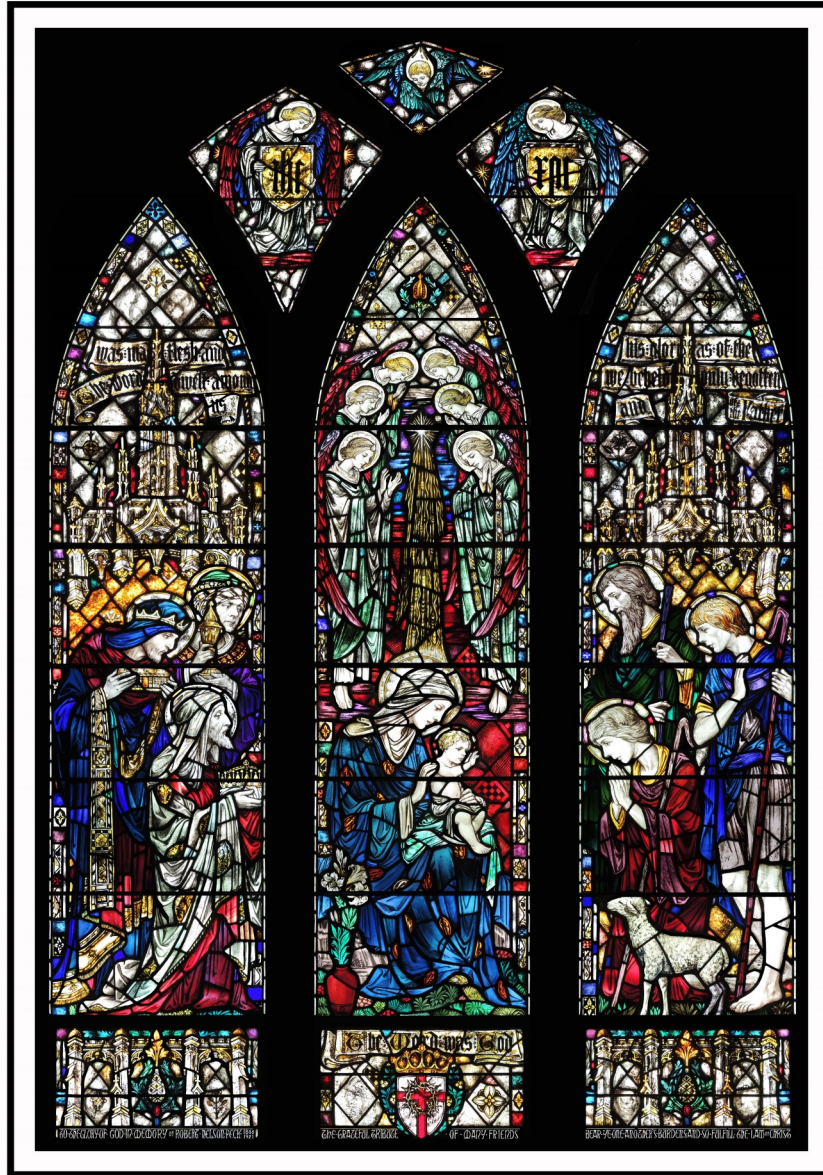


*St. Mark's*



*Episcopal Church*



**St. Mark's Nativity Window**

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90 Main Street  
P.O. Box 1538  
New Britain, CT 06050-1538  
Parish Office: 860-225-7634  
E-mail:  
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**HOLY COMMUNION: RITE II at 8:00 P.M.**  
Our worship begins at 8 p.m. in the Erwin Chapel and on Zoom

**Tonight we welcome the Reverend Joseph Pace as our Celebrant and Preacher.**

**Tonight we also welcome Daniel Kendzior as our organist.**

**Curtis Searle is our e-verger tonight.**



**Prelude** Adolphe Adam *“O Holy Night”* Arranged by Mark Laube  
Gustav Holst *“Meditation on In The Bleak Midwinter”* Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

**Entrance Hymn 83** *“O Come, all ye faithful”* Adeste fideles



**THE WORD OF GOD**

**Acclamation:**

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

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

**Kyrie S96** Shubert/Proulx  
**Gloria S280** Powell

**The Collect of the Day**

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray together.

**O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ:  
Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold  
him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The First Lesson** Isaiah 9:2-7  
**Lector:** Volunteer

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness -  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.  
 For the yoke of their burden,  
 and the bar across their shoulders,  
 the rod of their oppressor,  
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
 For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
 and all the garments rolled in blood  
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
 For a child has been born for us,  
 a son given to us;  
 authority rests upon his shoulders;  
 and he is named  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
 His authority shall grow continually,  
 and there shall be endless peace  
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
 He will establish and uphold it  
 with justice and with righteousness  
 from this time onward and forevermore.  
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.  
*(silence)*

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: 96**

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
**People: sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.**  
 Leader: Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \*  
**People: proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**  
 Leader: Declare his glory among the nations \*  
**People: and his wonders among all peoples.**  
 Leader: For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \*  
**People: he is more to be feared than all gods.**  
 Leader: As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
**People: but it is the LORD who made the heavens.**  
 Leader: Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
**People: Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**  
 Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \*  
**People: ascribe to the LORD honor and power.**  
 Leader: Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \*  
**People: bring offerings and come into his courts.**  
 Leader: Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*  
**People: let the whole earth tremble before him.**  
 Leader: Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! \*  
**People: He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
 he will judge the peoples with equity."**  
 Leader: Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
**People: let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**  
 Leader: Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, \*  
**People: when he comes to judge the earth.**  
 Leader: He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
**People: and the peoples with his truth.**

## The Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

Lector: Volunteer

A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

*(silence)*

Sequence Hymn 89 *“It came upon the midnight clear”*

Carol

## The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Celebrant:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(silence)*

## The Sermon

The Reverend Joseph Pace

## 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 for the Church and the World**

Leader: Volunteer

**Leader:** My sisters and brothers in the peace of God, all the gifts we shall give and receive in these days are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's word made flesh this day. From grateful hearts let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest gift, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** That the child born to us might find in our hearts warm welcome by our openness to the needs of the homeless and the hungry, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the lonely, the sad and those who mourn, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** That the rejoicing of this day might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and worship, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are struck down by disease and illness, especially those we now remember, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** That the blessings of this season inspire our gratitude especially as we give thanks for the gift of children and families, for the ministry of healing and for other blessings we name silently or aloud, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherds' field might be realized on every field of war and on every street of violence, especially as we remember all those in our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** That the blessed hope we celebrate this evening might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith, and let us remember all those in whose memory the Christmas flowers are given, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer**

**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 A**

**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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Celebrant and People: Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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: 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.

Communion Hymn 111

*“Silent night, holy night”*

Stille Nacht

**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 Blessing**

Celebrant: The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People: Amen.

Dismissal Hymn 87

*“Hark! the herald angels sing”*

Mendelssohn

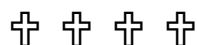
**Announcements**

Priest, Deacon or  
Worship Leader:

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People:

Thanks be to God.



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

***Please see insert for the Christmas Memorial Flower List.***



Our service will be available on Zoom with Meeting ID 500-865-037. You can enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>. You may also enter by calling 1-646-558-8656.

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