



ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Please observe silence before the service for prayer and meditation, so that all may prepare heart and mind for worship. All mobile telephones, pagers and electronic devices with audible alarms should be turned off prior to the service.

THE RT. REV. LARRY BENFIELD, BISHOP
THE REV. HANNAH HOOKER, CURATE

www.StMarksJonesboro.org

Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, we are glad you are here! Please complete a **Welcome** card and place it in the offering plate. St. Mark's is a traditional church for contemporary people and we believe that God's love is for everyone. This is an open-minded congregation where we actively seek, question and wonder about our faith. We also believe that we are the hands of Christ, and mission work within our community is a vital part of what we do here.

AN OPEN TABLE

All are welcome to receive communion here. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please let the minister know when you are at the altar rail. You are invited to come forward and kneel as you are able to receive the bread. You may drink from the cup or take the wine by "intinction," or dipping the wafer into the cup. If you prefer a blessing only, cross your arms over your chest.

SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Children's Chapel is held at 10 a.m. for children ages 3 through 7 in our smaller John Roberts Chapel. Children enter our Sanctuary during the processional hymn and will return from Chapel during the Peace so that they may share the Eucharist with their families. Children's Chapel is a special time for these children, and they sing, pray, craft and hear the Gospel.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children in kindergarten through high school meet at 6 p.m. for dinner and fellowship, then split up by age. Classes end at 7:30 p.m.

NURSERY SERVICES

The nursery is located in the short hallway between the Narthex and the Parish Hall. Nursery is provided for children birth through age 3. Nursery hours are from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The friendly, two-room nursery suite is staffed by a wonderful group of compassionate caregivers who are church members and mothers, too!

RESTROOMS

Are located in the Sanctuary Foyer, through the Parish Offices door, on the right-hand side.

COFFEE BAR

In between the services, enjoy a cup of coffee at our coffee bar, located in the front left corner of the Narthex. Additional church information about our ministries and upcoming events can be found there as well.

OUR SERVICES

Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sundays (Nave)

Compline Service at 7:30 p.m. Sundays (John Roberts Chapel)

Healing Eucharist at 6:15 p.m. Wednesdays (John Roberts Chapel)

JOINING

If you are interested in joining St. Mark's, please let us know on the Welcome Card.

DIGITAL BULLETINS AND WI-FI ACCESS

Digital bulletins are available; to download please visit <http://stmj.us>. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the building.

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

The Celebrant then continues

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant and people say

**Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

COLLECT The Third Sunday of Advent

BCP 160

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Priest Let us pray.

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146: 4-9 *Read responsively by half verse.*

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
**he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!**

SECOND LESSON A reading from James 5: 7-10

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 11: 2-11

Priest: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has

arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Hannah Hooker

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM II

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;
for our Bishop; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed especially _____.
Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present

I ask your prayers for _____.

I ask your thanksgiving for _____.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored
[especially _____ whom we remember today].
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

The priest says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE, GREETINGS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord

THE BIRTHDAY PRAYER

O God, our times are in your hands: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant as he begins another year. Grant that he may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen his trust in your goodness all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Online giving also available by scanning here, using the [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) mobile app, or going to <http://give.stmarksjonesboro.org>.



THE PRESENTATION OF ALMS

All: All things come of thee O Lord, and of Thine Own have we given Thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, RITE I

BCP 340

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Here a [Proper Preface](#) is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

Here may be added

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, 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."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and

bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Our table is open to all who seek to experience God's grace. Please come to the communion rail by the center aisle and kneel or stand to receive the elements.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and people:

Almighty and ever living God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today 3:30p Handbell Rehearsal
5:00p EYC
6:30p Compline

Wed 6:00p Advent Soup Supper
Christian Formation
6:30p Healing Eucharist

7:00p Choir Practice

Sat 10:00a Two Saints' Kitchen, Team # 9

SAVE THE DATE

December 18 Lessons and Carols
December 24 5:00 pm Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist
10:30 pm Musical Prelude to Midnight Mass
11:00 pm Midnight Mass
December 25 One service only at 9:00 am (it was incorrect last Sunday!)
January 1 One service only at 9:00 am

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

12/11 Edward Gary
12/15 Sarah Wofford
12/17 Margaret Guinn

Anniversaries

12/17 Bill and Marilyn Brown

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Poinsettias and Helping Neighbors Food Pantry

If you wish to donate poinsettias or money to the food pantry, please sign the sheet on the table in the Narthex. Poinsettias are \$22 and donations to Helping Neighbors are \$20. Please indicate on your check's memo line which you are purchasing. Thanks!

Advent Soup Suppers Join us this Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm for soup and fellowship!

Election of New Vestry Members If you are interested in running for a position on St. Mark's vestry, please let Rev. Hannah or Blake Coe know. Four positions will be open, and the only requirements to be on the vestry are that you must be a confirmed, active member. Elections will be on January 22 at our annual meeting.

Money Wall St. Mark's EYC is sponsoring the money wall to collect money for Christmas for Teens in foster care. Please take an envelope and when you have put money in it, leave it in the office or give it to Stephanie Matthews. Thank you!

Children's Christmas Pageant is scheduled this year on December 24th at the 5:00 pm service. All school age children are encouraged to participate. Please contact Rose Mary (rosemarylatanich@gmail.com or [870-935-0236](tel:870-935-0236)) for more information and about required practice times.

Helping Neighbors Food Pantry Thank you for your donations of \$55 and 24 pounds of food last week; Helping Neighbors appreciates all you do for them!

United Thank Offerings The cross and the acrylic box for United Thank Offerings will remain on or near the sign up table in the Narthex for donations. The donation envelopes will be available on the back of the pews in case you wish to make a donation at any time.

Nursery Worker Position Because one of our nursery attendants can no longer work on Sundays, we are in need of someone to replace her. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact Rev. Hannah at hannah.hooker@stmarksjonesboro.org. or call the office at 932-2124.

WEEKLY REPORT

| | Weekly Budget | Year to Date | Year to Date Budget, Wk 49 | Attendance |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Offering 12/4/16 | \$ 5,103 | \$282,051 | \$282,051 | Last Week 106 |
| Needed | <u>6,086</u> | <u>278,708</u> | <u>298,214</u> | 2016 52 Wk Av 149 |
| Shortage | (\$ 983) | \$ 3,343 | (\$ 16,163) | 2015 Average 153 |
| Current Cash | \$ 16,853 | | | |
| Outstanding bills | (\$ 6,866) | | Loan Balance | \$ 153,548 |

ST. MARK'S STAFF

Rev. Hannah Hooker, Curate
 Amber Cesare
 Susan Geis, Secretary
 Joy Sanford, Organist
 Rhonda Dauer, Music Director

hannah.hooker@stmarksjonesboro.org
bookkeeper@stmarksjonesboro.org
secretary@stmarksjonesboro.org
jandjazz@suddenlink.net
music@stmarksjonesboro.org

Betty Donnell, Stephanie Matthews, Nursery attendants
Tiya Demby, Sarah Wofford

ST. MARK'S VESTRY

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Blake Coe, Sr. Warden | 870-217-1975 | davidblakecoe@gmail.com |
| Lise Cater | 870-219-6700 | lise58@suddenlink.net |
| Scott Darwin | 870-972-8354 | sdarwin@suddenlink.net |
| Erik Gilbert | 870-930-9735 | egilbert@astate.edu |
| Deb McInturff | 870-934-1915 | debmcinturff@gmail.com |
| Perry Moses, Jr. Warden | 870-351-6250 | perrymoses@yahoo.com |
| Carol Neves, Secretary | 870-919-4830 | carol.neves@jonesboroschools.net |
| Phillip Poston | 870-9191737 | ptposton@suddenlink.net |
| Ryker Robinson | 901-412-7411 | rykerrobinson@gmail.com |
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The Episcopal Church welcomes you!



ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church

St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Day School

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(870) 932-2124

www.StMarksJonesboro.org