

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 1538, New Britain, Connecticut 06050-1538

Parish office (90 Main Street): 860-225-7634

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/saintmarksnb](http://www.facebook.com/saintmarksnb)

Parish Web site with service information: <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/saintmarksnb](http://www.facebook.com/saintmarksnb)

The First Sunday After Christmas

December 27, 2020

**Today, the Zoom waiting room will open at 8:45 a.m. and the service will begin at 9 a.m.**

There will be 1 service on Sundays: Zoom coffee hour 9:30 am; Zoom service 10 am;

Zoom coffee hour after the service. Zoom Meeting ID 500-865-037

Enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>.

There is also a telephone number you could call on your phone to join the Zoom service:

1-646-558-8656 (phone charges may apply for the telephone call if you don't not have unlimited calling).

Fr. Shaw will call the Skype members 15 minutes prior to the service.

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A YouTube playlist of St. Mark's Sunday services has been created, and has been added to each Sunday for your use at any time during the week, via this link on the main parish Web page:

<http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>

Hymn 96 "Angels we have heard on high" vss. 1,3,4

Gloria

(everyone muted except instrumentalist and cantor; everyone else sing where they are)

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

4. See him in a manger laid  
whom the angels praise above;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while we raise our hearts in love.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

### Opening Acclamation

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

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

### Collect For Purity

Celebrant: 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 Gloria

*Celebrant sets the pace.*

**People and Celebrant**, *remembering to pause at the punctuation:*

**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** - The Lord be with you.

**R. And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray together, remembering to pause at the punctuation, to let the technology synchronize.

*Celebrant sets the pace.*

**People and Celebrant**, *remembering to pause at the punctuation:*

**Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## The First Lesson

**Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3**

Lector: Volunteer

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 147

Lector: Volunteer

Leader: Hallelujah!  
How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*

**People: how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!**

Leader: The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; \*

**People: he gathers the exiles of Israel.**

Leader: He heals the brokenhearted \*

**People: and binds up their wounds.**

Leader: He counts the number of the stars \*

**People: and calls them all by their names.**

Leader: Great is our LORD and mighty in power; \*

**People: there is no limit to his wisdom.**

Leader: The LORD lifts up the lowly, \*

**People: but casts the wicked to the ground.**

Leader: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; \*

**People: make music to our God upon the harp.**

Leader: He covers the heavens with clouds \*

**People: and prepares rain for the earth;**

Leader: He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*

**People: and green plants to serve mankind.**

Leader: He provides food for flocks and herds \*

**People: and for the young ravens when they cry.**

Leader: He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*

**People: he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;**

Leader: But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, \*

**People: in those who await his gracious favor.**

Leader: Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \*

**People: praise your God, O Zion;**

Leader: For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*

**People: he has blessed your children within you.**

Leader: He has established peace on your borders; \*

**People: he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**

Leader: He sends out his command to the earth, \*

**People: and his word runs very swiftly.**

Leader: He gives snow like wool; \*

**People: he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**

Leader: He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*

**People: who can stand against his cold?**

Leader: He sends forth his word and melts them; \*

**People: he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**

Leader: He declares his word to Jacob, \*

**People: his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**

Leader: He has not done so to any other nation; \*

**People: to them he has not revealed his judgments.**

**Hallelujah!**

## **The Second Lesson**

Lector: Volunteer

**Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7**

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 82 "Of the Father's love begotten"

Divinum mysterium

(everyone muted except instrumentalist and cantor; everyone else sing where they are)



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,  
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that  
 bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry



are, that have \_\_\_\_\_ been, and that fu - ture  
 world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
 and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_

This hymn may be performed in equal note values: 

The Holy Gospel

John 1:1-18

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

**The Reverend Dr. Shaw Mudge**

**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.**

## The Prayers of the People VI

Leader: Volunteer

**Leader:** In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

**People: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

**Leader:** For this community, the nation, and the world;

**People: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**Leader:** For the just and proper use of your creation;

**People: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

**Leader:** For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

**Leader:** For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**People: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

**Leader:** For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Ian and Laura our Bishops; and for Shaw our Priest, and for all bishops and other ministers;

**People: For all who serve God in his Church.**

**Leader:** For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*The People may add their own petitions*

**Leader:** Hear us, Lord;

**People: For your mercy is great.**

**Leader:** We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

**Leader:** We will exalt you, O God our King;

**People: And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

**Leader:** We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*The People may add their own petitions*

**Leader:** Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**People: Who put their trust in you.**

**Leader:** Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray together, the Prayer of Spiritual Communion

*Celebrant sets the pace.*

**People and Celebrant, remembering to pause at the punctuation:**

**In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves to you, and embrace you with all the affections of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live and die in your love. Amen.**

Celebrant: God of life, we thank you for the mystery planted in us, the paradox of life from death and community from scattered disciples. We praise you for the dying which saves us from death and for the rising which brings us life. We pray, as we live, through Jesus the risen one, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Offertory reminder: Please remember to support the work of Christ through St. Marks', either by mailing your financial contributions to the parish post office box or by sending a check via your bank's bill-paying Web page to the parish post office box (the address is listed towards the end of the bulletin). Thank you. People like yourself help make St. Mark's special.

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.  
*Ephesians 5:2*

*Celebrant sets the pace.*

**People and Celebrant**, remembering to pause at the punctuation:

*(Traditional)*

*(Contemporary)*

Celebrant: 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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us to  
pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **Christmas Blessing**

Priest: May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal Hymn 107 "Good Christian friends, rejoice"

In dulci jubilo

(everyone muted except instrumentalist and cantor; everyone else sing where they are)

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*When a priest is present, the service ends with the dismissal:*

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*When a priest is not present, the service ends with the Grace, led by a worship leader or deacon:*

Worship Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Amen.**

**Announcements, as had.**

**A helpful note: If you have caller I.D., please note that Fr. Shaw Mudge may be calling from 518-577-2578 or, he may be calling from 518-632-4058.**

**The First Sunday After Christmas – December 27, 2020**

**Longterm prayers are asked for:** Irene Alibrio, Sophia Anderson, Russell Atkinson, Bill Briggs, Cletus Cone, Patricia Cone, Henry Coutere, Dave, Debbie, Ron DeRobertis, Elaine, Nancy Fields, Thomas Hard, Gary Hudkins, Margaret Hughes, Rachael Johnston, Katherine, Florence Kruvka, Pauline Liese, Lindsay, Louise, Carolyn Mansolf, Christopher McLaughlin, Fran Montoya, Gabriella Nauss, Lori Nauss, Nancy Nowlak, Joseph O'Tulak, Olivia Pike, Benjamin Pisseri, P.J., Jack Polinco, Francis and Joann Rusczyk, Debbie Spak, Frank Williams, Zachary.

**Prayers are offered for:**

**Healing:** Ian Lucas, Gail Koerner, Robert Haydasz, Patricia Anderson, Kelly Nauss, Bill Briggs, Claire Lucid, Laura Rocco, Danny, Sue Savage, Ann Maltais, Rae Robinson, Edward Dubois, Barbara Campbell, Gail Bates, Mary Gould, Linda, Gary, and Ron Napper.

**Continued healing:** John Pilla.

**ECCT Cycle of Prayer:** St. Mark's, Bridgeport; St. Mark's, Bridgewater; Good Shepherd, Bristol/Plainville; and for soup kitchens and food pantries, and all ministries that feed those who go without.

**Those who serve our country:** Ryan Beaudoin, Parker Browne, Michael Johnston, and Ed Priesser.

**Parish families:** Teresa Sanchez, Mark Sanderson, Linda and Raymond Sanford, Robert Sargis and Susan Savage.

**Those who have died, especially Dorothy Cox and those from the New Britain homeless community who have died this past year:** April, Bobby, Eugene, James, Jeffrey, Jeffrey, Jody, Linda, Marcel, Mark, Michael, Michael, Michael, Richard, Scott, Sean, Steve and those who are remembered today: Gladys Cox.

**PRAYER CHAIN:** To activate the chain call or email:

Barbara Campbell – Phone: 860-673-7607 Email: [campbellba24@gmail.com](mailto:campbellba24@gmail.com)

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**Please remember to send in your pledges and offerings to the parish. The mail in the St. Mark's post office box is picked up several times a week. Your pledge payments are compiled at least once a month and deposited.**

**Mailing address for financial contributions:**

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church PO Box 1538 New Britain, CT 06050-1538  
or send checks electronically to the Church via your bank.**

**St. Marks keeps going in God's way, God's time, and to God's glory.**

**The worship services, the parish office, and ministry to the community adapt and continue.**

**Your contributions of time, talent, and treasure are appreciated to make it happen.**

**People can gather and talk at Coffee Hour before the service or after the service.**

Please remember to turn your phone volume down slightly on the Skype call.

Please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office if you have any questions.

**The Food Pantry ministry continues on Mondays (9 to 2) and Thursdays (9 to 12).**

**During Covid times, St. Mark's online, Skype, and YouTube services continue.**

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### **STEWARDSHIP**

## **Pledge Cards**

have settled into  
alphabetical order,  
all nestled in nicely  
as they get ready to work.

The banner has been raised again –  
41 people pledged \$49,945.88  
and others are welcome to land.

Come, make yourself comfortable!

**There's ministry to do – together!**

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### **THE ST. MARK'S FOOD PANTRY**



The New Britain Stop and Shop Community Bag Program will be held this year for the benefit of the St. Mark's Food Pantry. If you shop at Stop and Shop, please consider purchasing a "Give Back" bag and \$1 of each bag will be donated to our food pantry.

The Governor of Connecticut has declared that Food Pantry employees and volunteers are essential frontline workers.

The St. Mark's Food Pantry has stayed open throughout the COVID-19 restrictions. Thank you to our volunteers! You have done a tremendous job helping families receive food during these trying times.

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### **VESTRY NOMINATIONS**

Vestry nominations are now being sought. If you are interested, communicate with Father Shaw or any vestry member.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> – Vestry Zoom Meeting

Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> – St. Mark's Annual Meeting on Zoom – watch the bulletin and Message for more information – Annual Reports are due by January 15, 2021

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**St. Mark's: "Open to God's Love - Serving Our Neighbor"**