



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON A Reading from 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 15 *Read in Unison.*

The Song of Mary (*Luke 1:46-55*)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Celebrant: 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

Mary, the mother of Christ, is a witness to the Church of faithful obedience to God. As we come near to the commemoration of Christ's coming into the world, let us pray that we, like Mary, might hear God's word and respond in faith saying, Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the church universal, that united in baptism, every member might manifest Christ in the world. We pray especially for Larry our bishop, Hannah our curate, and Jon, Katherine, and Matthew, our seminarians. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the leaders of government in every nation, especially Donald our president, Asa our governor, and Harold our mayor, that they may have the wisdom to choose that which serves the common good. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who are in need, remembering the sick, the lonely, the imprisoned, and those in need, and all those who minister to them, especially _____, that we all may be strengthened by the presence of Christ as a sign of God's love. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those with whom we share our daily lives, our families, our friends, neighbors and colleagues, and this worshipping community, especially _____, that we may all be sustained by God's presence with us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who have died, especially _____, that they may rest in peace. May we wait in hope for the promise of the resurrection with them. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant concludes with a collect.

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** Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve
8:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5:00pm Eucharist and Christmas Pageant
10:00pm Prelude
10:30pm Christmas Eve Mass
- Mon/Tues** Office Closed
- Wed** 6:15pm Evening Prayer
- Saturday** December 30 at 10:00am Two Saints' Kitchen, Team #2
(Team #2 and team #3 have switched Saturdays)

SAVE THE DATE

- January 21:** Annual Meeting
January 27: 52nd Annual Pancake Day

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

12/24 Holli Davis

Anniversaries

12/27 Rusty and Sheila Guinn

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Annual Meeting- Will be Sunday, January 21, 2018 – following the 10:00 am service.

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.

Helping Neighbors Food Pantry You donated \$200 and 20 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 # 51		Year Through 12/17/2017			
		Income	Expense	Surplus (Shortage)	
Actual Offering	\$ 5,354.37	Actual	\$ 285,385.85	\$ 246,324.00	\$ 39,061.85
Budgeted Offering	\$ 5,903.00	Budgeted	\$ 301,053.00	\$ 231,042.00	\$ 70,011.00
Surplus (Shortage)	\$ (548.63)	Surplus (Shortage)	\$ (15,667.15)	\$ (15,282.00)	

Current Cash	\$57,451
Outstanding Bills	\$ 11,472.00
Loan Balance	\$ 145,726.00

ST. MARK'S STAFF

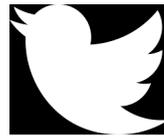
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ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church



The Episcopal Church welcomes you!

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