



Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 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 5:30pm 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 Third Sunday of Advent

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver

us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen**

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON A Reading from Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon
me,
because the LORD has anointed
me;
he has sent me to bring good news to
the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's
favor,
and the day of vengeance of our
God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in
Zion—
to give them a garland instead of
ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of
mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a
faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of
righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to
display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former
devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many
generations.

For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their
recompense,
and I will make an everlasting
covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known
among the nations,
and their offspring among the
peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom
the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my
God;
for he has clothed me with the
garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe
of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a
garland,
and as a bride adorns herself
with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its
shoots,
and as a garden causes what is
sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause
righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the
nations.

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

PSALM 126 *Read responsively by whole verse.*

1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

**2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."

**4 The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.**

5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.**

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

SECOND LESSON A Reading from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

THE GOSPEL John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

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

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Hannah Hooker

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

Jesus said that the signs of God's reign are in the healing of the sick and proclaiming good news to the poor. Let us pray that our lives may be the instruments of God's work in the world saying, Oh God, most worthy of praise, hear our prayer.

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation. Grant that we who bear your image may be faithful stewards of your gift and administer its bounty with wisdom for the good of all your creature. O God, most worthy of praise, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you that you have called us to be your people. Give us patience as we await your coming, that we might discern your will in our lives, and that each of us may serve others for the building up of our common life. O God, most worthy of praise, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the community of faith throughout the world. Strengthen your church as it witnesses to your love. We pray especially for Larry our bishop, Hannah our curate, and Jon, Katherine, and Matthew, our seminarians. And for _____. Guide us all in the fulfillment of your mission, that all may be one. O God, most worthy of praise, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the privilege of ministering to others. We remember before you all who are sick or in any kind of need, especially _____. We pray for those who have died, especially _____. Grant us the grace to accept suffering with patience, and to draw strength from this gathered Body of Christ. O God, most worthy of praise, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for your countless gifts, and above all we thank you for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ, and for our unity in him through baptism. O God, most worthy of praise, **hear our prayer.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

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, GREETINGS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

All stand.

Celebrant 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, on 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 in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,**

and the glory are yours,
now and forever. **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 third 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** Third Sunday of Advent
8:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
9:00am- 9:45am Adult Forum
10:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
2:00pm First Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant
3:30pm Handbell Rehearsal
5:00pm EfM
6:30pm Compline
- Monday** 7:00pm Vestry Meeting
- Wed** 5:30pm EYC
6:00pm Christian Education
6:15pm Holy Eucharist
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday** December 23 at 10:00am Two Saints' Kitchen, Team #3
(Team #2 and team #3 have switched Saturdays)
- 10:00am. - Second Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant

SAVE THE DATE

Advent Date Reminders

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

12/20 Jo Ann Steed

12/22 Aiden McBride

12/22 Perry Moses

Anniversaries

12/17 Bill and Marilyn Brown

12/21 Phillip and Becky Wells

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

United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church for all men, women, and children. We give thanks for everyday blessings by dropping a few coins in the blue box. Please consider donating. The boxes will be on the table in the Narthex along with the familiar wooden cross to deposit your donation in.

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

Helping Neighbors Food Pantry You donated \$100 and 72 pounds of food ...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 #	50
Actual Offering	\$ 8,277.05
Budgeted Offering	\$ 5,903.00
Surplus (Shortage)	\$ 2,374.05

Year Through 12/10/2017	Income	Expense	Surplus (Shortage)
Actual	\$ 276,639.90	\$ 242,212.36	\$ 34,427.54
Budgeted	\$ 295,150.00	\$ 231,042.00	\$ 64,108.00
Surplus (Shortage)	\$ (18,510.10)	\$ (11,170.36)	

Current Cash	\$48,836
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
Yvonne Nipper	870-904-3353	yvonnenipper@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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