



ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church

First Sunday of Advent

December 2 , 2018

8 A.M. Sunday Worship with Communion

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. DR. JOSHUA DANIEL, PRIEST

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.

FORMATION 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.

ADULT FORMATION AT 9:00AM SUNDAY MORNINGS IN THE PARISH HALL This is an Adult Education Group that allows us to engage in conversation, reflect on the diverse points of scripture and go deeper into our faith.

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 (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

All standing, the Celebrant says

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

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

The Celebrant then continues

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.

The Celebrant says

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON A Reading from A Reading from Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-9

Ad te, Domine, levavi

Read Responsively by whole verse

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

SECOND LESSON A Reading from 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

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

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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Joshua Daniel, Ph.D.

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

Celebrant: 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.

Intercessor : 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, Joshua our priest, 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 violence and 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. We pray for all people of faith and for the churches in Jonesboro. 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.**

Celebrant: O God remain with your people. Guide us in all things and open our hearts to your steadfast love. When there is danger or threats of danger ground us in your living Word. Prepare our world for your coming, so that when we rejoice we may turn to you in the joy of thanksgiving. All this we ask through the mercies of your Son Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN *A moment of silence is observed*

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 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.**

THE BIRTHDAY PRAYER:

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) as they begin(s) another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their 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- RITE II, PRAYER A

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 him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen

into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to 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.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior
Christ has 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 Celebrant continues

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All are invited to share in the bread and wine of holy communion. To receive the bread, place one hand in the other with palms up and extend them to the minister distributing the bread. To receive the wine, please assist the minister with the cup, grasping the base and guiding the cup to your lips; or you may dip the bread in the cup. If you choose not to receive the bread or the wine but instead receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.

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

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Adult Formation in the Parish Hall
10:00 am Holy Eucharist
3:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
5:00 pm EfM
6:00 pm Leap of Faith (EYC)
6:30 pm Compline

Wed 6:00 pm **Feast of St. Nicholas** in the Nave with Cookies & Milk to follow
 in the Parish Hall
 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

Thurs 6:00 pm NEABC Meeting

Sat 10:00 am Two Saints' Kitchen, Team # 2

SAVE THE DATE

Dec. 12- 5:30 pm EYC Christmas Party
Dec. 16- 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service
Dec. 19- 6:00 pm Christian Ed Family Christian Education Christmas gathering.
Dec. 23- 10:00 am Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist/ Advent 4
Dec. 24- 5:00 pm Children's Christmas Pageant
 10:00 pm Prelude/10:30pm High Eucharist
Dec. 25- 10:00 am Christmas Day Service

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

12/03 Bill Smith
12/03 Ryan Steed
12/04 Greg Smith

Anniversaries

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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 (ex: Poinsettias, Christmas wreath, or Helping Neighbors Christmas donation) and in whose honor/memory. Money is due by Dec. 19.

All gifts will be listed in the bulletin for the Christmas Eve service.

Christian Education: St. Nicholas' Feast Day.

On Wednesday, December 5 our Christian Ed families will participate with the parish St. Nicholas' Feast Day. We will gather at 6:00pm in the nave. Before entering the nave children will be asked to leave their shoes outside the door. Children might want to bring an extra pair of socks or slippers if they need to keep their feet warm. During this special celebration children will learn more about the legends of our beloved St Nicholas. Afterwards, children will be able to take a picture with St. Nicholas and celebrate with cookies and milk.



Angel Tree

The Salvation Army Angel Tree will soon be in the Narthex. Please bring your donated gifts and place them *unwrapped* under the tree with the Angel Tree Tag attached by **Sunday, Dec. 9th**



Warm and Fuzzy Tree/ECW

ECW is sponsoring the Warm and Fuzzy Tree for the Family Crisis Center again this year. We are collecting hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, pajamas and slippers for the women, girls and boys at the Crisis Center. Pick a Teddy Bear Tag off our tree and then buy and *wrap the gift*. Attach the Teddy Bear tag and return to St. Mark's by December 16th. Please be thinking about this as you do your

holiday shopping.



ECW is also collecting adult size socks for the Salvation Army Annual sock drive, please put socks under the tree in the Narthex.

EYC News- We meet Wednesdays from 5:30pm-7:30pm

Our EYC group will be collecting food and donations for the Humane Society. On Dec. 19 we will take our donation to the Humane Society. Our EYC kids chose this project and feel very passionate about this need in Jonesboro. They will be talking to friends, family, church members and using their own money to help with this project. If anyone wants to help us, we will have a labeled box in the Narthex. Requested items: Odoban, Fromm puppy Gold, Merrick canned, toys, soft treats, paper towels, blue dawn dishwashing, liquid laundry detergent any kind, puppy pads, trash bags, paper towels, toilet paper, old towels, blankets, beds any size, bottled water, hand soap, any size any kind dry dog or cat food Also ***If you are willing to provide a meal for EYC for Wed. Nights, please contact me or the office.*** If you are interested in our Youth Group you can call or text me with any questions 870-340-5559. Stephanie

Parishioners: *If you know of someone who is in the hospital, ill, injured, or elderly and they would like to receive home Communion or a visit, please let the church office know. 932-2124*



For Our Children We are now inviting the children to take a more active role in the church's offering. We're asking our kids to bring a can of food or some other non-perishable item so that during the offertory they can bring the food to altar as an offering. We'll then donate the food to Helping Neighbors. So if you have a child, help remind them to bring a can of food!

Things to Donate to Helping Neighbors: Things to Donate to Helping Neighbors: *We are asking all our friends to help us collect the following: items which are easy for children to eat- Beef Ravioli , microwaveable mac and cheese, hearty soups, peanut butter, cereal bars, peanut butter crackers, Dinty Moore ready in 60 seconds meals, applesauce single packs, please items that are easy for children to eat and prepare at they are not in school over the Christmas Break.*

Helping Neighbors Food Pantry : you donated 52 pounds of food this past week. Great job!

Two Saints' Kitchen



Two Saints Kitchen On November 24, 2018 Team #10 served chili, with crackers, and bananas, to 66 people.

FYI If you shop at Kroger and have Kroger Card you can add Two Saints Kitchen Inc. to your Community Rewards. The amount you spend is tabulated and Kroger donates a portion back to groups in the community. To do this: access your card's profile and look on the left for the "Community Rewards" tab, enter the enrollment number for Two Saints. Inc. : **UY029**. Thank you for helping feed the hungry in Jonesboro!

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



ST. MARK'S STAFF

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Betty Donnell, Stephanie Matthews, and Keisha Dunavin	Nursery attendants

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The Episcopal Church welcomes you!



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