

Stay Connected – 3rd May 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

This Week's Reading

Bible Reading: John 14: 1-14

Peter's Blurb

"Come to St. Mark's – not just a church but a family!"

Well! It seems that the same few individuals will have continue to carry the load. Two weeks seeking new volunteers as Welcomers, Readers or Intercessors have been in vain! I have not heard any expressions of interest from anyone. Ah well! C'est la vie! A great part of the enjoyment of being involved with a church is actually – being involved.

We were delighted to have Fr. Terry and Nicole back with us today after a sojourn in Jamaica where they were able to unwind and relax. It was so lovely to see them both so re-invigorated and energetic this morning – not that they are not always so, but you could just tell that their break had done them both a power of good. Blessings to them both.

A good turn out for the service this morning and, my goodness! I lost count of the number of children we had with us today – bodes well for Junior Church – and there are more on the way too it seems 😊. Spring is in the air 😊. A good gospel reading today – I am sure we all know the one about "in my house there are many dwelling places..." so often used at funeral services but a reading which gave lots of scope for Fr. Terry's excellent Talk (see below) which conveyed a powerful message indeed.

Thanks to the Cabrall family, Gabriel, Amy & Amiah, for their excellent refreshment offerings for our fellowship hour. It is always a perfect ending to our worship to get together and chat, compare notes and get to know each other "more better" to use the vernacular 😊. A joyful Sunday!

Guild News

Being the first Sunday in the month St. Mark's Guild held their regular monthly meeting after refreshments today. I can confirm that the Guild will be going ahead with their **Table-top sale fundraiser for SMC! – to be held on Saturday, 16th May** (tentatively mentioned last newsletter) – So clear out your high-quality products that you are not using in your home, and kindly donate them to SMC for their table top sale. They will also need volunteers for the day! **If you are donating clothes, please ensure that they have been washed, as some of the organizers are allergic to mold and dust.** Drop off arrangements will follow.

Also, the Guild will be hosting their annual **Seniors' Appreciation Luncheon on Sunday, 28th June at 11:30.** RSVP to Barbara Willis or Pansy Nichols. Sign-up sheet will be posted at the end of May.

The next monthly meeting of the Guild will take place on **Sunday, 7th June** following refreshments and any interested in coming along to help in their activities will be most welcome. It is always the same group who do it all and extra pairs of hands will be greatly appreciated. "Many hands make light work" and "a burden shared is a burden halved" – and all those similar platitudes. 😊

Annual General Meeting

Another reminder. St. Mark's Annual General Meeting will take place in two week's time – following our service on **Sunday, 17th May**. For those unfamiliar, reports are submitted from the various activities (“departments”) in the church including Financial Reports, Properties etc. These are presented for information and discussion. A new Vestry is elected by the members to manage the affairs of the church for the next year. The deadline for the submission of reports is TODAY, 3rd May to give time for the Annual Report to be consolidated, printed and distributed in advance of the meeting. The Vestry, under the chairmanship of Rev. Terry, consists of two Churchwardens who serve a four-year term plus a number of regular members who each serve a term of three years. Rotation is staggered so that continuity is maintained. There are likely some vacancies opening up this year and anyone who is interested in helping the church in this capacity should speak to Dudley Cottingham, choir member, who has been designated, by the Vestry, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. He will be happy to explain how it all works, what vacancies exist and you may then consider “putting your name in the hat” for possible selection.

The Annual General Meeting will be held following our 9.30 service on **Sunday, 17th May** immediately following refreshments.

Rev. Terry's Talk

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

John 14: 1-14

Sermon Topic: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled”*

There are some words of Jesus that seem to arrive right on time. Words that somehow meet us exactly where we are. And for many of us, these words from John's Gospel are like that: **“Do not let your hearts be troubled.”** This statement speaks to the right nowness of our lives. Not *might be* troubled. Not *used to be* troubled. But troubled now. Because troubled hearts are not rare. They are very common. They sit in hospital waiting rooms. They lie awake at 3 a.m. They scroll the news in disbelief. They worry about children, parents, money, health, loneliness, the future, the planet, the church, and whether they themselves are enough.

Jesus speaks these words on the night before the cross. The disciples are anxious, confused, and afraid. Everything feels unstable. The future is uncertain. Their world is shaking. And Jesus does not shame them for that fear. He does not say, *“Pull yourselves together.”* He does not say, *“Stop being emotional.”* Instead, he says, *“Trust me.”* And that matters. Because Christian faith is not pretending life is easy. Faith is not denial. Faith is not toxic positivity dressed in religious language. Faith is trusting Christ in the middle of real trouble. Jesus goes on to say, *“In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.”* He gives the disciples and us an image of home. Not a cold institution. Not a waiting room. Not a temporary shelter. But a home. A place where there is room. Room enough for the anxious. Room enough for the doubting. Room enough for the weary. Room enough for saints and strugglers alike. That line has comforted generations at gravesides and funerals, and rightly so. It speaks of the hope beyond death. But it is more than that. Jesus is not only talking about heaven later. He is talking about belonging right now, right here. The kingdom of God is a place where no one has to earn their right to enter. Christ has made room for us. Many people live as though they are one mistake away from rejection, one failure away from exile, one weakness away from being unwanted. But Jesus says: There is room for you.

Then Thomas asks the question many are thinking: *“Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”* And Jesus answers—not with a map—but with himself: *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”* He does not give a five-step plan. He does not hand over directions. He says, *“I am the way.”* Because Christianity is not chiefly a route; it is a relationship. We often want clarity before obedience. We want the full plan before we take the first step. We want guarantees before we trust. But Jesus usually gives us enough light for the next faithful step— not the whole journey at once. The way is not always obvious. But the way has a face. When we forgive instead of retaliating, we are walking the way. When we tell the truth in love, we are walking

the way. When we serve the vulnerable, we are walking the way. When we choose mercy over contempt, we are walking the way. When we cling to hope in the dark, we are walking the way. Because the way is Jesus.

Then Philip asks something many of us have asked: *“Show us God.”* Show us something clear. Something undeniable. Something unmistakable. And Jesus says, *“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”* In other words: You have seen God already. Look at me. If you want to know what God is like—look at Jesus. Look at the one who touches lepers. The one who eats with sinners. The one who notices the overlooked. The one who weeps at a tomb. The one who washes feet. The one who forgives from a cross. God is not less loving than Jesus. God is not harsher than Jesus. God is not waiting to become kind. Jesus shows us who God has always been. And that is good news—especially for anyone who has been taught to fear God more than love God.

Then Jesus says something astonishing: *“the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these...”* Not because we are greater than Christ—never that. But because the risen Christ, through the Spirit, works through his people in every place and generation. And those works often look ordinary: A meal delivered to a grieving neighbour. A child taught to pray. An addict encouraged toward recovery. A lonely person welcomed by name. Justice pursued. Mercy practiced. The Gospel shared. The broken restored. These may not look dramatic by the world’s standards. But heaven counts differently. The work of Christ continues wherever love becomes tangible in his name.

So, what do we do with troubled hearts? We bring them to Jesus. Not polished hearts. Not sorted hearts. Not impressive hearts. Troubled hearts. And we hear him again: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me.”* He does not promise a trouble-free life. He promises his presence. He does not promise every answer now. He promises a place with him. He does not promise we will never weep. He promises that death will not have the last word.

So, if your heart is troubled today, you are not disqualified from faith. You may be standing exactly where the disciples stood. And Christ stands there too. He is still the way for confused people. He is still the truth for deceived people. He is still the life for weary people. And He is still the peace for troubled hearts.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In our prayers

We ask for your prayers for Margaret Blanchette, Gill Rossiter, Sam & Marjorie, Gwyneth & Ralph, Jill, Barbara (Dyer), Vinette, Nancy, Gail, Janet & Gary, Tina, Val & Mark, Tim, Audrey, Robert & Kalreeta, David, Rachel and for Angela, Kaia, Ms. Joell, Tina Welch, Valerie (June) Johnstone and Hilda Warner. Also, for all and any others known to us.



Previous services and other videos are on our YouTube channel and/or our Facebook page at:

<https://www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchBermuda> and/or
<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbermuda/>

Next Sunday

Sunday, **10th May** – Sixth Sunday of Easter. We will hold our **Peaceful Worship at 8 am.** followed by our usual **Contemporary Worship at**

9.30 am both led by Fr. Terry. There will be Junior Church as usual. Refreshments and Fellowship follow the service.

Coming Events

- **Life Group Startup** – The popular Life Groups have resumed but it **may not be too late** to get involved. Reach out to Steve or Cathy West if you would like to know more: cswestmd@logic.bm or cathjwest@gmail.com.
- **Table-top sale fundraiser for SMC!** – to be held on **Saturday, 16th May** from 9am to 2 pm. Clear out your

high-quality products that you are not using in your home, and kindly donate them to SMC for our table top sale. We will also need volunteers for the day! **If you are donating clothes, please ensure that they have been washed, as some of the organizers are allergic to mold and dust.** Thank you!!!

- **Senior's Appreciation Luncheon** – The Guild will be hosting this annual event on **Sunday, 28th June at 11:30 am**. RSVP to Barbara Willis or Pansy Nichols. Sign-up sheet will be posted at the end of May.
- **Annual General Meeting** – St. Mark's Annual General Meeting will take place following our 9.30 service on **Sunday, 17th May**. (See discussion above.)
- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will be on **Saturday, 23rd May**.
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 7th June** in the Parish Hall.

Those of you who generously donate to the church by way of Standing Order may wish to double-check that your orders have not passed their end-by date and expired. Of course, if they have, we would love you to re-instate them. 🙏

Down the Debt – St. Mark's needs your help in reducing the size of our debt which inhibits future investment in our church. If you feel you may be able to help with this please go to <https://stmarks.bm/donate/> where you will find details and an opportunity to donate.

Links:

Just a reminder – if you want to check vot's happnin' or vot's comin' dahn de road – you can find it all at our:

- **Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbermuda/>
- **YouTube Channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchBermuda>
- **Website:** <https://anglican.bm/churches/st-marks/>
- **Holy Trinity Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitychurchbda>

End Stuff:

Here's a thought. It is always a great time for us all to review our pledging. If each of us is able to increase our pledge by 10% that would be a great boost to our cash flow (which as you know is tenuous at best). And, with our in-person collections still inhibited by numbers restrictions, please consider the opportunity to convert to pledging by Direct Deposit (see below). Your support is vital.

As always, another huge thank you to all of you who continue to support our church family with your pledges and donations via online transfer.

Direct deposits can be made to: Butterfield Bank for the account of:

St. Mark's Church Wardens – A/c No. 20-006-060-104125-100.

- **For Grave Payments** – when paying Grave Maintenance fees be sure to enter Grave Number and Name of Lessee e.g. "Grave 273 Peter Nash" in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.
- **For Cash donations** – if you do not have an Envelope # just be sure to also enter your Name and "Donation" e.g. "Nash Donation" in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.

Use of the "Beneficiary" space is IMPORTANT – it is the only way we have to identify who is paying and for what.

Posters follow:

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