



HOSTED BY  
EPISCOPAL CHURCHES  
OF CENTRAL RICHMOND

EUCCHARIST

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024  
SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING**

On behalf of the Episcopal Churches of the Central Richmond Region, welcome to St. Mark's, and to this service celebrating God's love, beauty, and diversity!

### ***Spiritual and Emotional Support***

We realize that there may be some present this evening for whom discussions around diversity and the LGBTQIA+ community may be challenging, liberating, and/or confusing. We're glad you're here in this safe, affirming space. Should you need someone to speak with during or after the service, a chaplain is available. Mr. David Hoover (therapist) is seated in the back of the church. If you need a listening ear, he is in the pew marked "chaplain." In addition to the chaplain, clergy are also available following the service.

### ***Restrooms***

Restrooms are located downstairs on either side of the kitchen in the Parish Hall level. A wheelchair accessible restroom is also located downstairs adjacent to the kitchen.

### ***Elevator***

Elevator access can be found in the south wing of the building. The lower (Parish Hall) level takes you to the parish hall, kitchen, and restrooms. The parking lot level takes you to the exit and parking lot. The first floor (Library) level takes you to the library, sanctuary, and offices.

### ***Parking***

The parking lot behind the church is open and available for free parking during the service (please do not pay to park when attending services at St Mark's). Additionally, street parking is available throughout the neighborhood surrounding the church.

### ***Family Space in the Sanctuary***

We encourage and invite all ages in our worship service. Should families need soft spaces for young children, the pews in the back are open with carpet, plush toys, books, and a rocking chair. Additional books and fidgets are available in the foyer or narthex.

### ***Reception***

We invite you to join us for food and fellowship downstairs in the parish hall, following the service. The stairs in the south wing, the elevator, and the stairs in the foyer/narthex can all take you down to our parish hall. And if you need additional assistance or direction, our ushers can lend a helping hand.

# THE ENTRANCE RITE

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

“The Peace May Be Exchanged,” from *Rubrics*

Dan Locklair (b. 1949)

## HYMN

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

*Text:* Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

*Music:* *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Presider* We gather in the name of God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

*People* **We gather to worship and celebrate God, who loves and welcomes all.**

*All say together the Collect for Purity.*

**A**LMIGHTY 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.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day  
and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can - not re - pay;  
for we can on - ly won - der at ev - ery gift you send,  
at bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:  
we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.

*Text:* Michael A. Perry (1942-1996)

*Music:* *Thaxted*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

**G**OD OF WONDERS, God who made the Rainbow Promise, we praise You for the splendor of the world! We thank You, that woven throughout the tapestry of earth are the varied threads of human diversity. Created in Your image, we are of many colors and cultures, ages and classes, gender and sexual identities. Grant us minds and hearts eager to learn, and voices to dismantle systems of prejudice in response to the leading of Your loving Spirit. We ask in Christ's name. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4

**T**HE SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE GRADUAL: PSALM 139 *Domine, probasti*

*The Psalm is read responsively.*

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 **You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.**
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 **You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.**
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 **Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
where can I flee from your presence?**
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 **If I take the wings of the morning \*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me \*  
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 **If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
and the light around me turn to night,"**
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

LOVE IS PATIENT; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly,\*but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN



1. In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of chang - ing ways.  
 2. Through the years of hu - man strug - gle walk a peo - ple long de - spised,  
 3. We are Black and we are A - sian, In - di - an, His - pan - ic, White,  
 4. We are man and we are wo - man, all per - sua - sions, old and young,  
 5. Should the threats of dark pre - dic - tions cause us to with - draw in pain,



1. who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan - der - ing their sep' - rate ways?  
 2. gays and les - bi - ans to - geth - er fight - ing to be re - al - ized.  
 3. we a rain - bow co - a - li - tion, all of va - lue in thy sight.  
 4. each a gift in thy cre - a - tions, each a love song to be sung.  
 5. may thy blaz - ing phoe - nix Spir - it res - ur - rect the Church a - gain.



God of rain - bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead - ing where the ea - gles soar, we, thy peo - ple,



ours the jour - ney now and e - ver, now and e - ver, now and e - ver - more.

*Text:* Julian B. Rush (b. 1936), alt.

*Music:* *New Dimensions*, Julian B. Rush (b. 1936)

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

**A** SAMARITAN WOMAN came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink’. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’ (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)\* Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me a drink”, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?’ Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’

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

## THE SERMON

The Rev'd Dr. Hilary Borbón Smith,  
*Rector, The Church of the Holy Comforter*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The people stand and say together.*

**W**E BELIEVE IN GOD.  
**Whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,**  
**Whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,**  
**Whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all, and**  
**Whose love, defeating even death,**  
**is our glorious promise of freedom.**  
**Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt;**  
**In God we trust: and, in the name of Jesus Christ,**  
**We commit ourselves, in the service of others,**  
**To seek justice and to live in peace,**  
**To care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,**  
**To live in the freedom of forgiveness**  
**and the power of the Spirit of love,**  
**and in the company of the faithful**  
**So to be the church, for the glory of God. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Intercessor* God of Love, we pray for the universal Church, that sacred Body which encompasses all of our diverse bodies. We pray for people of faith who know you through the experience of love, praying especially for those in the LGBTQIA+ Community. As the Church, we humbly repent of our passive and active harm done towards our siblings in the Body of Christ. We pray for wholeness and healing that all may be one as you are One. May your Church be a sign of grace and hospitality to all members of the human family.

*People* God of Love,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* God of Grace, we pray for our nation and all in positions of authority. We pray for those who work towards just and equitable policies, that their labors bear fruit; and we pray for those who resist them, that their hearts and minds may be turned. We pray for the leadership of LGBTQIA+ Community organizations and their allies, that they may bear witness to the gift of shared humanity.

God of Grace,  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* God of Compassion, we pray for the world, remembering especially those who are persecuted and suffer for their identity and being. We pray for a raising of the global consciousness towards the affirmation of the LGBTQIA+ Community. We pray for our siblings around the world who seek a safe space to be their full and radiant selves. We pray that your light shines upon us and through us as we seek to be whom we have been created to be in your image.

God of Compassion,  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* God of the Incarnation, we pray for our local community, for the individuals and organizations who pour love into our city and counties. We especially pray for: Side By Side, Pride Virginia, Equality Virginia, Black Pride RVA, Diversity Richmond, Nationz Foundation, and all the other partners of the LGBTQIA+ community. Holy One, as you walked this earth in our bodily form to awaken our understanding of love, may our bodies be present to our neighbors and empowered to transform our neighborhoods in the name of Christ Jesus.

God of the Incarnation,  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* God of the Cross, we pray for those who suffer, have been betrayed, and persecuted for the sake of being themselves. We pray for those who have been abandoned by family and friends, for those unhoused, those who suffer from illness in body, spirit, and mind. We now take a moment to name those on our hearts, either silently or aloud.

God of the Cross,  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* God of the Resurrection, we pray for those who have died. We remember especially those who have died of AIDS, those who have been lynched, murdered, and put to death at the hands of authorities for the sake of their being. We remember the saints of the LGBTQIA+ Community who have bravely paved a path for our belonging in the human family. Let us name those in our hearts, either silently or aloud.

God of the Resurrection,  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Presider* Holy Trinity, you have made us in your image and called us into life. We offer our prayers and thanksgivings to you in the sacred dance of love. Hold us, shape us, and inspire us to bring your hope and healing into the world through the gift of your Holy Spirit.

*People* **Amen.**

## THE GRACE

*Presider* Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as God is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you.

*People* **Amen.**



## THE PEACE

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

# —————THE HOLY COMMUNION—————

*Our collection today will benefit the local organization, Side by Side, which supports area LGBTQIA+ youth.*

## ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
And have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love, my words are vain,  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,  
And striving so my love profess,  
But not be given by love within,  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

*The congregation is invited to join in singing stanza 3.*

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
By this we worship, and are freed.**

*Text:* based 1 Corinthians 13

*Music:* American Folk Tune, arr. Hal Hopson (b. 1933)

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The people stand.*

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Presider continues*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But paralyzed by fear and judgment, we denied your image in ourselves and others; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

## SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Text:* Mass Ordinary, Fifth century  
*Music:* *Land of Rest*, American folk tune

*The people stand or kneel as the Presider continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from all the forces that deny life, and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat:

*People* **This is my own body, given for you; do this for the remembrance of me."**

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you:

*People* **This is my life-blood poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."**

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with the blessed Mary and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**O**UR 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.

**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,**  
santificado sea tu Nombre,  
venga tu reino,  
hágase tu voluntad,  
en la tierra como en el cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.  
Perdona nuestras ofensas,  
como también nosotros perdonamos  
a los que nos ofenden.  
No nos dejes caer en tentación  
y líbranos del mal.  
Porque tuyo es el reino,  
tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria,  
ahora y por siempre. Amén.

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Presider breaks the bread followed by silence.*

Now the sil-ence, now the peace, now the em - pty hands up - lift - ed;  
now the kneel - ing, now the plea, now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come; Now the hear - ing,  
now the pow - er, now the vess - sel brimmed for pour - ing; now the bo - dy,  
now the blood, now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion now. Now. Now.

*Text:* Jaroslav Vajda (1919-2008) © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
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*Music:* Charles T. Dupree (b. 1969); commissioned by the 2022 Richmond Conference of the  
Association of Anglican Musicians

*Presider* Behold what you are.  
*People* **May we become what we receive.**

### THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE AND HOLY COMMUNION

*Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion. An usher will signal when you can go forward. If you are unable to come forward, but desire Communion, please notify an usher and Communion will be brought to you in your pew. If, for whatever reason, you do not wish to receive, you are invited to come forward for a prayer; please indicate your desire for this by crossing your arms across your chest.*

HYMN

*Unison or harmony*

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to  
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each  
 4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der  
 2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -  
 3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us  
 4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship  
 5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.  
 2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.  
 3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.  
 4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.  
 5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

*Text:* Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), alt.

*Music:* *Land of Rest*, American folk melody;  
 adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)

# HYMN

## Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, For if you  
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each  
day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

## Verses

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r To  
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous-ness. Be my  
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am  
help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the  
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting  
blind with - out thy Light to see. Lord, just al - ways  
dark-ness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.  
all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.  
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

*Text:* Doris M. Akers (1922-1995)

*Music:* *Lead Me*, Doris M. Akers (1922-1995); arr. Richard Smallwood (b. 1948)

## THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*The people say together.*

**L**ord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, Renew us and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

### HYMN



Quirk - y, queer, and won - der - ful, dis - tinct, u - nique, and odd-



all of our hu - man - i - ty re - veals the face of God.



1. No "nor - mal" can en - com - pass or com - pre - hend the range
2. From Je - sus we learn rid - dles; he said the last are first.
3. To Pe - ter, God pre - sent - ed un - touch - a - ble cui - sine
4. In Christ the false di - vi - sions of gen - der, class, and race,
5. The man - y parts that form us each serve a dif - frent role.



1. of all the kinds of peo - ple that God cre - at - ed strange!
2. He tweaked re - ceived re - li - gion with roles that he re - versed.
3. and said, "Do not call dirt - y what I de - clare is clean."
4. can nev - er sep - a - rate us from God's a - bun - dant grace.
5. In Christ, we are one bod - y, made ho - ly, good, and whole.

*Text:* Adam M. L. Tice (b. 1979)

*Music:* Royal Oak, melody from *The Dancing Master*, 1686; adapt. and harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958)

## THE DISMISSAL

*Presider* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Ode to Joy

arr. Robert Franzblau (b. 1959)

## PARTICIPANTS

### *Central Richmond Region Leadership*

The Rt. Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson, *Bishop, Diocese of Virginia*

The Rt. Rev'd Gayle E. Harris, *Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Virginia*

The Very Rev'd Charles Dupree, D.Min., *Dean, Central Richmond Region; Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

The Rev'd Benjamin R. Badgett, *Rector, St. Marks's Episcopal Church*

The Rev'd Deacon Frederico Garza, *Regional President, St. Philip's Episcopal Church*

### *Musician*

Amos Goldie, *Minister of Music*

### *Deacon*

The Rev'd David Curtis

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