

St. Mark's



Episcopal Church



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

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.

is our e-verger this week.



Entrance Hymn 376 "Joyful, joyful, we adore thee"

Hymn to Joy



Lighting of Advent Candles and Collect

Third Candle - The Candle of Love (*see insert*)



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.

**Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are
sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The First Lesson

Lector: Volunteer

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
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.

The Word of the Lord.

(silence)

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126

Volunteer

Leader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
People: then were we like those who dream.
Leader: Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
People: and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Leader: Then they said among the nations, *
People: "The LORD has done great things for them."

Leader: The LORD has done great things for us, *
People: and we are glad indeed.
Leader: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
People: like the watercourses of the Negev.
Leader: Those who sowed with tears *
People: will reap with songs of joy.
Leader: Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
People: will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Lector: Volunteer

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

(silence)

Sequence Hymn 65 *“Prepare the way, O Zion”*

Bereden väg för Herran

The Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

(silence)

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 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 Jeffrey and Laura our Bishops; and for all Priests, 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.

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 worshiping 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.**

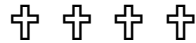
Dismissal Hymn 75 *“There’s a voice in the wilderness crying”*

Ascension

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.



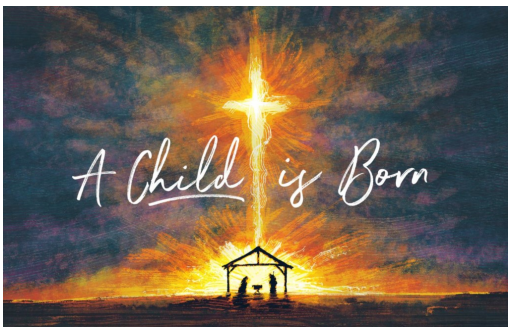
SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 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



**Join us as we celebrant the birth
of Jesus on
Sunday, December 24 at 8:00 p.m.
in the Erwin Chapel.**

**The Rev. Joseph Pace will be our
Celebrant and Preacher.**



The Third Sunday of Advent - December 17, 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 Krivka, 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. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; St. George's, Bridgeport; those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely, and the oppressed and the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea.

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

Parish families: Kurt and Carol Von Achen and family, William, Caroline and Emily Wallberg, John and Dale Whalen and family and Desmond Williams.

Those who have died, especially Betsy C. Perkins, and those who are remembered today: Michael and Edith Clifford and Eleanor Forester.

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

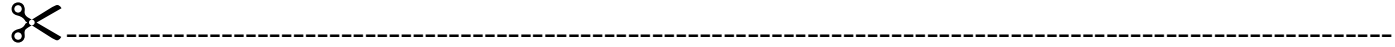
Location: Sanctuary

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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