



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

10 St. Mark's Road, Burlington, Massachusetts 01803
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The Reverend John de Beer, Rector

Dear Friends,

Would you like your life to feel richer, more like a celebration? How would it be if you spent more time being nourished by friendship – at St. Mark's and elsewhere? Would it bring joy to your heart to serve your neighbors more often and more effectively? Our purpose as a parish is to help one another to make these positive changes. That is what we say:

St. Mark's is a multigenerational parish in which we celebrate God, enjoy one another, and serve our neighbors. Our mission is to create a place of safety and support in which all God's people are given the opportunity to be transformed, as we explore our faith and our call to service.

Of course, on our own we cannot *create a place of safety and support*. Yet we believe that God calls us to do this and that God helps us to make this a reality. I know that this happens, because you tell me so. High school students come to know the reality of God at the Diocesan Camp. Newcomers and long term members speak together of their joy and struggle as they listen for God's call. Visitors appreciate the warmth of our welcome and clients at the Food Pantry appreciate the groceries that we help provide. Every Sunday we gather to celebrate the reality of God's abiding love.

Holy Week and Easter offer a particular opportunity to step in to the safety and support of God's love, so that we can become more true to our deepest selves, celebrating God, enjoying our friends and serving our neighbors. On the Thursday before Easter we place ourselves at Jesus' last supper with his friends, learning with them as Jesus leads us into the way of love and service. On Good Friday we place ourselves at the foot of the cross, marveling at a love which was willing to suffer and die for us. This is a challenging place, one which we often resist. I find this to be the very place in which I receive comfort for my own grief and fear. Then on Easter Day we enter into the joy and amazement of Jesus friends. He is risen! Love is more powerful than death!

Our services are as follows. Each service stands alone – come when you can. All the services reinforce one another – consider coming to all four.

Palm Sunday	March 28 th	9:00am
Maundy Thursday	April 1 st	7:30pm
Good Friday	April 2 nd	12 noon and 7:30pm
Easter Sunday	April 4 th	9:00am

Blessings,

John