

GOD'S INVITATION

1

Step into Community



On the traditional land of the Semiahmoo

the Parish of St. Mark
OCEAN  PARK

January 18, 2026

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany



Welcome!

We are so glad you have come to St. Mark's today!

In this place we do two primary things: we give thanks to God and pray for the world. If there is something on your heart you need to share with God, this is the right place to share it.

You are God's Beloved Child, and you belong **here**.



This morning in worship...

Today, as part of our Year of Invitation, we begin a sermon series called **God's Invitation**. God has invited each and everyone of us to be part of the healing of this world. Today, we consider God's invitation to **Step into Community**. We are not alone in this world, and neither should we keep God's community to ourselves. As Jesus went around building community, so, to, do we.

The altar flowers are given this week by Jef and Shannon Poulsen to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jef's brother Jim Poulsen. To dedicate flowers, please sign up on the flower chart in the hall.

Today's Scripture

From Introductions to the Lessons by Bill Bennett.

Isaiah 49:1-7 Despite the trials of Exile In Babylon the prophet says the mission of the servant is a mission by Israel to all nations.

I Corinthians 1:1-9 Paul had spent eighteen months in Corinth. Now staying in Ephesus, he sends a letter of greeting to the new Corinthian Christians.

John 1:29-42 The Baptist recognises Jesus as 'the Lamb of God.' The call of Andrew and Peter follows.

Junior Church

Children will gather after the opening songs for a commissioning and then return for communion. All of our staff and volunteers have had a criminal record check and have been approved for ministry with vulnerable people. **Teens** that are interested in volunteering as a helper or in any Sunday service ministry role all are welcome to reach out to Pastor Sarah.

Coffee Hour

Please gather in the hall for coffee and refreshment following the service.

Next Week: January 25

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

God's Invitation: Walk with Jesus

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18;
Matthew 4:12-23

The Reverend David Taylor preaches.

**GOD'S
INVITATION**



the Gathering of the Community

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.

Sanctuary

John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true; with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Before the Throne of God

Charitie Lees Bancroft

**Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea:
a great High Priest, whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.**

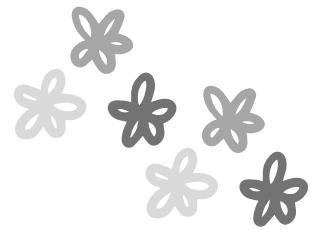
**When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look, and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the Just, is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.**

**Behold him there! the risen Lamb!
my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!
One with my Lord, I cannot die;
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God.**

Redeemer of Israel,
you called us from before our birth to follow in your ways: meet us in our searching and turn our eyes and hearts to the one who gives his life for the world; through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Amen.

Commissioning of the Children

We have a wonderful program for your child this morning. They will return for Communion. Please note that all our children's workers have had a criminal record check and are approved by the Diocese of New Westminster to work with vulnerable people.



The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you!

the Proclamation of the Word

We have large-print versions of the Scripture available for those who need one. Please ask a greeter for one.

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah (49:1-7).

Listen for God's Word.

Our hearts are open.

Psalm 40

the Reverend David Taylor (verses), Henry L. Gilmour (chorus)

The choir sings the verses:

When we were feeling all alone, all alone,
sick in our hearts and in our minds and our bones,
we looked up to heaven with a heavy groan,
when we were feeling all alone, all alone.

The congregation sings,

**You brought us out of the miry clay,
you set our feet on the rock to stay;
you put a song in our soul today,
and now we can sing, hallelujah.**

Now we are standing up on high, up on high,
grateful for exiting the valley of sighs.

Op'ning up our mouths, we hear a song arise
now we are standing up on high, up on high.

God, we're committed to your will, to your will;
loving our neighbours with our word and our skill.
Though we still might stumble up and down life's hills,
God, we're committed to your will, to your will.

Paul's First Letter to the
Corinthians (1:1-9).

Listen for God's Word.

Our hearts are open.

Alleluia

Jerry Sinclair

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ

according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

John 1:29-42

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

S.T.E.P. Into Community

S.

T.

E.

P.



The Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary; who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; who descended to the dead; who, on the third day, rose again; who ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; who will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

While we have chiefly come to give thanks to God, our second purpose for gathering is to intercede for the world. We know that "the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

The Confession & Absolution

Almighty 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 neighbours 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 Celebration of the Eucharist

Please be seated as we gather our offering to present to God. You can give using an envelope, by signing up to our Pre-Authorized Debit program, or by using the terminal in the foyer. **Today we use a Eucharistic Prayer 2 in the Book of Alternative Services, page 196.**

Common Praise 430

**Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The priest continues in prayer.

Holy Holy Holy Lord

Peter Scholtes

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow'r and might.

Heaven and earth are filled

with your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, In the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes

in God's holy name.

Hosanna in the highest.

The priest continues in prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

the Right Reverend Gordon Light

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your
name, your kingdom come, your will be
done, on earth as in heaven. Give us
today 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 for ever. Amen.**

God of promise, you prepare
a banquet for us in your kingdom.

**Happy are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.**

The gifts of God for the Children of God.
Thanks be to God.

All are invited to receive Communion.

If you would like to learn more about baptism, please connect with the minister.
Prayer for healing is offered during communion on the right side of the sanctuary.

Common Praise 73

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless -
and we, though many,
throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

**Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more.**

**Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.**

**Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all.**

When We Are Living
Anonymous & Roberta Escamilla;
trans. John L. Bell

**When we are living, we are in the Lord,
and when we're dying, we are in the Lord;
for in our living and in our dying
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

**Each day allows us to decide for good,
loving and serving as we know we should;
in thankful giving, in hopeful living,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

**Sometimes we sorrow,
other times embrace,
sometimes we question
everything we face;
yet in our yearning is deeper learning;
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

**Till earth is over may we always know
love never fails us: God has made it so.
Hard times will prove us, never remove us;
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Traditional

**I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.**

**Tho' none go with me, still I will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.**

**The world behind me,
the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.**

Announcements

Glory to God,
whose power, working in us, can do
infinitely more than we can ask or
imagine. Glory to God from generation
to generation, in the Church and in
Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Common Praise 482

**Come and journey with a Saviour
who has called us from our birth,
who has washed us in the waters,
and who loved us on the earth.**

**Come and journey, come and journey
with a Saviour who has come.
We are all God's sons and daughters;
in the Spirit we are one.**

**Come and journey, journey inward,
come and seek him deep within,
where he meets us in our living,
in our striving and our sin.**

**Come and journey, journey outward,
telling others of his name,
telling others of his glory,
of his cross and of the shame.**

**Come and journey, journey outward,
where that cross calls us to care,
where injustice and where hunger
and the poor call us to share.**

**Come and journey, journey upward,
Sing his praises, offer prayer.
In the storm and in the stillness
find his presence everywhere.**

**Come and journey, journey onward;
all our gifts we now shall bring
to the building of a city
that is holy, Christ its King**

Go in peace to live the gospel,
extending God's invitation to all.
Thanks be to God.

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Financial Support

We are grateful for your stewardship of this place through your tithes and offerings. They ensure that St. Mark – Ocean Park will be a centre and a light to the community for generations to come.

If you would like to become a regular steward of the ministry of this place, please fill out a welcome card and give it to the greeter, or the priest.

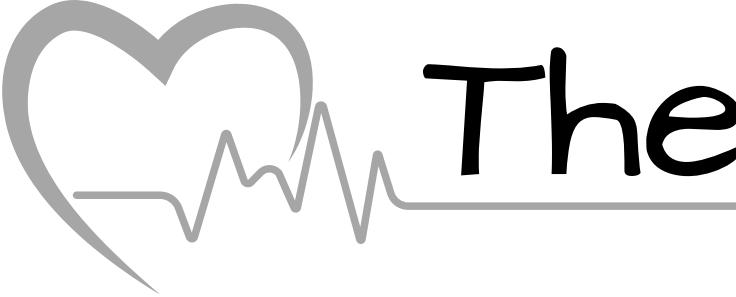
Donations can be made by **cash or cheque** (made out to the Parish of St. Mark – Ocean Park),

by **Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD)**, at the **Electronic Donation Station (EDS)** in the foyer (please ask the usher for assistance), by **e-Transfer** at

stmark.op.treasurer@gmail.com, or through **CanadaHelps** on our website.

If you would like donation **envelopes**, please connect with the office.

All donations will receive a tax-receipt in February of the following year.



The Pulse

Children Youth & Family Ministry

Sunday Junior Church Program

Come and explore the Gospel with us!

Group 1: Grades K to 7

Group 2: Grades 8-12

A sensory space is available for all those who would like to use it.

Youth Group Fridays

Grades 8 - 12, 7 - 9 pm

All are welcome!

email yministryrsvp@gmail.com with any inquiries.



The Lunch Basket is given this week by Mildred Marsden to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving to God for the many blessings in her life.



Prayer Chain & Sunday Intercessions

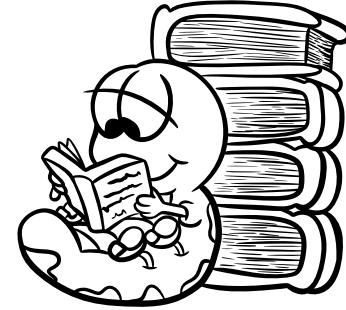
If you, or someone you know is in need of prayer, please connect with **Lynne** at lynneh1@telus.net. She will share your request with a community of faithful intercessors!

To have a name mentioned in the Sunday Intercessions, please write their name on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary, connect with **Michael** at michaeleklaverrealtor.ca, or contact the office.

Library News

Tea with Elephants: A Suitcase Sisters Novel by Robin Gunn

Ever since they met as teenagers volunteering at a conference center in Costa Rica 20 years ago, Fern Espinoza and Lily Graden have shared a close friendship. They can hardly believe it when their teen dream of traveling to Africa together becomes a reality. It's the trip of a lifetime--but life sure isn't what they thought it would be back when they were young.



News & Events

This week at the Parish

Tuesday	Guild Meeting 2pm
Wednesday	Holy Communion, 10 am Saavy Seniors 1pm
Thursday	Contemplative Prayer 7 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm
Friday	Sr. Youth Group 7:00 pm

SOUPER SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK !!

Your Community Outreach Ministry is back in the kitchen!

BUTTERNUT SQUASH is the soup for the month
\$10.00 per Litre and
\$5.00 ½ Litre.

All the funds raised will go to the Community Outreach Ministry.



SOUP JAR ALERT

Please return all soup jars to the kitchen.
Souper Sunday is coming!

INVITATION TO LADIES

The Ladies Guild would like to invite you to our meeting on Tuesday, **January 20th at 2pm**. Our guest speaker will be Father Dara. Please RSVP to lindaodee@hotmail.com. We look forward to seeing you.

Spiritual Practice Workshops

1st Sunday of the Month at **7pm**
\$20 registration fee

Upcoming Workshops:

February 1st

The Spiritual Practice of **Self Examination** with Pastor Sarah.



You can recycle your **beverage containers** and automatically credit St. Mark's account at Return-It Express locations

Bag Your Containers in a sealed, clear bag. Find the Express kiosk located on site. Use the church phone number to log in 604 535 8841 & Print your labels, label each bag. Scan the labels on your bags with the scanner at the Express kiosk and hand in.

Serving God at St. Mark's

This year do you want to express your spiritual gifts of service, speaking, singing, administrating, or helping in any other way? Consider some of these opportunities at the Parish!



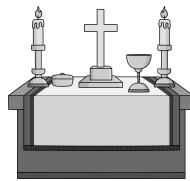
The Choir

practices every Thursday evening and supports the congregation in music. **Talk to Kerry or one of the members** to learn how to join!



Coffee Hour

ensures our community is well fed and juiced! **Talk to one of the coffee servers** to learn how you can help!



Altar Guild

makes this holy place beautiful and ready for God's children to receive bread and wine.

Ask David how to join!



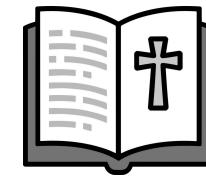
Flower Ministry

The Flower Ministry is looking for additional volunteers to help deliver flowers from the altar after the 10am Sunday service to members of our parish. This is a wonderful way to share care and connection within our church community. If you are interested or would like more information, please let us know. **Reply to lindaodee@hotmail.com.**



Greeters

are teams of people who offer the first welcome to folk on a Sunday morning. If you want your smile to be the first thing people see when they arrive, **David will connect you to the leaders!**



Readers

proclaim the great writings of Holy Scripture so that our hearts are filled with the knowledge of God's Love. **David can help you connect to the leader if you want to join this team!**

the Prayer Corner



Developing a Spirituality of Invitation

How to Invite Someone to the Community

Did you know that God is forming a community whose mission is to welcome people from every nation, culture, and language? It's one of God's antidotes to the poison of sin and evil that divide and diminish us. God opens his arms to all his children and invites us into a single human family of justice, peace, and joy, with Jesus as its head. Your neighbour, your family, your co-workers — they're included. They just might not know it yet. And those of us who do know are called to share that invitation. **Here's how.**

1

Listen

The people in your life have a variety of needs. Some are thirsty for **friendship**. Some are hungry for **meaning** to their life. Some are craving inner **peace**. Some are **sad** or **angry** about what is **happening in the world**. Our job is to listen to what the people in our lives need, and respond with personalized invitations.

2

Personalize the Invitation

If you hear that someone in your life is anxious about the state of the world, say to them, **"I am too. This is why I go to church. It gives me an opportunity to pray for the world and consider what my role in the world is. Why don't you come with me sometime?"**

If someone is looking for friendship, say to them, **"I am part of a wonderful community that meets socially. Why don't you come with me some time?"**

Looking for peace?: **"I feel so much better after I listen to the music at church. Why don't you come with me some time?"**

Daily Bible Readings

Monday John 21:15-22
Tuesday John 3:16-21

Wednesday John 3:22-36
Thursday John 4:1-15

Friday John 4:16-26
Saturday John 4:27-42



the Parish of St. Mark - Ocean Park
STMARKBC.ORG

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9am to 2pm

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