



## The Lion's Pause

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
CANTON, OH



Greetings!

The Feast of the Annunciation this week (Wednesday, March 25) invites us to reflect on the startling message that an angel named Gabriel had for a young woman named Mary—and on her response to this message.

As you will recall from the first chapter of Luke, Mary is startled in three respects. First, by the appearance of the angel and his opening greeting, “The Lord is with you.” She is “much perplexed,” we read. The angel then informs Mary that she will become a mother—that she will soon know that she is pregnant. Even more startling! And then there’s the final part of the message, that her child will be called “the Son of the Most High” and will assume the throne of David.

Mary asks, “How can this be?” As she is a virgin, that’s a pretty good question. But Gabriel explains,

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.”

Mary might have had further questions. Most of us would in her circumstances. But Mary responds, simply, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” In so doing, she became our model for dedication and obedience. Her simple acceptance of God’s will would be an

appropriate way for each of us to begin our days—especially days during a challenging and often disconcerting period.

*"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."*

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Although we were hoping to offer another YouTube "broadcast" on Sunday, this week we will be distributing the order of service and homily by print only. I regret this. Because I may have been exposed to infection, I am currently under "self-quarantine" and thus unable to pick up the equipment needed to record and upload the service from my home. Unless I fall ill—which I do not expect—you can anticipate our coming to your homes though You Tube again on April 5.

Fr. Paul

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#### **A Note from Sr. Warden Derek Gordon**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, I want to thank our Vestry, Wardens, Fr. Gaston, and Katie for their tremendous communication and commitment to the church. We are maintaining regular communication with each other and continue to receive input from the Diocese to help us make decisions moving forward. I hope all of these efforts have allowed everyone to feel a connection to the church even though we cannot gather together in person. We will continue to stay in touch with all of you via email, phone, and video until we are able to commence activities again at the church.

I would also like to thank Kathy Kennedy for her leadership in taking the initiative to mobilize the One Stop Service Shop. Thankfully, there were very few needs reported at this time, but we will keep this group on call if there is anything our parishioners need.

Finally, while much of the latest COVID-19 news is hard to process, I hope we all can try to look forward to the time when the pandemic has passed. This is the first time our world has experienced something like this in over a century, but we persevered and we will again. China is starting to re-open their country and we will soon enough.

Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone on our leadership team if you need anything during this time.

Yours in Faith,  
Derek Gordon

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## [Looking to Stay in Touch?](#)

The online directory has been updated.

[Directory](#)

Use password: lion515

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### Altar Guild Announcement

Due to complications from temporary closings and stay-in-place orders to protect people from the Covid19, St. Mark's Altar Guild will not be offering Easter lilies for dedication this year.

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### A message from your Search Committee:

Your Search Committee remains committed to the search process. We want to thank everyone for the support of our process and wish all to stay safe and healthy. Here is an update on where we stand: we had scheduled an in-person 2 day interview planned for last week. With the outbreak of Covid19 we had to cancel these planned events. Showing off St. Mark's and how the Canton community looks has now been postponed. Postponing is good, and we will reschedule visits when the time is right. We strive to get the best possible rector for St. Mark's! We ask that you keep us in your prayers. Thanks for your patience.

**Almighty God, look graciously on the people of St. Mark's. Be with us and lead us as we seek the next rector for our church. Grant our Search Committee and Vestry the desire and ability to truly hear each other and those who have entrusted them with this process. Come Holy Spirit. Open the hearts and minds of all who are a part of the search process, including candidates, so that they may hear and be guided by your**

voice. Give them the faith and courage to follow your call. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Your Search Committee,  
Anne Coen, Grace Giammarco, Mandy Pelger, Ken Jaeb, Paul Sack, & Joseph Hoot

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### A Note From Your Treasurer

My thoughts and prayers go out to each and every one of you, as we all struggle to get through this medical crises. MaryAnn and I returned from Florida on Thursday the 19th expecting to see many of you at church on Sunday. As we drove north, it was obvious that life was not normal. As we drove past shopping malls, there were very few cars in the parking lots. Only the drive up windows were open at the fast food restaurants. At the Hampton Inn outside of Chattanooga TN, there were no extra amenities. The pool, workout room, and business computer room were not available. In the morning you were to check out by texting the front desk and leaving your key in the room. No hot breakfast, but they did have take-out bags and there was coffee service which was under strict control by a member of the staff. We did not touch anything, gave the gentleman behind a table our order and he prepared our cups with rubber gloves and handed the coffee to us. The good news is, the room was clean and comfortable especially after MaryAnn wipe down every flat service. We are glade to be back in Canton and to hunker down closer to friends and family.

As stated in Derek Gordon's message on the 18th, bills for the upkeep of our beautiful billing will continue to arrive. Our staff continues to work hard keeping lines of communication open, streaming a Sunday service, and other administrative tasks. Time spent at St. Mark's is at a minimum if at all. There have been and will continue to be lots of emails and phone calls. The mail is being reviewed daily. The heat has been turned down to conserve energy, and the building is being checked daily.

The good new's is St. Mark's is financially, and I think, spiritually in good shape to handle this temporary interruption in our normal life. Thanks to some yearly prepaid pledges and

present staffing levels our on hand cash should be sufficient.

That said, the reality is that most of you present your gifts at the Sunday morning service. I understand some parishioners may be financial impacted more than others by the health crisis and government orders. If you are able please mail in your contribution. If you received church envelopes at the start of the year, you can use them to mail in your contributions. If you did not request envelopes, you can still mail checks to the church (515 48th St. NW Canton, Oh 44709).

Thank you for your continued support and prayers during this difficult time.

Treasurer, Charlie Kiesling

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### Fifth Sunday in Lent

[Read This Week's  
Lessons](#)

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#### **A Note from Mr. Bob Morrison:**

At this time when we are conscious of health issues, it's nice to know of a great "healing" hymn in the 1982 Hymnal - No. 567 "Thine Arm, O Lord, In Days of Old" The text was the work of Rev. Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821-1891) who was well regarded both in church and university circles. He is best known for "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart." He was a preacher at Oxford and a professor at King's College and, later in his life, Dean of Wells Cathedral. The hymn states that the Lord's arm healed the blind, the deaf, the palsied, the lame, the leper - and now, we ask God to be near and bless as Jesus did by Gennesaret's (Lake Galilee) shore with hands that work and eyes that see. The tune ST. MATTHEW was wrought by Nahum Tate and Dr. Nicholas Brady in their 1708 Psalter which replaced the old Sternhold/Hopkins version. A fine prayer for divine help in the hour of need.

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III/XI  
LM  
2020

For updates on the winners and the losers, check out the large LM poster on the bulletin board next to the office window. Or, log on to <http://www.lentmadness.org>.

Remember - one vote per computer!  
Learning + Humor + Friendly Competition

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St. Mark's Church  
invites you to  
kickoff summer  
Saturday, May 30  
6:00-8:00 pm  
with a  
**LUAAU**  
Restoration Campaign Fundraiser

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Thankful  
*Thursdays*

**\*\*WHEN CHURCH SERVICES RESUME\*\***, the Food Pantry will be in particular need of the following: Canned Chicken, Noodles (for casseroles), Boxed Dinners (like Hamburger Helper, etc), Mac and Cheese, Rice, Pasta Sauce, Jelly, Cream of Chicken & Mushroom Soups, Oatmeal, Canned Fruit, and Boxed Tissues.

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# Prayer Concerns

Paul Welch, Ken McPeek, Billie Robertson, Emilie Korosi, Joan Werren, Ron and Peg Hill, Conley Family, Briggs Family, Susan

**Family and Friends:** Suzy Clark (friend of Hixons'), Stacy Biglin (acquaintance of Derek Gordon), Autumn (granddaughter of Kerry and Zev), Bob Patterson (friend of Diana Cornell), Adriana (Pam McCarthy's daughter's friend), Olivia (friend of Paulette Frech), Jacobo-Quijada Family (Mandy Pelger's Student), Lynn McBride (father of Beth Crowl), Bridgette and Randy (friends of Ron and Cindy Brown), John Grandage (Kim Nadel's brother), Kristina Brinkman (friend of Kathy and Bob Kennedy), Monica McGrath (cousin of Katie Cerroni-Arnold), Ed Ott (friend of Ted and Cricket Boyd), Kellie Shuman (family of Giammarcos'), Baby David (friend of the Schaub's), Rose and Brian Gregory (friends of Ten Gall), Linda Kendrick, Marianne L. (friends of Kieslings'), Amara (granddaughter of Ken Jaeb), Conrad Family (friends of the Rands), Nancy Sauer and Helen Carnahan (friends to Diana Cornell), Will Disman (friend of Sandy Paradis' son), John Russell, Erin Barr, Baby Hudson, John Streb (friends of the Mulls), Pastor Marilyn Roman (friend of St. Mark's), Lynnda Hoefler (friend of Sue Little), Linda Gibson (sister of Bobbi Gordon), Fletcher, Jamie, Katie Campbell (friend of Boyds'), Johnny Willoughby, Bobby Guerin (friend of Pam McCarthy), Jim Mesko (friend of Jim Weaver), Michelle Gibson-Garber (friends of the Gordons) Donald Pentz (friend of the Rands)

**For all those serving in the armed forces.**

**For all those who have died.**

**Fr. Carey Sloan**

**Please share updates with Bobbi Gordon.**

## PRAYER CHAIN:

St. Mark's has a group of prayer warriors who pray for specific needs of those on the prayer chain. If you would like to place yourself or a loved one on the prayer chain, please contact Bobbi Gordon at [ggordon24@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ggordon24@sbcglobal.net)

Please note, prayer requests may be placed on the Prayer Chain, in the Prayer Concerns list appearing here and in the Sunday bulletin, or in both places. Please let Bobbi know your preference.

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We seek to unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education, and service.

Quick  
*Links*

[St. Mark's Church](#)  
[The Episcopal Church](#)  
[The Diocese of Ohio](#)  
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