



ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 8 , 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.

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 for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON A Reading from Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 *Deus, iudicium* Read responsively by whole verse

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 **That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;**
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 **He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 **He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.**

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Canon Jason Alexander

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing.

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.**

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 Bill Keisker's 90 plus birthday by his family.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

12/09 Al Poston
12/11 Gary Edward
12/12 Tonya Hottel

Anniversaries

12/09 Bill and Ruth Keisker

SAVE THE DATE

Dec. 11 - The Feast of St. Nicholas

Dec 15 - Blue Christmas Service

Dec. 16 - Vestry Meeting

Dec. 22 - Lessons and Carols

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)

Wed

6:00pm Christian Ed/ Feast of St. Nicholas in the Nave
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Sat

10:00am Two Saints', Team # 5

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 Sun, Dec. 15. Gifts go to the Family Crisis Center. Sponsored by ECW.

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.



The Feast of St. Nicholas: Wed., Dec. 11. at 6 pm. Mark your calendars for cookies and milk and a celebration with St. Nicholas.



Christmas Concert: Thurs., Dec. 12 at 6:30pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 301 Hazel St., Newport, AR. Tim Allen and his wife Christine return to St. Paul's for another delightful performance of classic Christmas music. Tim is the Organist at Trinity Cathedral in Little Rock. Christine is a classically trained operatic soprano. A Reception will follow in the Parish Hall. The concert is free and all are welcome.



Two Saints Kitchen On Nov. 30, 2019 Team #3 served over 45 guests, taco soup, sandwiches, chips, crackers, bananas, and cookies. A Two Saints' volunteer brought 450 pair of socks that were donated and there were only 41 pairs left. Many guests enjoyed seconds and 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.

+EpiscopalArkansas

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!



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.

From HUB: Please remember that the long-awaited crisp Fall mornings mean our homeless will be struggling to be warm. Now is the time for your business, church, school, ladies groups & men's clubs to gather coats, scarves, hats, gloves, sweaters & blankets for your fellow man who is in need. **Drop off at the HUB** between 9:15 a.m. & 2:45 p.m. on Tuesday's & Thursday's or call to arrange special scheduling. Please **do not drop off at St. Mark's**. The HUB:Homeless Resource Center Inc- 711 Union Street, Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401-2829, (870) 333-5731 (voicemail available) Or, leave a message here on our Facebook page and someone in Administration will respond.



Helping Neighbors Food Pantry: Thank you for your donations this week of 157 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.

WEEKLY FINANCIALS

Last week #	48
Attendance	123
Actual Offering	\$2,755.72
Needed for Budget	\$5,624.00
Surplus (Shortage)	-\$2,868.28
Current Cash	\$23,392.87
Loan Balance	\$129,391.57

12/01/2019	
Actual Income	\$185,352.65
Needed for Budgeted Exp	\$269,952.00
Surplus (Shortage)	-\$84,599.35
Food Pantry	\$45.00
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
Anita Rothgery, Jr. Warden	870- 919-4713	arothgery1951@gmail.com
Terry Barnett	870-974-2842	chiroinc@gmail.com
Rusty Guinn	870- 931-8492	rustyguinn@cbjinc.com
Reneilia Hampton	870-215-6446	reneilia@yahoo.com
Tom Haynes	870-215-6500	twhaynes@gmail.com
Jonathan Jacobs	870- 351-2536	jonathanericjacobs@gmail.com
MG Ferguson-Meyering	870- 897-7474	intbydesign@att.net
Yvonne Nipper	870-904-3353	yvonnenipper@gmail.com
Bill Smith	479-466-5636	bismith75@gmail.com
Steve Thompson	870- 273-6467	steve.thompson@jonesboroschools.net
Scott Troutt	870- 219-7011	scott@trouttlawfirm.com
David Worlow, treasurer	870-932-8448	dworlow@jonesborocpa.com



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The Episcopal Church welcomes you!