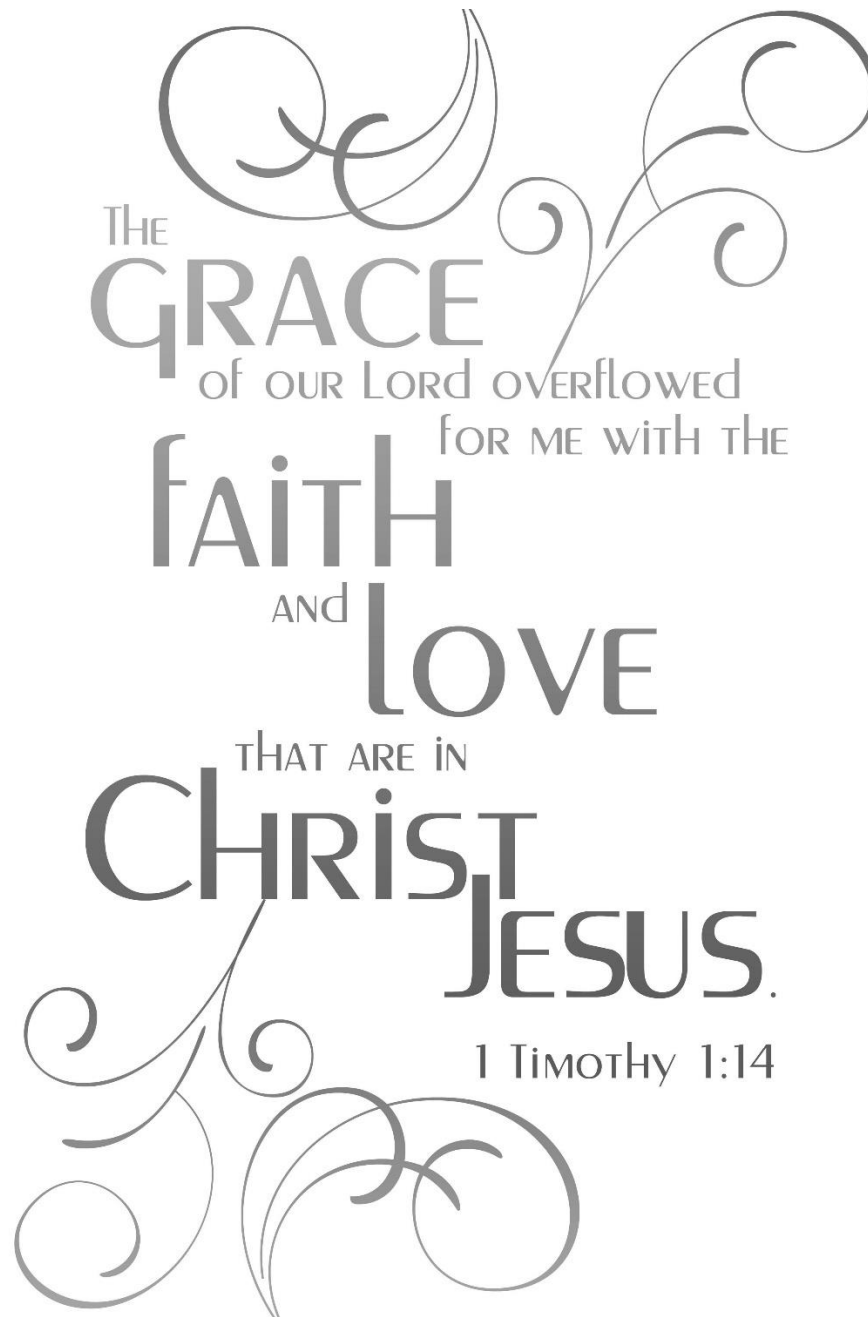


*St. Mark's Episcopal Church
75 Cold Spring Road
Westford, Massachusetts, 01886*



September 14, 2025
Rev. William Bergmann, *Officiant*
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*
Usher/ Reader: Jean Ellis and Tom Ellis
Chalice Bearer: Elaina Carroll

ENTRANCE HYMN: *There's a wideness in God's mercy (Beecher)* (H 470)

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God:
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People **And blessed be his kingdom,
 now and forever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP 355)

GLORIA: S 277 *Glory to God (Hurd)* (BCP p. 356)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Exodus.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-11

Remain seated.

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, *
and cleanse me from my sin.
³For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
⁴Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
⁵And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
¹⁰Hide your face from my sins, *
and blot out all my iniquities.
¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's First letter to Timothy.

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN: *God the Omnipotent! (Russia) (H 569)*

All stand.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

All stand.

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

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

THE SERMON – REV. WILLIAM BERGMANN

THE CREED (BCP p. 358)

All stand.

**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 (BCP p. 359)

All remain standing.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and
humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe, Bishop Julia Whitworth, Rev. Will Bergmann, Rev. Melissa Buono, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations
of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble,
That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray in a special way for those on the St. Mark's Prayer List, namely:

Anna Oliverson, Susan and Kate, Kate and family, Jack Winter, Deanna Teal, Ben, Bob, Orvil, Margaret Bateman, Derek, Evie and family Beth, Brendan and Corine, Jennifer and Kate, Elizabeth, Jane, Lisa, Pamela, Brooke, David Andrew, Sandra, Charlotte and Bob, Ross, Lorenz, Michele Eberle, Lindy, Ted and Kathy, Andrew Ward, Christine, Pam Mark, John Gallacher, Beth, Janet Andrews, Jim and Cheryl, Marmi Sheehan, Marcia and Ralph, Shelly Wadsworth, Sabrina and family, Marion Perault, Sue Sweeney, Abbey & Sean Meaden, Albert Caproni and his family, Sherrie Carroll, and Bob Berg and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts....(pause)

We pray for those who have died, especially:

Betty MacNamara, Joseph Gesualdo, Brian, Peter, Timmy Howard, Bob Shaw, Doug, John Murphy, Ian Corker, Patrica Hughes, Anne Whipple Lawson, Andres Martinez.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray together the Prayer of the Parish:

Almighty & Everliving God, Ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this Parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 359)

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**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.**

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.

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)

All stand.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.
Psalm 50:14

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (BCP p. 361)

THE DOXOLOGY V. 3 *From all that dwell below the skies (Old 100th) (H 380)*

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	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.

For with your co-eternal Son and Holy Spirit, you are one God, one Lord,
in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Being:
and we celebrate the one and equal glory of you,
O Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS: S-129 Holy, Holy, Holy

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

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,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

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 [] and] all your
saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and
daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all
creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our
salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and
forever. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM: ALLELUIA S - 154

INVITATION (BCP p. 364)

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [*Amen.*]

COMMUNION HYMN: *Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing (Alles ist an Gottes Segen)* (H 334)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**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.**

BLESSING (BCP p. 366)

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: *Praise, my soul, the King of heaven (Lauda anima)* (H 410)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

September 14th to September 21st

Sunday, September 14th

10 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rev. William Bergmann

Monday, September 15th

7 p.m.: Vestry Meeting. Contact Scott Hilton if you wish to join

Thursday, September 18th

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: St. Mark's office open

Sunday, September 21st

10 a.m.: Morning Prayer led by Jean Ellis, Paul Ackroyd, and Herb Elliott

5 p.m.: Dinner Church in William's Hall

Dinner Church: Sunday, September 21, 2025, Theme: Prayers for Community

Looking for a different kind of church experience?

Join us for Dinner Church—a warm, welcoming evening where we gather around the table to share a meal, prayers, and conversation. Whether you're exploring faith for the first time or have been on the journey for years, all are welcome. Inspired by the early church, this is a space for questions, stories, and connection.

No pressure. Just real people, real faith, and a shared meal.

This month, we will be praying for and discussing the communities that we belong to.

Free! (Donations are welcome, but not required)

Contact Judie Hilton if you plan to attend at familyministry@st-mark.org.

St. Paul's Soup Kitchen Fundraiser - LAST CALL

The last day to register for the St. Paul's Soup Kitchen fundraising gala is Saturday, September 13. The fundraiser is on September 20 in honor of the 30th anniversary of the soup kitchen's founding. It will include dinner, music, entertainment, and a raffle. Get tickets today or donate: <https://givebutter.com/ZhnKMi>. Thanks to all who support this important outreach. ~ Paul

Call for nominations for MICAHA Awards:

The Merrimack Valley Project (MVP) has announced that the 2025 MICAHA Awards Dinner & Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, November 9, 2025, from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM in Lawrence, MA (venue TBD). Each year, MVP acknowledges local heroes who live out Micah's words at its annual MICAHA Awards Celebration (**Ministry In Community Action Honoree**).

“And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

If you would like to recommend someone as this year's St. Mark's recipient, please contact Eric Kintner, Paul Ackroyd, or any member of the Vestry.

**Would you like to learn about the symbols of the sacred elements used in the Eucharist?
The Altar Guild is a place to learn. Join Us**

The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers to join them in this critical ministry. The Altar Guild prepares the altar for weekly services, attends to all the linens, sets up & breaks down for a Baptism, Funeral, Wedding, Bishop's visits, etc. They polish the brass & silver. They change out altar linens at each liturgical season, together with decorating the church. Each member has a different reason for joining the Altar Guild, but most of all, we are dedicated to supporting each other and the parish in our spiritual journeys. Please contact Brenda Martin or Elaina Carroll if you are interested. You can also email secretary@st-mark.org.

Make your voice heard. Weekly ICE Protests on Wednesdays.

The grassroots organization Bearing Witness @ ICE (multiple links on Google) is continuing protests in front of the ICE detention center in Burlington (immediately behind the Mall) every Wednesday, 11 AM-1 PM. Attendance is now typically 500 and growing. Several St. Mark's parishioners attend every week. If you're interested in carpooling, please contact Eric Kintner.

Another worthwhile resource for resisting ICE in many different ways is LUCE:
<https://www.lucemass.org>

Theology at the Tavern: Wednesday, September 24 @ 5 p.m.

Theology at the Tavern is a supper and theological discussion event sponsored by Trinity Chapel. Enter through the back, lower level of the Bull Run restaurant, 215 Great Road in Shirley. This month's topic is Jesus as the ROCK. All viewpoints are welcome. The number of people attending is flexible, but please contact Meredith at TrinityChapelShirley@gmail.com to let her know to expect you.

Community Christmas Chorus to Begin Rehearsals

All singers, teens and adults, are invited to join Community Christmas Chorus, a group that has been presenting a concert of Christmas songs to benefit the Westford Food Pantry since 2006. A Meet and Greet, which will include registration and music pick up, will be held on Sun., Sept. 28 at 7:00 pm at First Parish Church. Dues are \$30 a person / \$50 a couple. Rehearsals will be held on Sunday evenings at 7:30 at First Parish, beginning October 5. The concert will be on Sun., December 14 at 7:00 pm at First Parish. For further information, please call Jeanne Materman at 978-692-8416.

St. Mark's News

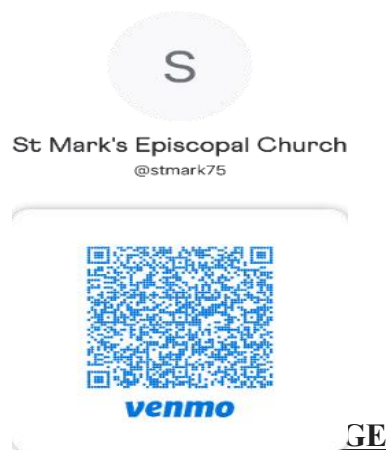
Office Hours - Irina and/or Rev. Bergmann will be in the office on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To schedule an office appointment, please email secretary@st-mark.org or Rev. Bergmann at wcbgrm2n@gmail.com or call (978) 692-7849 and leave a voice message. Thank you.

The next Vestry Meeting is on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Scott Hilton if you would like to join.

Ongoing Ministries

St. Mark's Bible Study meets every other week on Wednesdays at a local restaurant to discuss the lectionary readings for the week. New members are welcome! If you'd like to join, e-mail Herb Elliott at herb.elliott@cheza.com, and he will add you to the email distribution and send you the readings.

Pastoral Care: Would you like to receive communion? Need prayers for healing? Need support or assistance? Would you like to speak with a priest? Please email Rev. Will Bergmann at wcbgrm2n@gmail.com and Herb Elliott, our Pastoral Care team leader at herb.elliott@cheza.com. Alternatively, you can call 978-501-8479. You can also use the "Request Pastoral Visit" button on St. Mark's website.



The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann, wcbgrm2n@gmail.com, 978-501-3393

SENIOR WARDEN

Scott Hilton, wscotthilton@gmail.com, Cell #: (978) 302-1088

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Lee Yezek: lyezek@gmail.com

VESTRY MEMBERS

Michael O'Hare (Jr. Warden), Joan O'Hare (Treasurer), Ellen Tremblay (Clerk), Paul Ackroyd (At-Large), Chrissy Hemingway (Rental program and Pre-School Representative), Melissa Dewing, Brenda Martin, Mahiro Jilesen.

St. Mark's Website: www.st-mark.org

Email: secretary@st-mark.org

Phone: (978) 692-7849

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/stmarkwestford

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEcL-R4RICNJs0MsDmsJppQ>