

The mission of the Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul is
to worship God,
to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ,
to serve the world for which Christ died,
to educate and nurture our community,
and welcome all.

Staff

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Vestry:

Chris Asmussen (‘28)	Julia Bates (‘28)
Kathryn Bruce, <i>Evangelism/Communication</i> (‘27)	John Gatta, <i>Finance</i> (‘26)
Cheryl Lankhaar, <i>Parish Life</i> (‘27)	Rachel Lynch, <i>Univ. & Comm. Relations</i> (‘27)
Neil Patterson, <i>Christian Formation</i> (‘26)	Mary Priestley, <i>CAC</i> (‘26)
Paul Richaud (‘28)	

Andrea Sanders, *Clerk*
Beth Wiley, *Treasurer*

Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul
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The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

January 4, 2026

Welcome to this morning's service of worship!

Restrooms are available in Claiborne Parish House,
the building directly behind the church.

Nursery care is available during both services (more information on Announcement insert).

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Prelude

Hymn 92 (*blue book*): “On this day the earth shall ring”

Personent hodie

Opening Acclamation

Prayer Book (*red*) page 355

Gloria in Excelsis S280:

Robert Powell (b. 1932)

Collect of the Day (*insert*)

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14(*insert*)

Psalms 84 (*Spoken at 8:30; sung at 11:00.*)



1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O | Lord of | hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living | God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may | lay her | young; *
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King | and my | God.

3 Happy are they who dwell | in your | house! *
they will always be | praising | you.

4 Happy are the people whose | strength is | in you! *
whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' | way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a | place of | springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with | pools of | water.

6 They will climb from | height to | height, *
and the God of gods will reveal him- | self in | Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, | hear my | prayer; *
hearken, O | God of | Jacob.
8 Behold our defen- | der, O | God; *
and look upon the face of | your A- | nointed.
9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in | my own | room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents | of the | wicked.
10 For the Lord God is both | sun and | shield; *
he will give | grace and | glory;
11 No good thing will the | Lord with- | hold *
from those who walk | with in- | tegrity.
12 O | Lord of | hosts, *
happy are they who put their | trust in | you!

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a*(insert)*
Sequence Hymn 128: “We three kings of Orient are” *Three Kings of Orient*
Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15,19-23 *(insert)*
Sermon The Rev. Betty Carpenter
Nicene Creed page 358
Prayers of the People, Form I page 383
The Peace page 360
Announcements
Offertory Hymn 109: “The first Nowell the angel did say” *The First Nowell*
The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B) page 367
Presentation of Food for the Community Action Committee

V. The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord;
R. And you give them their food in due season.
Let us pray (in unison): Almighty God, we offer this food in obedience to your command
that we love our neighbors as ourselves, and that together we may know the fruits of faith,
hope, and charity. Grant that as bodies are fed, so might spiritual hunger be satisfied as
well through your Son Jesus Christ, who is the Bread of Life. AMEN.

Sanctus: S-130
The Lord’s Prayer (Contemporary)

Our Father in heaven,	as we forgive those
hallowed be your Name,	who sin against us.
your kingdom come,	Save us from the time of trial,
your will be done,	and deliver us from evil.
on earth as in heaven.	For the kingdom, the power,
Give us today our daily bread.	and the glory are yours,
Forgive us our sins	now and for ever. Amen.

At the Breaking of the Bread: Hymnal, S-164

At Communion:
All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. Anyone may come forward to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms across your chest. Gluten-free wafers are available; simply ask the priest. For the sake of public health, please drink from the chalice or decline it by crossing your arms across your chest.

Sending Forth of Eucharistic Visitors *(when needed)*
(in unison) In the name of this parish, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ’s body and blood.
We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

Postcommunion Prayer page 366
Hymn 517: “How lovely is thy dwelling place” *Brother James’ Air*
Blessing
Dismissal
Postlude

The flowers at the altar today are given to the greater Glory of God by Dr. Joe Wehrmeyer and Cheryl Lankhaar in celebration of their 36th wedding anniversary on Jan. 6th and in thanksgiving for their beloved daughter, Katie and son-in-law, Steven. Also in thanksgiving for Dan Amundson and Cara Kitzrow for their hard work and dedication to our parish.

Altar Guild — Lynda Gotko, Barbara Prunty
Bread Baker — Julia Bates
Tellers — Julia Bates, Susan Homes
Flowers — Cheryl Lankhaar
Coffee Hour—

8:30 service	11:00 service
Vestry — Mary Priestley	Julia Bates
Server — Robin Bates	Jaxon Rudder
Chalice Bearer — Beth Amundson	Beth Wiley
Readers —Amy Patterson, Mary Priestley	Matthew Mitchell, Jennifer Michael
Intercessor — Neil Patterson	Susan Holmes
Acolytes —	Theo Leffler-Mitchell
Usher(s) -- Mary Priestley	Julia Bates, Susan Holmes

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: – The Church of the Province of Central Africa
Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: — Church of the Epiphany, Lebanon

Prayer Requests: Brady Hall, Emily Hauze, Kim Heitzenrater, Phebe Hethcock, Mike Jones, Mike Mattei, Julian Price, Leah Rhys, Isaiah Shelby, Evelyn Taylor, Freddy Tucker, those who are refugees or suffering the effects of war or violence.

Birthdays: Lisa Howick

Announcements

This Sunday the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 8:30 and 11am. The 11am service will be livestreamed on our Facebook page and remains available there.

Nursery Services: Infants and toddlers through three years old are invited to gather downstairs in Claiborne Hall. Kara Kitzrow and Diana Rung will be supervising the nursery.

Sunday January 4 is CAC Pantry Sunday. This month CAC is in need of tuna, chicken, jelly, canned soups and meals, toilet paper, and deodorant. CAC serves those in need with food and in other ways 9 to 11am, Monday through Friday. Please call 931-598-5927.

Sunday Forum: This Sunday, January 4, Sarah Edmonds will speak on “Feeding with Justice, Serving with Mercy: Fulfilling CAC’s Mission.” Sarah is the director of Community Action Committee (CAC) at the Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul.

Sarah moved to the Montecagle-Sewanee area in 2021 from Portsmouth, Virginia. Sarah graduated from Christopher Newport University in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology. She began working in the community with South Cumberland Plateau AmeriCorps VISTA Project. In this role, she built hunger relief networks across the plateau, developed food programming, and volunteered with the local food banks. She began as the director of the CAC in 2022. Sarah’s favorite thing about working at the Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul is talking with the neighbors who benefit from CAC’s services.

Sunday Forum at St. Mark & St. Paul meets 9:45-10:45 each week in Kennerly Hall behind the church building. Everyone is invited for coffee and conversation.

Next week, Jan 11, the Rev. Kelly Ramer Moody will address “Spatial Justice and God’s Dream 30 Years after Apartheid.”

Join a Winter Foyer Group!

What: A small group of parishioners meeting together for fellowship, guided scripture reflection, and prayer (scripture, discussion questions, and prayers provided by the church).

Where: Groups are encouraged to meet in a host home. You will have the opportunity to indicate whether you are willing to host when signing up.

When: Every week for three weeks, January 25 - Feb 13 (depending on the day of the week your group meets) for 1.5 hours each.

Why: To deepen our relationships with God and one another, and connect with new people.

How: Sign up to be included in a group by completing the form at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/Foyer-Groups> You’ll rank your preferences for meeting day and time. We hope to have enough participants to offer groups at the following times:

Saturdays, January 25, February 1 and February 8 at 5 pm

Sundays, January 26, February 2 & February 9 at 2 pm or 4:30 pm

Tuesday mornings, January 28, February 4, & February 11 at 10 am

Thursday evenings, Jan. 30, February 6, & February 13 at 6:30 pm

We will be in touch in mid-January with the details of your group meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions, you may reach out to Kelly at curate@stmarkstpaul.org or call Dan in the office.

The Feast of the Epiphany: will be celebrated at Christ Church, 530 10th St, Tracy City with a service on Tuesday, January 6, at 5:00pm, followed by a potluck supper.



The Flower Guild works behind the scenes each week to beautify our sanctuary. They are looking for volunteers who enjoy flower arranging or have a desire to learn. Please contact Betty Barton Blythe bbblythe43@gmail.com if you are interested or want to learn more.

Centering Prayer Group: Mondays at 7pm and Tuesdays at 2:30pm, both in the sanctuary.

Lectionary Bible Study: meets every Tuesday at 2:30 pm in Brooks Hall. The class begins with a brief prayer and a reading of the Gospel lesson appointed for the coming Sunday.

Adult Choir: Choir resumes singing at the Jan 11 service. All members are encouraged to attend and sing at the Epiphany service on Jan 6. Adult choir practice is Sundays 12:30-1:30pm.

Children’s choir is on hiatus and will resume on January 14, 2026.

Godly Play continues this Sunday at 9:45 am for children (3 years old through 5th grade).

Godly Play 1: *Epiphany*, Storyteller — Wendy Prothro Howard, Doorperson —

Godly Play 2: *Mystery of Christmas*, Storyteller —, Doorperson — 4th/5th: (Meets in 1st floor Brooks Hall)

Youth Sunday School: (Meets upstairs in Brooks Hall).

Rite-13 and J2A: are on hiatus and will resume on January 11, 2026.

Education for Ministry will resume on Monday January 5, 2026