



ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15 , 2019

8 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

www.StMarksJonesboro.org

Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, we are so 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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Liturgy of the Word for Children is held at 10 a.m. for children ages 4 through 5th grade. Children process out during the first hymn and return from the chapel during the Peace (under 30 minutes). Also we invite all children to bring a food donation during the offering each week.

FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH Children in kindergarten through 6th grade meet from 6 p.m - 7 p.m. every Wednesday for snacks and fellowship, then split up by age. Youth in grades 7-12 meet every Sunday at 4:30pm.

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 9:30 am 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

SUNDAY Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sundays (Nave)
EYC- 4:30pm
Sung Compline Service at 6:30 p.m. Sundays (John Roberts Chapel)

WEDNESDAY *Christian Ed 6-7pm

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

The Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant: 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.

All 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 OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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 for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON A Reading from Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 15

Read responsively by whole verse

BCP 15

The Song of Mary Magnificat 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.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Scott Trotter

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant and People

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 Advent 1, Year A

Celebrant: Awaken us, O God, and prepare us for your coming into the world, that we may willingly enter with you in your work of healing and reconciliation, as we pray: Let your Spirit awaken us; let us walk in the light of Christ.

Leader: Gracious and Loving One, bless your Church with the gift of peace, that glad people may go to the house of God where you will teach us your ways.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Leader: Eternal One, judge between the nations and arbitrate for many people with your justice, that all in authority will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, so that nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Leader: Compassionate One, visit the people of the earth with your grace, that all may lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Leader: Loving One, inspire us to respond to the needs of our community and grant us your goodness, that we may be a city at unity with itself, where peace dwells within our walls and quietness within our towers.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Leader: Healing and ever-present God, shed your light upon those who suffer or who live with any kind of trouble.

Leader: Hear our gratitude for all the blessings you shower upon us.

Leader: Bring into the fullness of your light those who have died.

Leader: Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Celebrant: Come to us in judgment and grace, O Holy One, and arouse us to your purpose, that we may be instruments of your peace, ready to meet the Son of Man at an unexpected hour, in the power of your Spirit manifested through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

Celebrant 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 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.

GREETINGS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BIRTHDAY PRAYER *Celebrant and People*

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin 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 HOLY COMMUNION

People: All things come of thee O Lord and of thine own have we given thee.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

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.**

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.

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:

SANCTUS

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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the

prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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 [all] for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mark and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 has taught us we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant and People

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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.

BLESSING Advent 1, Year A

The priest blesses the people, saying

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The greenery on the altar today is given in honor of Jonathan and Emma Jacobs Wedding Anniversary.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

12/15 Sarah Wofford

12/20 Becky Carr

Anniversaries

12/17 Bill and Marilyn Brown

12/17 Margaret Guinn

12/20 Jo Ann Steed

12/21 Phillip and Becky Wells

12/17 Matelyn Stone

12/20 Tom Haynes

SAVE THE DATE

Dec 15 - 7 pm- Blue Christmas Service

Dec. 22 - Lessons and Carols

Dec. 16 - Vestry Meeting

Dec. 24-5pm Children's Christmas Pageant

Dec. 18 - Ch. Ed/Family Christmas Gathering

Dec. 19 - Men's Club

Dec. 24 -10pm Prelude and Midnight Mass

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Holy Eucharist

3:30pm Handbells

4:30pm EYC (Youth Group)

6:30pm Compline (Chapel)

Mon

6:30pm Vestry Meeting

Wed

6:00pm Christian Ed/ Family

Christmas Gathering

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thurs

6:00pm Men's Club

Sat

10:00am Two Saints', Team # 6

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



Warm and Fuzzy Tree - If you took a teddy bear tag from the Warm and Fuzzy tree, please return your wrapped gift with the tag attached by today Sun, Dec. 15. Gifts go to the Family Crisis Center. Sponsored by ECW.

Blue Christmas Service: Today at 6:30pm in the Nave.

As muzak in every store and songs on every radio station are telling us, we are now in "the most wonderful time of



the year.” Children are angelic, miracles are happening on every corner, peace and goodwill fill every heart, and everyone is happy. What happens when you feel as if you are the one person who is not full of happiness and the Christmas Spirit? Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people. For those who are grieving or in some kind of pain, the Christmas season can be very difficult to endure. Our society, with its emphasis on happiness, often fails to leave a space for grieving. A Blue Christmas service provides us that sacred space. During the service, we will, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God. We will have some singing appropriate to the season, recognizing that this is not a season of joy for everyone. We will invite you to reflect on the pain, loneliness, and the sadness you may feel and offer it to God for healing and transformation. We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Always remember that God knows your pain and loves you unconditionally. Dec. 15 at 7pm in the Nave

Children’s Christmas Pageant The first rehearsal is scheduled for Sun., Dec. 15th at 2pm. The second is Sun., Dec.22 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



Dec. 22 during the 10:00am service. Advent is a season of both quiet reflection and joyful expectation. This service is intended to be a time of spiritual preparation, as we watch and wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Through our experience of sacred Word and

music, the story of the coming of Christ gradually unfolds and deepens our understanding of God’s message of love and redemption. The liturgy itself embodies the sense of Advent movement — through the choir’s processions and in the increasingly powerful prophecies and promises of Holy Scripture. May these words and this music propel you quietly toward the true joy of Christmas

Parishioners: If you ,or anyone you know is in the hospital, ill, injured, elderly. or would just like to receive a visit, a phone call, or they would like to receive home Communion, please let the church office know. We would love to minister to them.



Two Saints Kitchen December 7, 2019 Team #4 served over 35 guests, smoked turkey, chicken and dressing, green beans, apple crisp, and chocolate chip muffins. Many guests enjoyed seconds and 12 enjoyed take out.

Altar Flowers for 2020 - If you would like to donate flowers for the altar in honor or memory of a loved one for 2020, there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Cost is \$35.00.

Large Printed Bulletins: If you are in need of a large print bulletin or insert, there are some printed for the 10:00 am service, just ask our greeters.



Hope's Suzuki Strings wishes everyone a blessed holiday season. I have a few openings for private & group lessons. For all members of St. Mark's & St. Mark's Day school, I am offering a \$10.00 discount off monthly tuition. Anyone from age 4 & up are welcome. Give the gift of music to your loved ones this season. Anyone interested may call me at 870-253-9916. Thank you. Mrs. Hope.



For Our Children *Reminder:* Please have your child bring a non perishable food item so the can participate and have an active role in the church's offering. All donations go to Helping Neighbors Food Pantry. Also, if you would like to help provide non perishable food items for the children's offering, please let Rose Mary know. This is a great way to make sure that a child is not left out during the offering, in case they forget their food item at home.



Helping Neighbors Food Pantry: Thank you for your donations this week of 158 pounds. **New need : *Helping Neighbors is going to be giving out Holiday packs for the Christmas season, they are asking for evaporated milk, cream of chicken soup, cream of celery soup, cream of mushroom soup, Stovetop stuffing, cake mix, canned frosting, please have these donations at the church by Dec. 11 so the pantry can put the Holiday packs together.*** Always need: food pantry for pasta sauce, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti noodles, and other types of pasta and cereal, peanut butter, apple sauce, individual fruit cups, granola bars, and coffee. We will be providing extra food for a Christmas dinner this year. *In this regard, we will be purchasing Christmas hams, but we need monetary contributions.* Thank you for all of the donations! Helping Neighbors will be Dec. 23 - 27.

For Diocesan Events: Please check the weekly Mid- Week announcements that are sent out via email every week. If you would like to sign up, contact the office at

secretary@stmarksjonesboro.org and Dana will sign you up. This is a great way for you to keep updated on events at St. Mark's and the Diocesan!

WEEKLY FINANCIALS

Last week #	49	12/08/2019	
Attendance	74	Actual Income	\$194,254.55
Actual Offering	\$8,901.90	Actual Expenses	\$250,426.08
Needed for Budget	\$5,624.00	Surplus (Shortage)	-\$56,171.53
Surplus (Shortage)	\$3,277.90		
Current Cash	\$25,676.24	Food Pantry	\$20.00
Loan Balance	\$129,391.57	Two Saints	\$0.00

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



ST. MARK'S VESTRY

Steve Replogle, Sr. Warden	870-680-0922	stephen.replogle@gmail.com
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David Worlow, treasurer	870-932-8448	dworlow@jonesborocpa.com

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