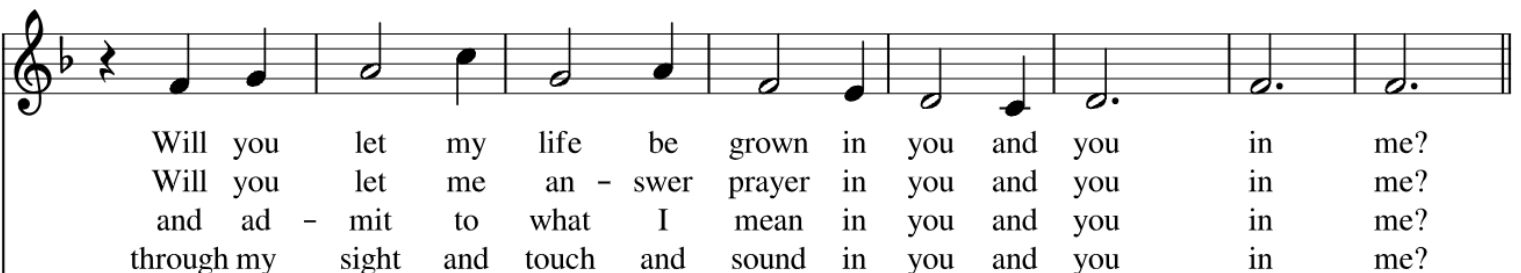
call your name? Will you go where you don't
call your name? Will you care for cruel and
call your name? Will you set the pris - oners
call your name? Will you quell the fear in -



know and nev - er be the same? Will you
kind and nev - er be the same? Will you
free and nev - er be the same? Will you
side and nev - er be the same? Will you



let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known?
risk the hos - tile stare _____ should your life at - tract or scare?
kiss the lep - er clean, _____ and do such as this un - seen,
use the faith you've found _____ to re - shape the world a - round,



Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"THE BLESSING" (Aotearoa)

adapted for SMSJ liturgy - original music and words by
Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick

The Lord bless you and keep you,
make Her face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn Her face toward you and give you peace. (2x)

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

May Her favor be upon you and a thousand generations
And your family and your children and their children,
and their children.

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

FINAL BLESSING

God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The blessing of God Almighty, the Holy Trinity, bless you and raise you to new life, both now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia. Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Worship Leaders for April & May

Date	First Lesson and Psalm	Second Lesson & Usher	Prayers of the People & Greeter
4/28	Theresa H.	Steve F.	Sharon K.
5/5	Mike F.	Heather G.	Nancy W.
5/12	Deb S.	Joe C.	Michele H.
5/19	Nancy W.	Theresa H.	Steve F.
5/26	Sharon K.	Mike F.	Mary E.

Worship Leaders for April & May

Date	Common Cup	Single Cup Tray	Collect Cups
4/28	Bob C.	Nancy W.	Mary E.
5/5	Mary E.	Mike F.	Sharon K.
5/12	Theresa H.	Tom F.	Michele H.
5/19	Joe C.	Deb S.	Terri C.
5/26	Heather G.	Bob C.	Dave E.

Weekly Opportunities for Worship & Service

Worship with Eucharist - Sundays at 9:15 am

Food Shelf Distribution - Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Volunteers needed to sign guests in and distribute food. Sign up on our website at stmarksandstjohns.org/volunteer.

Announcements

Tuesday @ 10am **E.D.E.N. Garden Bible Study** begins Tuesday, May 14th. If you would like to be part of the leadership team contact Pastor Cindy.

Last year we postponed **Confirmation/Affirmation/Reception** classes due to Bishop Lane canceling his visit. We have been assured that Bishop Kara will be scheduled for the Fall. If you are interested in participating in these classes please let Pastor Cindy know.

Tickets for the **Beer Tasting** are on sale now! Get yours at bit.ly/SMSJBeer2024. The event will be Friday, May 10th at 6:30 pm.

Our next **Community Garden Work Day** will be held Saturday, May 25th at 10 am. Stay tuned for where we will be working!

Help is needed to set-up and staff Farm Stand this summer! We will be open for the season on Saturdays, July 6-August 31. Please let Maria know if you can lend a hand to this important mission program.

A wonderful seminarian and Postulant for ordination in the diocese is looking for some summer housing during her CPE unit from the end of May through mid-August. If you have a spare room or are looking for a house sitter this summer and are willing to host her, please let Pastor Cindy or Maria know.

Upcoming Events @ SMSJ

Beer Tasting Fundraiser - Fri. May 10 @ 6:30 pm

EDEN Garden Volunteer Day - Sat. May 25 @ 10 am

EDEN Farm Stand begins - Sat. July 6 @ 10 am

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Are we missing your information? Send us an email at admin@stmarksandstjohns.org so we can add it and celebrate your special day with you!

Birthdays	Anniversaries
Heather G. - April 15	<i>Celebrating an anniversary in April? Let us know so we can celebrate you!</i>



St. Mark's & St. John's Staff

Rector: *The Rev'd Cynthia Rasmussen*

crasmussen@stmarksandstjohns.org

Operations and Missions Director: *Maria Hartz*

mhartz@stmarksandstjohns.org

Musician: *Andy Lacey*

Audio and Video Producer: *Robert Thornton*

Deacon Emeritus: *The Rev'd Mike Finn*

wetlandnomad88@gmail.com

St. Mark's & St. John's Vestry

Co-Wardens: Walt Snyder & Sharon Kowalski

Vestry Members: Bob Caruso (Clerk), Heather Gilfoy, Ella Gruel,
Theresa Harte, Nancy Ramsay, Ginnie Schindler, and Nancy Willer

Diocesan Delegates: Nancy Ramsay, Ella Gruel, and Deb Snyder

Alternate Diocesan Delegate: Terri Censak

Treasurer: Michele Holmes

Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition Representative

Terri Censak