



ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

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

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 Visitor 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

Liturgy of the Word for Children is held at 10 a.m. for children ages 4 through 5th grade in our smaller John Roberts Chapel. Children enter our Nave during the processional hymn and return from the chapel during the Peace so that they may share the Eucharist with their families. Liturgy of the Word for Children is a special time for these children, and they sing, pray, craft and hear the Gospel.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children in kindergarten through 6th grade meet at 6 p.m. for dinner and fellowship, then split up by age. Classes end at 7:30 p.m. Youth in grades 7-12 meet at 5:00pm on Wednesdays.

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 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 to the left of the main entrance, through the Parish Offices door.

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 6:30 p.m. Sundays (Nave)

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

All stand as the cross enters.

Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Celebrant says

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

Celebrant and people say

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT The Second Sunday in Advent

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON **A reading from Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from
the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of
the LORD,
make straight in the desert a
highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be
made low;

the uneven ground shall become
level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be
revealed,
and all people shall see it
together,
for the mouth of the LORD has
spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower
of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of
the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will
stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good
tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord GOD comes with
might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a
shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his
arms,

and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother
sheep.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 85: 1-2, 8-13 *Read responsively by whole verse.*

Benedixisti, Domine

1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**†2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.**

8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

**9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

**13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

SECOND LESSON

A Reading from 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will

be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL Mark 1: 1-8

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE 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

The prophet John the Baptist preached a repentance unlike any other. In penitence and faith, let us offer our prayers to God and prepare the way of the Lord saying, Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, and for all those who in their particular ministries build up the Body of Christ, that in our diverse vocations we might serve to the glory of God. We pray especially for Larry our bishop, Hannah our curate, and Jon, Katherine, and Matthew, our seminarians. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for this nation and for all the nations of the world, remembering especially those who are victims of injustice. We pray for those whom we have elected to public office, especially Donald our President, Asa our governor, and Harold our Mayor, and for political leaders everywhere, that they may administer governance with courage and equity. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, the elderly, and those who live alone. We pray for those in all kinds of prisons, and those whose suffering is known only to you. We pray for those who are overworked and those who cannot find work. Send your Holy Spirit upon them that they might abound in hope. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community, for our neighbors and friends, for those with whom we work and play. Guide and strengthen us in our common life, that we may know the gifts of your grace and love. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for _____.

And we pray for the repose of the soul of all who have died, especially _____. Grant that they may rest in your presence, Lord, and that we might share with them in banquet prepared for us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE BIRTHDAY PRAYER

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, for your servant N. 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.

THE PRESENTATION OF ALMS

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EOW II

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every

living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 tresspasses,
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

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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant and people

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Advent

Christmas is all too often celebrated long before it is actually here; this is especially true in the commercial areas of our society where pre-Christmas sales are of ultimate importance. The church, however, spends the four weeks before December 25 waiting for Christ to come. This season is called Advent, and is marked by the wreath in the nave and the blue vestments. Our church year restarts from the beginning and over the next twelve months, we re-tell the story of Jesus' birth, teachings, death, resurrection, and final victory over sin and death. It is also a time for introspection as we prepare our hearts and minds to receive the light of Christ, not only in a manger 2000 years ago, but again this year in our modern lives.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today Second Sunday of Advent
 8:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
 10:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
 3:30pm Handbell Rehearsal
 5:00pm EfM
 6:30pm Compline

Wed 6:00pm Christian Education
 6:15pm Holy Eucharist
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday December 16 at 10:00am Two Saints' Kitchen, Team #1

SAVE THE DATE

Men's Club

We will meet Thursday, December 14th at 6:00 at the church. Terry Barnett will be our cook, Adam Weeks will be our guest speaker, and we will discuss our 51st Annual Pancake Day, which will be Saturday, January 27th.

Advent Date Reminders

Sunday, December 17 at 2pm – First Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant
Saturday, December 23 at 10am. - Second Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 24 at 5pm- Christmas Pageant/ Christmas Eve Mass
Sunday, December 24 at 10:00pm- Prelude Christmas Eve Mass 10:30 pm Service

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

12/11 Edward Gary III
12/15 Sarah Woffard

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

EYC – We are selling fresh Christmas Wreaths. They are \$25 each. Contact: Stephanie Matthews: Phone: 870-340-5559 or sepmatthews@gmail.com

Vestry Elections

St. Mark's has four vestry members ending their terms in January, and will need to elect four new members. The vestry functions as the leadership council of the church, caring for facilities upkeep, financial endeavors, and church policies. Serving on the vestry can be a very fulfilling way to offer your gifts of creativity and service to our St. Mark's community. We are looking for positive, dependable folks who are passionate about St. Mark's to run for vestry at our annual meeting in January. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, please call or email the church office.

Christmas Pageant -Our annual Children's Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 24th at 5pm. There will be two rehearsals. First rehearsal is Sunday, December 17 at 2pm and the second rehearsal is Saturday, December 23 at 10am. Those with key parts must commit to attending both practices. Children age 4 and under will have rolls as shepherds and angels and do not have to attend rehearsals. More information about the pageant will be available as we get closer to the date. Contact Rose Mary at rosemarylatanich@gmail.com / (870) 935-0236

Wish List for Holiday Meals at Helping Neighbors Food Pantry -We are looking ahead to distributing Christmas food for our clients at Helping Neighbors Food Pantry. We are asking for the following: -Chicken Broth --Cream of Mushroom soup-(or cream of chicken) Turkeys (or money to purchase them). Andrea Levy Mobil: 505-903-9293 or Alevy5816@gmail.com

Christmas Memorials and Gifts in Honor (Poinsettias, Wreaths, and Helping Neighbors Food Pantry) - St. Mark's offers three ways to remember a loved one or give thanks for blessings at Christmas. Poinsettias for the Sanctuary are \$20, Wreaths are \$30, and a donation to Helping Neighbors Food Pantry is \$20. Payment can be brought or sent to the office or dropped in the offering plate on Sunday Morning. There is a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex. Please indicate on the envelope or check memo line which item you are donating and in whose honor/memory. All gifts will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve.

Helping Neighbors Food Pantry Thank you for a super week! You donated \$154, keep up the good work

Charitable Contribution Deductions for 2017 Donors must deliver checks on or before December 31, 2017, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2017. Checks that are written, mailed, and *postmarked* in 2017 will be deductible in 2017, even if they are not received by a church until 2018.

WEEKLY REPORT

Last week #	49
Actual Offering	\$ 9,649.57
Budgeted Offering	\$ 5,903.00
Surplus (Shortage)	\$ 3,746.57

Year Through 12/03/2017	Income	Expense	Surplus (Shortage)
Actual	\$ 268,362.83	\$ 234,892.53	\$ 33,470.30
Budgeted	\$ 289,247.00	\$ 231,042.00	\$ 58,205.00
Surplus (Shortage)	\$ (20,884.17)	\$ (3,850.53)	

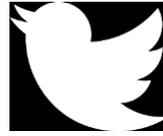
Current Cash	\$54,100
Outstanding Bills	
Loan Balance	\$ 146,387.00

ST. MARK'S STAFF

Rev. Hannah Hooker, Curate	hannah.hooker@stmarksjonesboro.org
Rhonda Dauer, Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@stmarksjonesboro.org
Dana Moses, Secretary	secretary@stmarksjonesboro.org
Joy Sanford, Organist	jandjazz@suddenlink.net
Rhonda Dauer, Music Director	music@stmarksjonesboro.org
Betty Donnell, Stephanie Matthews, Keisha Dunavin	Nursery attendants

ST. MARK'S VESTRY

Erik Gilbert, Senior Warden	870-926-7167	erik.gilbert@gmail.com
Deb McInturff	870-270-9418	debmcinturff@gmail.com
Perry Moses, Jr. Warden	870-351-6250	perrymoses@yahoo.com
Carol Neves, Secretary	870-919-4830	carol.neves@jonesboroschools.net
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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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www.StMarksJonesboro.org