

St. Mark's



Episcopal Church



www.stmarksnewbritain.org
www.facebook.com/saintmarksnb

P.O. Box 1538
90 Main Street
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HOLY COMMUNION: RITE II at 10:00 A.M.
St. Mark's Sunday worship starts at 10 a.m. in the Erwin Chapel and on Zoom

Today we welcome the Reverend Joan Phelps as our Celebrant and Preacher.

Allison Penick is our e-verger this week.



Entrance Hymn 65 "Prpare the way, O Zion"

Berden väg för Herran



Lighting of Advent Candles and Collect
Responsive Litany - He Will Be Called Mighty God

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Mighty God.

You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness endures forever.

We look to the One in whom we find redemption.

You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness endures forever.

We look to the One who forgives our sins.

You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness endures forever.

We look to the One who overcomes the darkness.

You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness endures forever.

We look to the One who has come to set us free.

You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness endures forever.



THE WORD OF GOD

Acclamation:

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: **You come to your people and set them free.**

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.**

Opening Anthem

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

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 First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

Lector: Volunteer

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

“Comfort, O comfort my people,”
says your God.
“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD’s hand
double for all her sins.”

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.
(*silence*)

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Volunteer

Leader: You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; *
People: you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
Leader: You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
People: and blotted out all their sins.
Leader: I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
People: for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.
Leader: Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
People: that his glory may dwell in our land.
Leader: Mercy and truth have met together; *
People: righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Leader: Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
People: and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
Leader: The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
People: and our land will yield its increase.
Leader: Righteousness shall go before him, *
People: and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Lector: Volunteer

A Reading from the Second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.
(*silence*)

R. Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 75 “There’s a voice in the wilderness crying”

Ascension

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

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

(silence)

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Joan Phelps

The 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 III

Leader: Volunteer

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Leader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Leader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Leader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

Leader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Leader: Give to the departed eternal rest;

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Leader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Leader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

[People may add their own petitions.]

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: 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.**

Celebrant: 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

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

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.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**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.**

Celebrant: 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**Celebrant and People: We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: 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 St. 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 for ever. *AMEN.*

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized Christians are invited to Communion. Receiving the bread alone is sufficient for full participation. Those who wish to receive from the chalice by intinction are asked to approach the chalice first. Only after those who wish to receive in this way have intincted, should those who wish to drink from the chalice approach to receive.

The Prayer of Spiritual Communion *(To be recited by those worshipping on Zoom)*

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.

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.

The Advent Blessing

Celebrant: May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal Hymn 76 “On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”

Winchester New

Announcements

Priest, Deacon or
Worship Leader:
People:

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



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



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 10	2 Advent	10:00 a.m.	Service in the Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant
Tuesday, December 12		6:45 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
Sunday, December 17	3 Advent	10:00 a.m.	Service in the Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant
Sunday, December 17		4:00 p.m.	South Church presents - Candlelight Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols Main Sanctuary - Free-will offering will be accepted.
Sunday, December 24	4 Advent	10:00 a.m.	Service in the Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joe Pace Celebrant
Sunday, December 24		*8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service - Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joe Pace Celebrant
Monday, December 25	Christmas Day		Parish Office Closed
Tuesday, December 26			Parish Office Closed
Sunday, December 31		10:00 a.m.	Service in the Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joe Pace Celebrant
Monday, January 1, 2024	New Year’s Day		Parish Office Closed

The Second Sunday of Advent - December 10, 2023

Longterm prayers are asked for: Stacey Albert, Irene Alibrio, Patricia Anderson, Aaron, Georgie Bethel, Bill Briggs, Barbara Canzonetti, Elora Cass, Jose Chavez, Bea Chevalier, Cletus Cone, Patricia Cone, Ben Gryk, Cheryl Hanson, Norm Holland, Gary Hudkins, Margaret Hughes, Mike Krumrine, Florence Kruvka, Claire Lucid, Ann Maltais, Manny Monteiro, Kelly Nauss, Rae Robinson, Francis and Joann Rusczyk, Brody Searle, Harry Thompson, and Frank Williams.

Healing: Anna Levesque, Barbara Campbell, Norm Holland, Janet Marshall, Betty Ann Hadder, and Manny Monteiro.

ECCT Cycle of Prayer: St. Thomas', Bethel; Christ Church, Bethlehem; Old St. Andrew's, Bloomfield; ministries to the homeless, for parishes that offer a temporary or permanent shelter. For Chapel on the Green, New Haven, Church by the Pond, Hartford, and all Ecclesia ministries' and The Church of Pakistan (United).

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

Parish families: Molly Sherman and family, Christine Stohl, Joy Tomasso, Brian, Seyenam, Selasi, Sefakor Thompkins and David and Dena Tompkins

Those who have died, and those who are remembered today: Donald E. and Evelyn Briere.

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).



Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols South Church 90 Main Street, New Britain

Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Sanctuary

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a gift to all who attend. Each year, we invite the community to come and celebrate the Christmas season with South Church. For some, it is the music of the South Church Chancel Choir. For some, it is the tradition. For some, it is the scripture. And for some, it is the feeling of community and quiet ambiance. Whatever it is that moves you, we hope you will join us and celebrate the joy of the season.

2023 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL ALTAR FLOWERS

This year St. Mark’s will have a Christmas Eve Service in the Erwin Chapel. If you would like flowers in remembrance of a loved one, please complete this form and return it to the Parish Office by email (parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org) or regular mail no later than Sunday, December 17, 2023. A donation of \$25.00 is requested. Please make your checks out to St. Mark’s Altar Guild.

Please feel free to call Cheryl Rusczyk in the Parish Office at 860-225-7634 if you have any questions.



ALTAR FLOWERS (Please print information)

Donated by:

Christmas Memorial 2023

Names: _____

If there is a special day you would like flowers in remembrance of a loves one, please complete this section. Please specify the date you would prefer.

Date: _____

In loving memory of: (Names)

Donations included: \$ _____

For **Christmas** Flower Donations: Please complete and return to St. Mark’s Church Office **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023.**

Additional copies of this form may be obtained by calling the church office at 860-225-7634 or on our website: www.stmarksnewbritain.org



Community Christmas Dinner

Once again, South Church will host Christmas Day dinner for the community in a beautifully decorated Cooper Hall. As usual, many volunteers are needed to make this a success! The sign-up boards are posted in the parlor, or you may call the church office to let us know how you would like to help. Set up and some preparation will happen on Saturday.

Pies are needed—they can be brought in Saturday, Sunday, or even Monday morning.

On Christmas Day, there are cooking shifts at 6:00 and 9:00 a.m., meal assembly and delivery between 9:00 and 11:30, serving from 12:00 to 1:00 and clean up from 1:00 until we are done (hopefully by 3:00 or so).

This is an amazing tradition that has happened continuously since 1971!

Thank you for whatever ways you can assist to keep it going strong!

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