

Liturgy of the Light

April 19, 2025



The Liturgy of the Light service celebrates the Light of Christ that has come into the world and shines anew in the dawn of Easter.

The service is prepared by the children, for the children.



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

April 19, 2025

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

- Book of Common Prayer, pg. 855

Welcome to St. George's!



Whether you are worshiping online or in person, we are glad you are here.

Office Hours

Please note our office is closed

April 21 - 22. If you have a pastoral emergency and need to speak with clergy, please call or text 540.361.8573.

Connect with Us

We'd love to get to know you and help get you connected with our parish ministries, formation, and fellowship groups.



Visit StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/connect or scan the QR code and we'll be in touch. You can also fill out the Newcomer Card in your pew and drop it in the offering plate.



For the latest news and events, sign-up to receive our weekly e-newsletter, The St. Georgian: StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/enews.

Giving

We believe in a generous, loving, and giving God. We invite our church family to embrace generosity as a lifelong, joyful, transforming, and liberating response to God's call to us. Thank you for your generous support.

Note that cash or offerings designated "Good Friday Offering" will be given to the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Loose and offerings designated "Easter Offering" will be given to our Communion Alms which clergy use to help those experiencing financial hardships.



You can make a financial gift:

- **In-person:** place gift in collection plate in the aisle.
- **Online - one-time or recurring:** StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/giving. Or scan the QR code.
- **Text:** Send a text message with the dollar amount [e.g. \$50] to: 540.701.4133)

You can also mail a check to the church office:

P.O. Box 7127

Fredericksburg, VA 22404 *Thank you!*

Walking Together

Pastoral Care at St. George's is a ministry of the clergy and the laity. By walking with each other through times of joy and times of sorrow, the love of Christ is revealed.

Prayer Ministers are available to pray with you during our worship services and outside of worship times on the phone. Our Prayer Group provides intercessory prayer weekly. Our One Body Response Team (OBRT) offers prayers, sends cards, and responds to other needs as able.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) are available to bring Holy Communion to the homebound.

Our Wednesday Noon Eucharist service in the nave includes prayers for healing and anointing.

Prayer Shawls are available upon request. These mantles of healing and comfort are made by our ministry teams.

If you need support or encouragement, please consider reaching out to our church office (540.373.4133; office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net). You may also contact clergy directly to make an appointment.

If you have a pastoral care emergency (death, serious illness, or other crisis) and need to speak with clergy, please call or text 540.361.8573 to reach clergy on call.

Land and Labor Acknowledgment

We give thanks for the land which God created as a precious gift. We honor the Indigenous peoples who long knew the land of our parish more than 10,000 years before it was established over 300 years ago, including the Patawomeck and Rappahannock Tribes who still live here. Please see our website for the full text of our land acknowledgment.

We also honor the people of African descent whose enslaved labor supported the parish for the first half of its history. Rooted in the Gospel, repentant of sin, we are nurturing faith and seeking justice, healing, and repair of relationships amid the complexity of our times.

The Liturgy of the Light

inspired by the Book of Common Prayer
(BCP)

April 19, 2025

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

The children gather on the small side of Sydnor Hall, while the adults and other family wait on the large side.

All stand.

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

The Paschal Candle is a remembrance to us that Jesus has died, but is risen. Please repeat after me:

God, we share in your light.

All: God, we share in your light.

The taper is lit.

Christ, yesterday and today. The beginning and the end. The Alpha and the Omega.

All time belongs to Christ. And all ages. To Him be glory and power. Through every age, forever. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is lit from the taper.

Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.

Loving God, accept this Easter Candle.

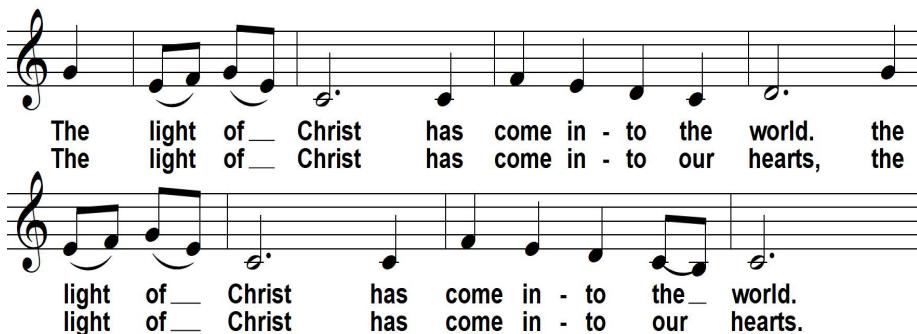
May it always dispel the darkness of the night. **Amen.**

Procession

All process into the large side of Sydnor Hall, chanting as we follow the Paschal Candle.

Processional Hymn: "The Light of Christ"
led by the Children's Choir of St. George's
Repeated several times.

Donald E. Fishel



The light of Christ has come in - to the world, the
The light of Christ has come in - to the world, the
light of Christ has come in - to the world, the
light of Christ has come in - to the world, the

The Exsultet

All are seated for the singing of the Exsultet, an ancient chant of praise inspired by the light of Christ. The Exsultet is sung by cantors, the words are provided to help you focus.

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,
and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty king.
Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with the glorious splendor,
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.
Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts,
in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.
Therefore, O Holy Father, accept our ev'ning sacrifice,
the offering of this candle in your honor,
the work of bees and your servants' hands,
the gift of your most holy Church, May it mingle with the lights of heaven,
and shine continually to drive away all darkness,
May Christ the Morning Star who knows no setting find it ever burning,
he who gives his light to all creation,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Spreading the Light

The Light of the Risen Christ has come into the World. He calls us each by name to come and share the light.

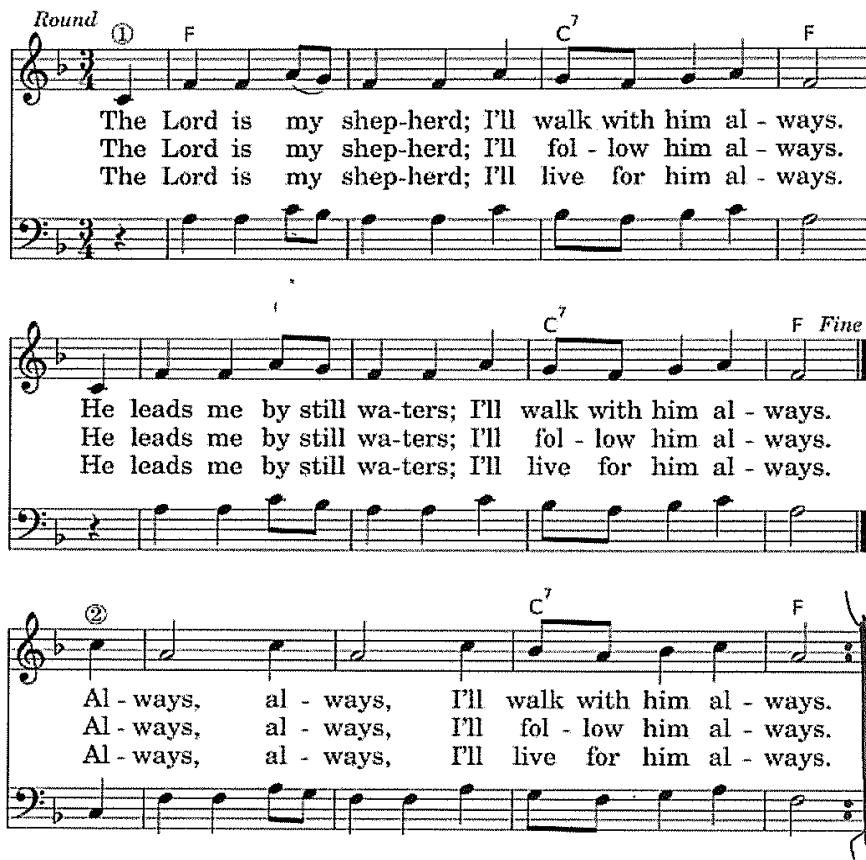
Each child will be invited to come forward to receive a candle lit from the Paschal Candle and return to their seat.

Hymn for the Lighting of the Candles:
"The Lord is My Shepherd"

Traditional

Round

① F C⁷ F



The Lord is my shep-herd; I'll walk with him al - ways.
The Lord is my shep-herd; I'll fol - low him al - ways.
The Lord is my shep-herd; I'll live for him al - ways.

He leads me by still wa-ters; I'll walk with him al - ways.
He leads me by still wa-ters; I'll fol - low him al - ways.
He leads me by still wa-ters; I'll live for him al - ways.

② F C⁷ F

Al - ways, al - ways, I'll walk with him al - ways.
Al - ways, al - ways, I'll fol - low him al - ways.
Al - ways, al - ways, I'll live for him al - ways.

Silent reflection

The First Reading

Isaiah 60:19 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8 - 10 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light-- for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Song: "This little light of mine"

During the singing, each child will walk their candle back to the Paschal Candle.

This lit - tle light of mine,
Je - sus gave it to me,
Ev - 'ry - where I go,
Hide it un - der a bushel,
All a - round the world,

This lit - tle light of mine,
Je - sus gave it to me,
Ev - 'ry - where I go,
Hide it un - der a bushel,
All a - round the world,

This lit - tle light of mine,
Je - sus gave it to me,
Ev - 'ry - where I go,
Hide it un - der a bushel,
All a - round the world,

shine, let it shine, let it shine. Let it shine.

Celebrant: May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (28:1 - 10)

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Homily

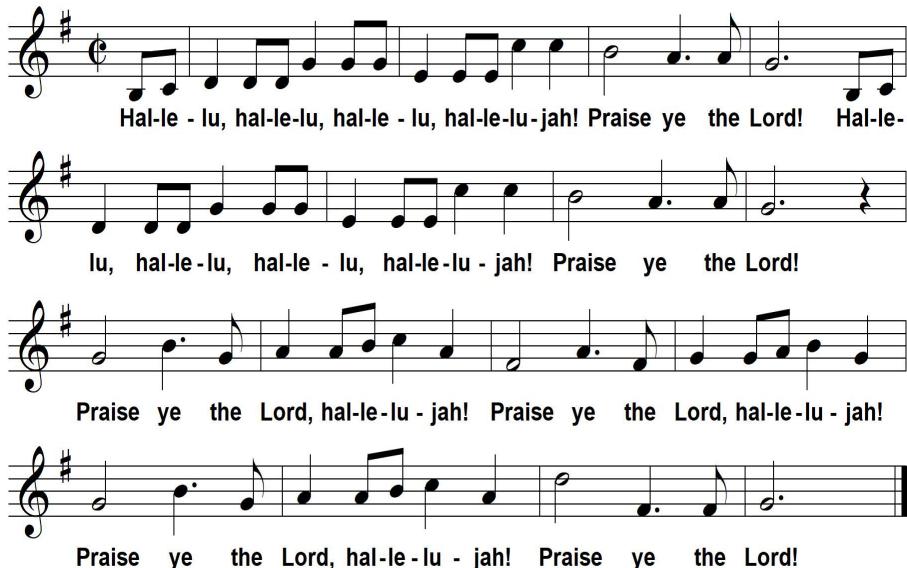
Celebrant: Let us boldly proclaim the Easter message.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Song: "Hallelu, hallelujah"

As the song is sung, bells may be rung, keys jingled, or other joyful noises made.



Hal-le - lu, hal-le-lu, hal-le - lu, hal-le-lu-jah! Praise ye the Lord! Hal-le - lu, hal-le - lu, hal-le - lu, hal-le-lu - jah! Praise ye the Lord! Praise ye the Lord, hal-le-lu - jah! Praise ye the Lord, hal-le-lu - jah! Praise ye the Lord, hal-le - lu - jah! Praise ye the Lord! Praise ye the Lord, hal-le - lu - jah! Praise ye the Lord! Praise ye the Lord!

Prayers:

Leader: O God who made this holy night to shine with the glory of Christ who is risen: Make us all one church family in the light.

People: Alleluia, hear our prayer.

Leader: Inspire the nations that they may make peace.

People: Alleluia, hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless the whole world that you have made and all peoples and creatures everywhere.

People: Alleluia, hear our prayer.

Leader: Watch over all those in our community who help and feed others.

People: Alleluia, hear our prayer.

Leader: Take care of those who are sick or are in any need or trouble.

People: Alleluia, hear our prayer.

Leader: Hold in eternal life all those we love but see no longer.

People: Alleluia, hear our prayer.

Leader: Help us to walk in love with Jesus always.

People: Alleluia, hear our prayer. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The people share a sign of peace with one another.

Offertory Anthem: "Savior, King!"

Katie Houts

sung by the Children's Choir of St. George's

Presentation of Gifts

Celebrant: All you have made is good. Your love continues for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord is with us.

People: God's Spirit is here.

Celebrant: We lift our hearts to God.

People: Let us give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

Loving God, you are always thinking about your people. You never forget us. You sent your Son, Jesus, who gave his life for us and who came to forgive us and taught us to forgive each other.

On the very night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread and gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He gave it to them, saying, "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. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Together

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Look with kindness, O God, on your people gathered here before you. Send forth the power of your Spirit so that these gifts may become for us the Body and Blood of your beloved Son, Jesus, the Christ, in whom we have become your own.

God of love, Spirit of compassion, bless us and this bread and wine. May this meal be food and drink for our journey - renewing, sustaining, and making us whole. When we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we experience Jesus in our midst.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

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.

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

The clergy will give instructions about receiving communion or receiving a blessing.

Communion Hymn: "Come Christians Join to Sing"

Traditional Spanish Melody

Arr. David Evans

1. Come, Chris - tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
he is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll con - de - scand;
on hea - ven's bliss - ful shore, his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
his love shall nev - er end. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
sing - ing for - ev - er more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

Public Domain

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: Holy God, we thank you for feeding us at your table. We have been your guests, now help us to become hosts and welcome others into your family. You have given us your body and blood, now help us remember that we are your body, your hands and heart on earth. Send us forth to serve the world in your name. Amen

Blessing

May this Easter bring joy to your hearts and laughter to your days. **Amen.**

May you always feel the love of Jesus and the warmth of His light. **Amen.**

May you grow in kindness, compassion, and faith. **Amen.**

May the blessing of God who is our Father and Mother, our Savior and Brother, and the Holy Spirit now and forever, be with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Song: "Marching in the light of God"

African Melody

The musical score consists of six staves of music in G major, 2/4 time. The lyrics are repeated in each staff, with the first staff starting with "We are". The music includes chords G, C, D, G7, and C. The lyrics are as follows:

We are mar - ching in the light of God - We are
We are liv - ing in the love of God - we are
We are mov - ing in the power of God - we are

mar - ching in the light of God - We are
liv - ing in the love of God - We are
mov - ing in the power of God - We are

mar - ching in the light of God - We are
liv - ing in the love of God - we are
mov - ing in the power of God - we are

mar - ching in the light of God - We are
liv - ing in the love of God - We are
mov - ing in the power of God - We are

mar - ching we are mar - ching Oh - - We are
liv - ing liv - ing we are liv - ing Oh - - We are
mov - ing mov - ing we are mov - ing Oh - - We are

mar - ching in the light of God
liv - ing in the love of God -
mov - ing in the power of God -

After the service, the children are invited to choose a candle to take home.

Worship and Formation

No matter where you are on your faith journey, there's a place for you here.

Regular Worship Schedule (Sept - May)

Sundays:

- **7:45 am:** Holy Eucharist (Communion), Rite I, spoken
- **9:00 am:** Holy Eucharist with Jazz Band and Choir. This service is also livestreamed via YouTube Live
- **11:15 am:** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with organ and choir.
- **5:30 pm:** Holy Eucharist with Celtic Evensong, with Celtic ensemble

Summer Worship Schedule Begins

May 25:

- **7:45 am:** Holy Eucharist (Communion), Rite I, spoken
- **10 am:** Holy Eucharist with diverse music offerings. This service is also livestreamed via YouTube Live.
- **5:30 pm:** Holy Eucharist with Celtic Evensong, with Celtic ensemble

Wednesdays:

12 pm: Rite II Eucharist with prayers for healing

Daily Office:

The Daily office (Morning and Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer) is offered on Zoom and led by a group of lay persons Monday - Friday at 8 am and 5:30 pm. All are welcome.

Meeting ID: 890 4918 9545

Passcode: 638538

Dial in: +1 301 715 8592

Formation for All Ages Resumes Apr 27

Adults

- 10 am every Sunday in Sydnor Hall:
- April 27: Shrine Mont Sunday
- May 4: Writing as Part of Your Spiritual Journey led by St. Georgian Linda Wickersham
- May 11: Family Systems - What's a Mother to Do? Led by Dr. Jen Vaughan and Rev. Jamie Samilio

Young Adults (18 - 45)

Our Young Adult Missioner, Rev. Ethan Lowery leads a range of activities - both spiritual and social for college age students and older. To get involved, contact Rev. Ethan at: missioner@thehousefxbg.org.

Youth (6th - 12th Grade)

Youth group meets on 1st and 3rd Sundays from 5 - 7 pm for dinner, community and fun. Contact Rev. Joe (joe.hensley@stgeorgesepiscopal.net) to learn more.

Youth Café

Sunday mornings at 10 am, youth in grades 6-8 and grades 9-12 meet with adult leaders for conversation and treats.

Children (pre-K - 5th grade)

Sundays at 10 am, children gather to learn about our story as the people of God.

Mark Your Calendars

For the latest news and events, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, **The St. Georgian:** StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/eneews

Special Thanks to Our Flower Guild

The beautiful flowers you see are thanks to the loving artistry and ministry of our flower guild. We hope you enjoy these blooms as a living symbol of resurrection.

Easter Egg Hunt Returns!

Our beloved Annual Easter Egg Hunt is back Easter Sunday at 10:15 am. A big thank you to all of our volunteers helping stuff and hide the eggs. 1-3 years search in Sydnor Courtyard, 4-7 years search Renwick Courtyard, and 8-11 years search our Graveyard.

Concert Series – April 27 at 3 pm with The Peacemakers

Our monthly Concert Series continues April 27 at 3 pm with guitar and violin duo The Peacemakers. Concert is free with donations accepted at the door. **Note this month's concert is a week later than usual since Easter falls on the third Sunday of the month*

Shrine Mont Sunday - April 27

Join us at the Adult Forum on Sunday, April 27 at 10:15 am as we unveil the theme for this year's Parish Weekend Oct. 10 -12 at Shrine Mont! Registrations open that day. Any questions, please contact Danielle Davis danielle@stgeorgesepiscopal.net.

Outdoor Worship and Parish Picnic

We will hold our 10 am service and parish picnic on June 1 outside, weather permitting, at Hurkamp Park. More information to come.

Vacation Bible School: Save the Date

VBS and Music Camp return this summer! Save the dates June 16-20 (Juneteenth off) for what will be a splendid week of fun, fellowship, crafts, and music! Any children, rising K-6, are welcome to join us. We are also looking for teenage and parent volunteers to help lead the camper groups and run the stations.

How are you called to serve?

Serving builds our parish and local community as we give thanks to God and follow Christ's example.

There are a number of ways you can get involved at St. George's:

- Worship services: in-front and behind-the-scenes roles
- Music ministries: singers and instrumentalists
- Feeding our neighbors at Monday night Community Dinner and at The Table - our market-style food pantry
- Media and technical support for live-stream services
- Extending care and prayer for church members
- Volunteering with our children and youth ministries
- Hospitality and fellowship ministries that bring us together for fun, food, and friendship.

Want to learn more?

Contact the church office (540.373.4133,



office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net,

visit: www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net/share, or scan the QR code below.

Contact Our Vestry:

The Vestry is our elected, lay leadership council led by our Senior Warden Pete Kelly and our Junior Warden Kit Burns. The Vestry welcomes your questions, concerns, and feedback.

Email them at: vestry@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

St. George's Episcopal Church

905 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 7127
Fredericksburg, VA 22404

540.373.4133 (office)

Pastoral Emergencies:

540.361.8573 (call or text)

StGeorgesEpiscopal.net
