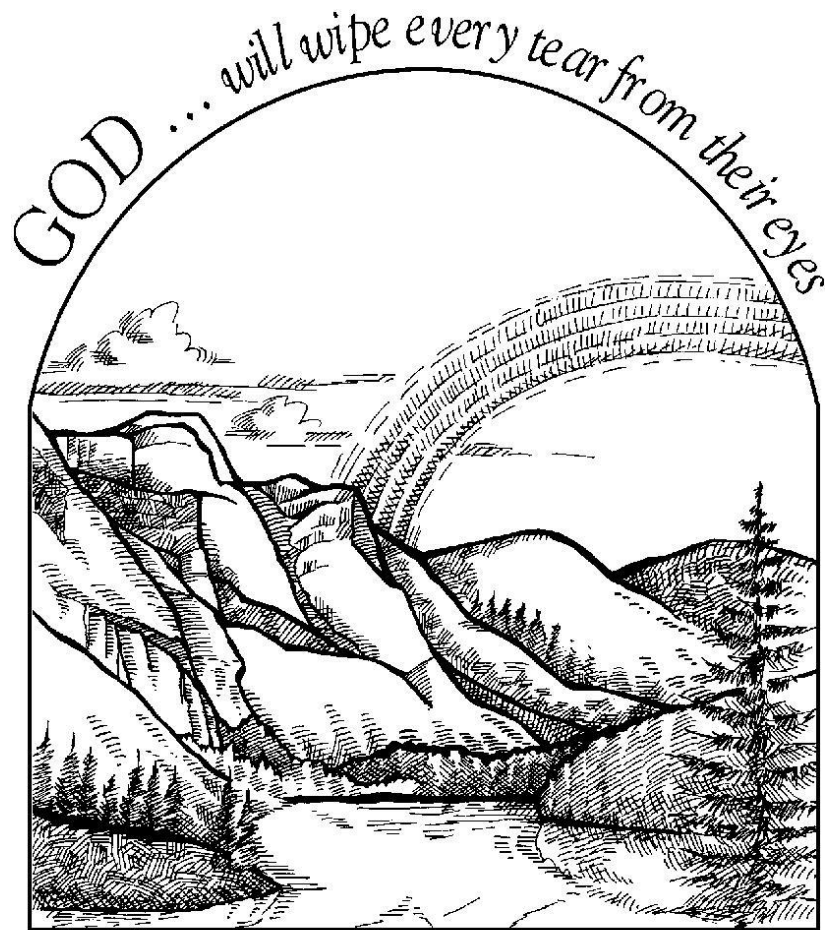


*St. Mark's Episcopal Church
75 Cold Spring Road
Westford, Massachusetts, 01886*



*There will be no more death or
mourning or crying or pain.*

Revelation 21:4

November 3, 2024
Rev. Melissa Buono, *Officiant*
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*
Usher and Reader: *Joan and Mike*
Chalice: *Elaine*

ENTRANCE HYMN *Rise up, ye saints of God (Festal Song) (H 551)*

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And Blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING : Wisdom 3:1-9

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Wisdom.

- ¹The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
²In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
³and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.
⁴For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
⁵Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
⁶like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.
⁷In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.
⁸They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them forever.
⁹Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,

because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

PSALM : Psalm 24

Remain seated.

¹The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, *
the world and all who dwell therein.
²For it is he who founded it upon the seas *
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
³"Who can ascend the hill of the LORD? *
and who can stand in his holy place?"
⁴"Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, *
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud.
⁵They shall receive a blessing from the LORD *
and a just reward from the God of their salvation."
⁶Such is the generation of those who seek him, *
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
⁷Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
⁸"Who is this King of glory?" *
"The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle."
⁹Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
¹⁰"Who is he, this King of glory?" *
"The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory."

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6a

The people sit.

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ^{6a}Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *How lovely is thy dwelling-place (Brother James's Air) (H 517)*

All stand.

GOSPEL: John 11:32-44

All stand.

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON – REV. Melissa Buono

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 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.

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 for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE ON THE ST. MARK'S PRAYER LIST

Let us pray for our own needs and others.

Jenifer Hurley, Anna Oliverson, Kate, Fran Fletcher, Elizabeth, Kathryn Read, Evie and her family, Beth, Brendan, and Corinne, Andrew Ward, Christine, Marcia & Ralph Regner, Jane, Lisa, Ben, Ross, Bonnie, Pamela, Bob, Brian Smith, Angela, Lorenz, Ovril, Margaret Bateman, Cathy, Sherrie Carroll, Betty & Tom MacNamara, Brooke, Sandra, Charlotte, David Andrew, Sue Sweeney, Olivia, Doug Read, Daniel Corcoran, Gil Dube, Valerie Beleski, Meagan, Michelle Eberle, Mark and Amela, Janet Andrews, Tom Nielsen, Ross, Jenn Greene, George Weemer and the Weemer Family, Tracy, Marge, Pam Mark, John Gallacher, Linda O'Donnell, Beth Jack Winter, Pascalina, Gladness, and Isaya at the Faraja Primary School in Tanzania, Jim and Cheryl.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED

Christopher Hemingway, Peter Hemingway, Jim Doherty, Bob Dwyer.

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE WHO WE HAVE BEEN PRAYING FOR WHO HAVE HEALED OR GREATLY IMPROVED

Mary Jane

On this All Saints Day we remember all of those who have gone before us, and we lift up those names in prayer.

[People offer those names silently or aloud during this pause]

After sufficient time, the Celebrant offers this concluding prayer:

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer; Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH (*said by all*)

**Almighty and ever living 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.**

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.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **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

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

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

SANCTUS: S-129

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 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

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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 *My God, thy table now is spread (Rockingham) (H 321)*

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 *Where charity and love prevail (Cheshire) (H 581)*

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, November 3rd

10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rev. Melissa Buono

Wednesday, November 6th

4 p.m. – St. Paul's Meal. Contact Paul Ackroyd to volunteer

Thursday, November 7th

10 a.m.–5 p.m. St. Mark's office hours.

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, November 8th

9 a.m. – Bible Study at Johnson's in Groton

Sunday, November 10th

10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rev. Bergmann

Volunteers needed for our worship services

Thank you to all service volunteers; if anyone would like to participate in services as a reader, usher, or chalice bearer, please contact Jean (jean.m.ellis@comcast.net).

Walk-in-Love: 2025 Stewardship Pledge Campaign

Our theme this year is *Walk in Love*, and it calls us to remember that our greatest gift in community is how we align, come together in purpose and mission. When we walk in the same direction, we can do so many things.

The vestry has set a target pledge budget of \$115k, which is an 11% increase from last year due increased costs (building, utilities, cost of living) and reduction in fundraising. In this stewardship season, we are asking that if you haven't pledged in the past, prayerfully consider making a pledge for 2025. If you have pledged in the past, consider increasing your pledge by 10-15%, if able.

There are two easy ways to submit your pledge:

- Email our confidential pledge email address at st.markspledges@gmail.com.
- Fill out the pledge form on the table in the back of the church and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office at 75 Cold Spring Road, Westford, MA 01886.

Substitute needed for the Diocesan Convention on November 9th

Mark Tremblay (our convention rep) is not able to attend the convention on November 9, 2024, in Quincy, MA. If interested in attending and representing St. Marks, please reach out to our other convention rep, Paul Ackroyd - phackroyd@verizon.net

Vestry Nominations for 2025 are Now Open

The St. Mark's constitution requires that Vestry members rotate off the Vestry after six years. This year, Tom Ellis (Jr Warden), Herb Elliott (clerk), and Dorothy Gaumer (At Large) have reached their term limit. Melissa Dewing's first term is up, and she has agreed to be nominated for a second term.

Those rotating off the Vestry form a nominating committee to fill the slate of open positions. Please prayerfully consider running or recommending a person for one of the open positions. The time commitment for Vestry is a once-a-month one to two-hour Zoom meeting and then periodic tasks that come up during the year that are shared by Vestry members.

St. Mark's, as are many small churches, faces challenges ahead but is in a good position with a balanced budget in the last couple of years and strong leadership by Scott, Rev. Will, and those on the Vestry. You would be joining a strong team that will guide St. Mark's in its mission and ministry.

If you have questions, please let me or anyone on the nominating committee know.

St. Paul's Soup Kitchen Volunteer Opportunities

The next soup kitchen is on **Wednesday, November 6th, 2024**. We will be serving our popular meal of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, salad, dessert, bread, and milk. If you would like to be added to the sign-up for donations, email Paul Ackroyd at phackroyd@verizon.net. Drop-off is at St. Mark's (outside the admin wing - right-hand side of the building).

St. Mark's Friday Bible Study meets every other week 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.

Keep the plastic coming!

St. Mark's is partnering with Trex Company to help the environment while enhancing the local community by turning plastic bags into a bench that will be installed at one of the Westford public beaches.

Eligible plastic items include shopping bags, dry cleaning bags, cereal box liners, bubble wrap, produce bags, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, Ziploc and other reclosable bags, and plastic wrap that surrounds something like a case of water bottles. Plastic must be clean, dry, and free of food and organic residue. Plastic can be dropped off at the collection bin in the Narthex. For more information, contact dorothygaumer@gmail.com.

Merrimack Valley Food Bank

For the months of October and November, the Money collected in the Outreach box at the altar will go to the Merrimack Valley Food Bank. The food bank is one of four in Massachusetts and

serves over 70,000 individuals per month in Central Mass. See this presentation for more details - [LINK](#)

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 wcbrgm2n@gmail.com or call (978) 692-7849 and leave a voice message. Thank you.

The next Vestry Meeting will be on **Monday, November 11th**, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Scott Hilton for a link if you would like to join.

Ongoing Ministries

Food Collection - a reminder that we collect food in the wicker basket in the Narthex all year long. The need is constant, so if you have non-perishables and personal care items, please feel free to put them in the basket.

Pastoral Care: Want to receive communion? Need prayers for healing? Just want to talk to a priest? Please email or call Herb Elliott at herb.elliott@cheza.com or call 978-501-8479. Herb heads up our Pastoral Care team and can have you added to the prayer list, arrange for a Pastoral Care team member to give you a call, send a card, or organize other support. Herb also has contact information for local clergy who have offered to respond to Pastoral Care needs. You can also use the "Request Pastoral Visit" button on St. Mark's website.

News from our Friends at Trinity Chapel

Events on Hold

Dinner Church is an alternative worship experience based on the traditions of the early church. Participants gather for a meal that also incorporates times of prayer and discussion. The experience is family-friendly, inviting multiple generations to reflect and pray together. All are welcome, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey. This month's dinner church is on **Sunday, October 20, 2024, at 5 p.m.** Contact **Judie Hilton** if you plan to attend at familyministry@st-mark.org.

Bridges Worship Ministry. St. Mark's next Worship service is on **Thursday, October 10**, at 3:45 p.m. This service is part of our ongoing ministry to the residents of Bridges - 108 Littleton Rd, Westford. If you are interested in supporting this ministry, please speak to Will Bergmann, Eric Kintner, Paul Ackroyd, or Dorothy Gaumer.

Monthly Communications Meeting. Join us on **Wednesday, October 30th, at 6 p.m.** via Zoom. Team leaders and anyone interested in supporting St. Mark's communications to the wider community are invited to join our Digital Communications Specialist, Kyla Clark, to discuss the communications plan for the month, including activities and themes we want to highlight.

SENIOR WARDEN

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

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Lee Yezek: lyezek@gmail.com

VESTRY MEMBERS

Tom Ellis, Jr. Warden; Joan O'Hare, Treasurer; Herb Elliott, Clerk; Paul Ackroyd, At-Large; Chrissy Hemingway, Pre-School Representative; Melissa Dewing, Dorothy Gaumer, Kris O'Reilly, Ellen Tremblay, At-Large.

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>