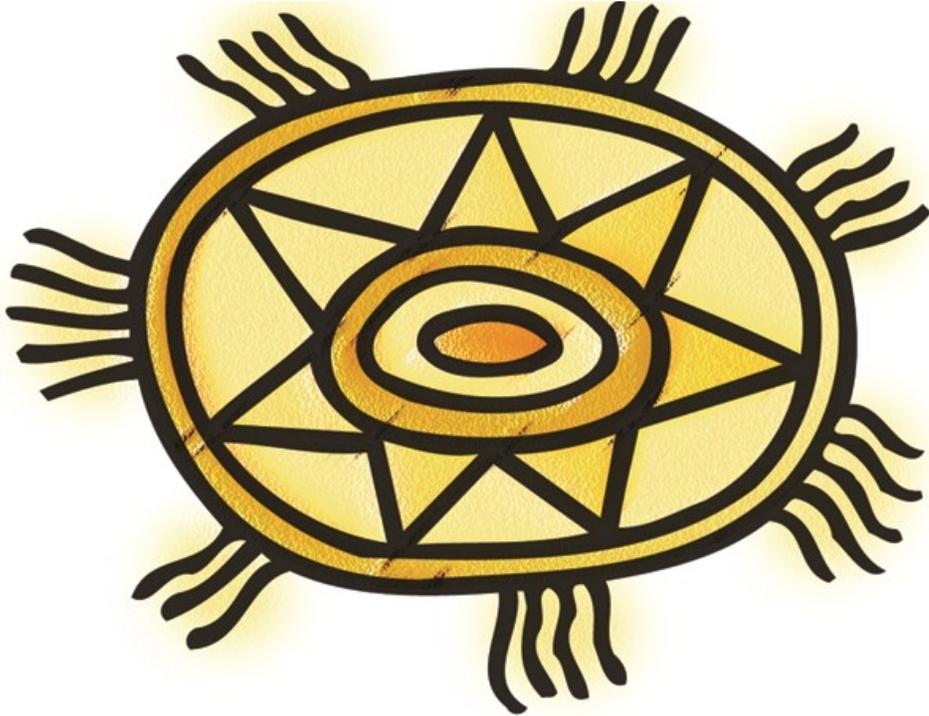


St. Mark's



Episcopal Church



The Rev. Dr. Shaw Mudge, Priest-In-Charge
www.stmarksnewbritain.org
www.facebook.com/saintmarksnb

P.O. Box 1538
90 Main Street
New Britain, CT 06050-1538
Parish Office: 860-225-7634
E-mail:
parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org

ANTECOMMUNION: RITE II at 10:00 A.M.
St. Mark's Sunday worship starts at 10 a.m. on Zoom

ZOOM & IN-PERSON SERVICE INFORMATION

Welcome! Our service will *always* be available on Zoom with Meeting ID 500-865-037. You can enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>. Please either print or have this bulletin open on a separate browser tab to participate fully in the service. (For more information on the Zoom service, please go to the back page of the bulletin.)

If New Britain is red on the weekly Thursday (about 3 p.m.) update on the Connecticut COVID-19 Data Tracker map, the Sunday service will be on Zoom only.

For the map, please go to: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker>.

An e-mail will be sent out to the parish every Friday to let you know if the service will be in-person or on ***Zoom only***.

For in-person services at 90 Main St., everyone is required to wear a mask and maintain a safe distance inside the buildings of South Church. We will have masks available if you need one. Thank you.

Stephen Hard is our e-verger this week.



Prelude “*For unto us a Child is born*”

G. F. Handel



THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation:

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

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

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

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.
(*silence*)

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84:1-8

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.**

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Lector: Volunteer

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.

R. Thanks be to God.

(silence)

Sequence Hymn 102 *“Once in royal David’s city”*

Irby

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
 *3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
 *5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
 3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —
 6 veiled to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Clergy: 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.

Clergy: The Gospel of the Lord.
(silence)

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Dr. Shaw Mudge

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant sets the pace.

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

**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.

The Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Celebrant sets the pace.

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: Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, and offering and sacrifice to God.

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant:

**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
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 for ever. Amen.

The Priest 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.

Worship Leader or Deacon: Let us bless the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

If using Zoom, the People unmute themselves.

Priest, Deacon or
Worship Leader: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: Thanks be to God.

Dismissal Hymn 128 "We three kings of Orient are"

Three Kinds of Orient



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,
3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.
4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

O ——— star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,
 still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!



Thank you to everyone who participated in putting the service together today.

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Christmas Diaper Drive

During Christmas we celebrate God coming to us in human form as the Babe Jesus, wrapped in swaddling clothes. This Christmas, in keeping our Baptismal Covenant to *care for those who are in need and respecting the dignity of all*, ECCT's deacons invite you to participate in an ECCT-wide diaper drive to benefit [The Diaper Bank of Connecticut](#).

Drop-off locations:

North Central Region (NC)

[St. Paul's, Southington](#): Jan. 11, 3–7 p.m. and Jan. 15, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Or, email [the Rev. Helena Martin](#) to coordinate another time that week.

[Christ Church Cathedral](#): Jan. 10 & 11, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., Jan. 15, 12–1:30 p.m.

Contact: Kathy Frisoli, 806.527.7231 ext. 101 or [Deacon Bonnie Matthews](#), 860.985.9790 (Jan. 15 drop-off)

[Grace, Newington](#): Jan. 11 & 13, 1–4 p.m. (drop off in blue bin outside if building is closed)

**God Our Creator Prayer
(A prayer from the Bishop Transition Committee)**

"God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, without you nothing can be done. Send your Holy Spirit to guide the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, especially the Bishop Transition Committee, during this time of transition.

Bless and continue the good work begun in your name. Open the committee's ears to the hurts and hopes expressed to them and broaden our vision to see where you lead. Enliven their hearts with honesty and compassion to do the work that lies ahead, within our church and beyond its walls. Grant us the gifts of wisdom, humility, and empathy.

Guide the committee as they discern your will for a new shepherd, inspirational leader, and willing advocate as we further your work in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

Bless and be with our bishop, Ian, as he transitions to a new life serving you.

Bless our candidates. Bestow them with the abilities to lead and serve. Let us learn from them and they from us, so we may live your word serving all.

All this we pray through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever. Amen"



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, January 2 - Second Sunday After Christmas

Monday, January 3, 2022 - Parish Office Closed - New Year's Holiday Observed

Wednesday, January 5 - 5:45 p.m. - Executive Committee Zoom meeting

Tuesday, January 11 - 6:45 p.m. - Vestry Meeting - Zoom

Monday, January 17 - Parish Office and Food Pantry Closed - MLK Day



Message Mailing List Purge 2022



During the month of January we will be purging names off of the St. Mark's Message mailing list.

This will be **ONLY** for the issues that we mail to people, not the email list.

If you would like to continue to receive the Message by mail you **MUST** call (860-225-7634) or email the parish office (parishoffice@stmarksnewbirtian.org) no later than January 23, 2022.

If you would like to receive the Message by email only, please let Cheryl in the office know.

If you are a member of the St. Mark's Vestry or your name is on our Voting List, your name will remain on our mailing list and you do not need to contact us.

Thank you.



ANNUAL REPORTS

Please send your Annual Report to the parish office no later than January 14, 2022.

All reports should be a short synopsis of your groups activity in 2021.

Thank you!



The Second Sunday After Christmas – January 2, 2022

Longterm prayers are asked for: Irene Alibrio, Patricia Anderson, Sophia Anderson, Russell Atkinson, Bill Briggs, Cletus Cone, Patricia Cone, Dave, Debbie, Joseph Howard, Gary Hudkins, Margaret Hughes, Rachael Johnston, Katherine, Florence Kruvka, Linda, Lindsay, Louise, Ann Maltais, Christopher McLaughlin, Ron Napper, Gabriella Nauss, Kelly Nauss, Lori Nauss, Nancy Nowlak, Joseph O'Tulak, Benjamin Pisseri, P.J., Rae Robinson, Francis and Joann Rusczyk, Debbie Spak, and Zachary.

Healing: Pat Scarlett, Betty Barden, Kathryn (Cletus) Cone, Colin Rhoads, Cheryl Hanson, Mike Krumrine, Claire Lucid, Laura Rocco, Danny, Edward Dubois, Gail Bates, and Mary Gould

ECCT Cycle of Prayer: St. Peter's, Cheshire; Holy Advent, Clinton; Trinity Church, Collinsville; for all immigrants, refugees and the ministries that serve them .

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

Parish families: John and Justina Baptiste, Betty Barden, Juliet Benjamin and family, William and Judith Briggs and Michael, Crystal, Jeremiah and Mackenzie Brown .

Those who have died, and those who are remembered today: The 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.

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

STEWARDSHIP



Thank you so much for all of you who have returned your Pledge cards. You are a very faithful crew of Episcopalians!

If, however, when you cleared off the dining room table because people were coming for Thanksgiving, you found one very lonely Pledge card, please fill it out, sign it, put a stamp on the envelope and mail it. It will safely, Omicron or not, get to the church office and be welcomed by all the other Pledge cards. It will be a very hearty welcome!

Zoom Service Information

If New Britain is red on the weekly Thursday (about 3 pm) Connecticut COVID-19 Data Tracker map, the Sunday service will held be on Zoom only.

For the map, please go to:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker>

An email will be sent out to the parish every Friday to let you know if the service will be in person or on Zoom.

Broadcast Instructions

You can enter the Zoom service via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>.

There is also a telephone number that can be used to join the Zoom service: 1-646-558-8656 (phone charges may apply for the telephone call if you do not have unlimited calling).

If you are using a telephone to dial into the service: dial the zoom phone number, and then wait to be prompted by the voice to enter the meeting number.

Then, enter the meeting number, and as part of the meeting number, please add the "pound" sign (#) at the end of the meeting number (as the verbal instructions direct).

The Zoom broadcast opens at 9:45 am when remote participants can be admitted and will be greeted by the e-verger.

Remote participants are encouraged to stay connected after the service and greet and be greeted during the coffee hour.



Issues that have come to our attention:

Issue: "my screen goes back and forth between speakers."

Response: you may be in "speaker" view. If so, change to "gallery view".

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