



**ST MARK'S**  
Episcopal Church

First Sunday after Christmas Day

Dec 28, 2014

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**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**  
**THE REV. JESSE PERKINS, RECTOR**  
**THE REV. AMBER CARSWELL, CURATE**

[www.StMarksJonesboro.org](http://www.StMarksJonesboro.org)

**Welcome** to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, we are glad you are here! Please complete a **Welcome** 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**

Children's Chapel is held at 10 a.m. for children ages 3 through 7 in our smaller John Roberts Chapel. Children enter our Sanctuary during the processional hymn and will return from Chapel during the Peace so that they may share the Eucharist with their families. Children's Chapel is a special time for these children, and they sing, pray, craft and hear the Gospel.

#### **WEDNESDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Children in kindergarten through high school meet at 6 p.m. for dinner and fellowship, then split up by age. Classes end at 7:30 p.m.

#### **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. Nursery hours are 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 in the Sanctuary Foyer, through the Parish Offices door, on the right-hand side.

#### **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 7:30 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.

## THE WORD OF GOD

*Priest:* Blessed be God: Father Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People:* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. 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.**

### COLLECT FOR PURITY

**BCP 355**

*Celebrant* Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
*People* **Have mercy upon us.**

### COLLECT FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

**BCP 213**

## THE LESSONS

**FIRST LESSON** A reading from Isaiah [61:10-62:3]

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 147

*Read responsively by half verse.*

1 Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*  
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; \*  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted \*  
and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars \*  
and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; \*  
there is no limit to his wisdom.

6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, \*  
but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; \*  
make music to our God upon the harp.

8 He covers the heavens with clouds \*  
and prepares rain for the earth;

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*  
and green plants to serve mankind.

10 He provides food for flocks and herds \*  
and for the young ravens when they cry.

11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*  
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, \*  
in those who await his gracious favor.

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.

15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.

17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!

**SECOND LESSON** A Reading from Galatians [3:23-25; 4:4-7]

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*Lector:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

**GOSPEL** John 1:1-18

*Priest:* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*Priest:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON**

The Rev. Amber Carswell

<b>THE NICENE CREED</b>	<b>BCP 358</b>
<b>PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM VI</b>	<b>BCP 392</b>
<b>CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION</b>	<b>BCP 360</b>
<b>THE PEACE</b>	<b>BCP 360</b>
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	
<b>THE BIRTHDAY PRAYER</b>	<b>BCP 830</b>

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## OFFERTORY AND 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 D

BCP 372

*(Please follow in your prayer books.)*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

All

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## DISMISSAL

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

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

**Today** 7:30p Compline  
**Mon**  
**Tue**  
**Wed**  
**Thurs** Office closed for New Year's  
**Friday**  
**Saturday** 10:00a Two Saints' Kitchen, Team #7

## SAVE THE DATE

Jan 6 Epiphany Service of Light  
Jan 10 ECW Meeting  
Jan 11 Coffee with the Rector  
Jan 15 Men's Club Meeting  
Jan 18 Annual Meeting and Potluck  
Jan 24 Burns' Night  
Jan 25 Vestry Meeting  
Jan 31 Pancake Day

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays

12/29 John Elam  
12/31 Barbara Cart

### Anniversaries

1/02 Erik and Donna Gilbert

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Epiphany Service** This year St. Mark's will celebrate Epiphany with a service of light. Please join us in the Nave at 7:00 pm on January 6. The nursery will be open for children 3 and under.

### **Vestry Elections**

Our annual vestry election will be on Jan. 18, and we are looking for seven or eight candidates to run for election. We will elect four new vestry members to serve a three-year term and one member to fill a vacancy. If you are interested or willing to serve, please contact Father Jesse at [rector@stmarksjonesboro.org](mailto:rector@stmarksjonesboro.org).

**Annual Reports** For those of you who are ministry leaders, your annual reports will be due on January 12. If you have questions or would like to see a sample report, please contact Susan at 932-2124.

### St. MARK'S STAFF

Rev. Jesse Perkins, Rector	rector@stmarksjonesboro.org
Rev. Amber Carswell, Curate	curate@stmarksjonesboro.org
Amber Cesare	bookkeeper@stmarksjonesboro.org
Susan Geis, Secretary	secretary@stmarksjonesboro.org
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Rhonda Dauer, Music Director	music@stmarksjonesboro.org
Betty Donnell, Sandy Clark,	nursery attendants
Stephanie Matthews, Kirsten Penley	

### ST. MARK'S VESTRY

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*The Episcopal Church welcomes you!*



ST MARK'S  
Episcopal Church

St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Day School

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