

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

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

Email: parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintmarksnb

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintmarksnb

The Second Sunday After Christmas

January 3, 2021

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.

Hymn 124 "What star is this, with beams so bright"

Puer nobis

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

1. What star is this, with beams so bright,
more beautiful than the noonday light?
It shines to herald forth the King,
and Gentiles to his crib to bring.

2. True spake the prophet from afar
who told the rise of Jacob's star;
and eastern sages with amaze
upon the wondrous token gaze.

3. The guiding star above is bright;
within them shines a clearer light,
and leads them on with power benign
to seek the Giver of the sign.

4. O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek thy face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of thy light to use.

5. To God the Father, heavenly Light,
to Christ, revealed in earthly night,
to God the Holy Ghost we raise
our equal and unceasing praise.

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:*

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Lector: Volunteer

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD: “Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.’ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.’ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,” says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84

Lector: Volunteer

Leader: How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

**People: My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

Leader: The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *

People: by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Leader: Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

People: they will always be praising you.

Leader: Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

People: whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Leader: Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

People: for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

Leader: They will climb from height to height, *

People: and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

Leader: LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *

People: hearken, O God of Jacob.

Leader: Behold our defender, O God; *

People: and look upon the face of your Anointed.

Leader: For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *

**People: and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

Leader: For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *

People: he will give grace and glory;

Leader: No good thing will the LORD withhold *

People: from those who walk with integrity.

Leader: O LORD of hosts, *

People: happy are they who put their trust in you!

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Lector: Volunteer

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 109 *“The first Nowell the angel did say” vss 1,2,3,5*

The First Nowell

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

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

5. Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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 119 “As with gladness men of old” vss 1-3

Dix

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

1. As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led to thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped
to that lowly manger-bed;
there to bend the knee before
him whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek the mercy-seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ! to thee, our heavenly King.

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.

The Second Sunday After Christmas – January 3, 2021

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, Gail Koerner, 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: 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.

ECCT Cycle of Prayer: St. Paul's Brookfield; Trinity, Brooklyn; St. Peter's, Cheshire; for all immigrants, refugees and the ministries that serve them, especially IRIS – Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, New Haven and the Let My People Go Ministry Network.

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

Parish families: Jackie Schenck and family, Chuck and Susan Searle and family, Curtis Searle, Milton, Ruth, Jazmin and Itati Serrano and Ralph, Molly and David Sherman.

Those who have died, especially Ian Lucas, and those who are remembered today: Deceased members of the Altar Guild.

PRAYER CHAIN: To activate the chain call or email:

Barbara Campbell – Phone: 860-673-7607 Email: campbellba24@gmail.com

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.

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.

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!



Have a Merry Christmas season,
and have a
Blessed New Year!

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 12th – Vestry Zoom Meeting

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

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