

Eve of St. James of Jerusalem

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St. Mark's Anglican Church
609 South Main
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Dear Saint Mark's Anglican Church,

When I worked in the maritime world, flags conveyed more than just symbolic meaning, they were means of legal distinction. The flag you flew marked who you were. This afternoon I raised a Georgia flag outside my house. Looking at the flag, I am struck by the words "In God We Trust." More than just a political catchphrase, these words convey a profound truth about the Father. He is trustworthy. The words "In God We Trust" express the manner that the entire call process has been conducted: trusting in God and His provision. In response to that trust, I have joyfully accepted your call to be the next Rector of St. Mark's.

We cannot begin to express how humbled we are by this opportunity. But more than humbled, we are profoundly excited. My vision for ministry and the church is best summarized by Acts 2:42: "[Those who had been baptized] devoted themselves the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." These four marks – teaching, fellowship, eucharist, and the prayers – are not only my own ministerial passion, but are already the guiding principles at St. Mark's. We look forward to joining you in this ministry, not only to St. Mark's, but to the wider parish of Moultrie and Colquitt County, fulfilling the great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I have taken each and every one of your names and added them to my prayer list; know that during this interim period I will be praying for you and St. Mark's each day during the Daily Office. I ask, too, that you would pray for me and for my entire family as we prepare for this transition. I truly believe that prayer is the most effective means of accomplishing the purposes of God in this age.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all evermore.

God+Speed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay B. Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.