



ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 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 Second Sunday of Advent

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 A Reading from Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

LUKE 1: 68-79 **The Song of Zechariah** *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Read Responsively by whole verse

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. *Amen.*

SECOND LESSON A Reading from Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3: 1-6

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

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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 Brandon, 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

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

8:00am Holy Eucharist
9:00am Adult Formation in the Parish Hall
10:00am Holy Eucharist
3:30pm Handbell Rehearsal
5:00pm EfM
6:30pm Compline

Wed 5:30pm EYC- Christmas Party
6:00pm Christian Ed
6:15pm Healing Eucharist
7:00pm Choir rehearsal

Sat 10:00am Two Saints' Kitchen, Team # 3
11:00am ECW Christmas Potluck Brunch at Rose Mary Latanich's house

SAVE THE DATE

Dec. 16- 2:00pm Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Pageant
7:00pm Blue Christmas Service
Dec. 19- 6:00pm Christian Ed Family Christian Education Christmas gathering.
Dec. 23- 2:00pm Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Pageant
10:00am Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist/ Advent 4
Dec. 24- 5:00pm Children's Christmas Pageant
10:00pm **Prelude/10:30pm** High Eucharist
Dec. 25- 10:00am Christmas Day Service

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

12/09 Al Poston
12/11 Edward Gary
12/12 Tonya Hottle
12/15 Sarah Wofford

Anniversaries

12/09 Bill and Ruth Keisker

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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*

Helping Neighbors Food Pantry : you donated 34 pounds of food this past week. Great job!
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 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 sign up 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.



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 **today 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.

Two Saints' Kitchen



Two Saints Kitchen On December 2, 2018 Team #1 served chili, with crackers, and bananas, to 50 people with about 5 to go plates.

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 on a Wed. night, 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



Christmas Pageant -Our annual Children's Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Monday, December 24th at 5pm. There are two scheduled rehearsals for the pageant. The first rehearsal is scheduled for Sunday, December 16th at 2pm. The second is Sunday, December 23 also at 2:00pm. Only main characters will need to attend practices. Preschool age children who play *little angels or little shepherds do not attend practices. I would like to encourage all school aged children to take part in this wonderful enactment of the birth of Christ. We will also need volunteers to help during rehearsals and the day of the pageant. Registration forms for the*

Christmas Pageant can be found in the narthex.

Contact Rose Mary at rosemarylatanich@gmail.com or call (870) 935-0236



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!

Look at Things to Donate.

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.*

Charitable Contribution Deductions for 2018 Donors must deliver checks on or before December 31, 2018, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2018. Checks that are written, mailed, and *postmarked* in 2018 will be deductible in 2018, even if they are not received by a church until 2019.

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



ST. MARK'S STAFF

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Rose Mary Latanich, Children's Ed. Director

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Stephanie Matthews, EYC Director

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Betty Donnell, Stephanie Matthews,
and Keisha Dunavin

Nursery attendants

ST. MARK'S VESTRY

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The Episcopal Church welcomes you!



ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church

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